Task Force on Vehicle Weights and Dimensions Policy

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Ontario Ministry of Transportation

December 2, 2026

Ontario

Overview

- Extended Semitrailer Program
- Extended Stinger-Steer Auto Carrier Program
- Autonomous Commercial Motor Vehicle (ACMV) Program

Extended Semitrailer Program

- On Friday, June 14th, 2024 the Ministry launched the Extended Semitrailer Program after almost a decade of trial operations.

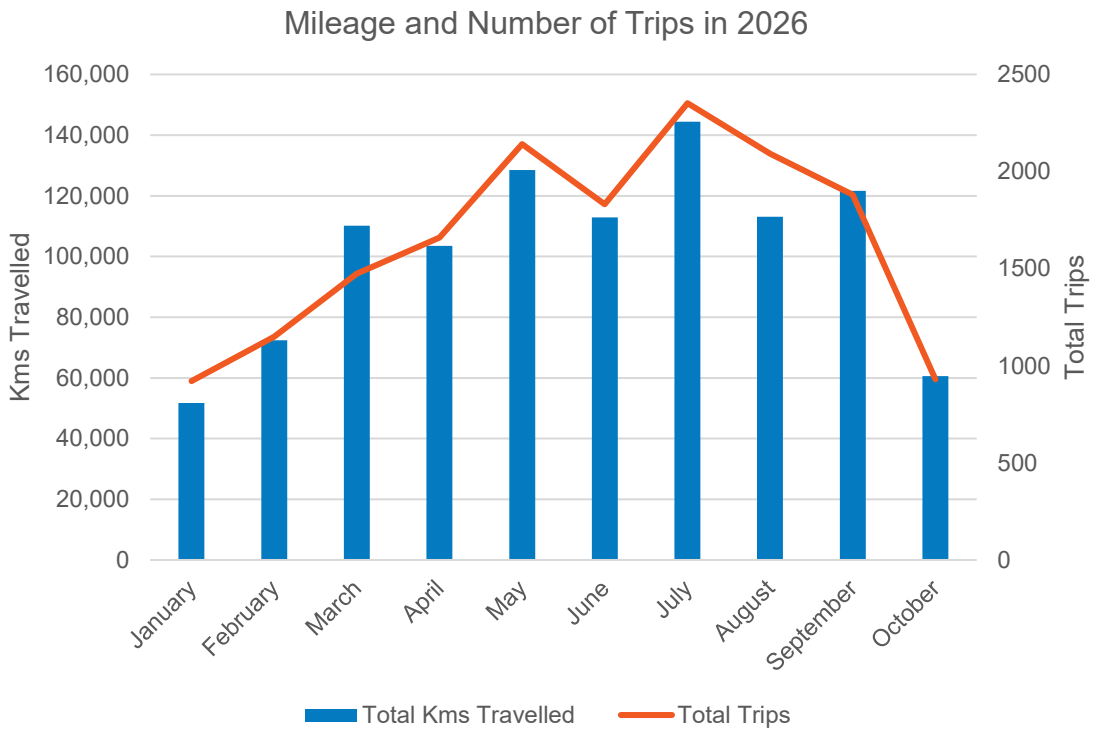
- A slow and measured approach was taken toward releasing permits to carriers, whereby a single permit can be utilized to operate an infinite number of Extended Semitrailers.
  - Carriers are limited to 4 permits for their first calendar year in the program. After a year, they may apply for additional permits. MTO reserves the right to deny additional permits.
  - The number of permits allotted on a per carrier basis will be limited and will increase over time, as follows:
    - 8 permits for their second year of operations.
    - 16 permits for their third year of operations.
    - 32 permits for their fourth year of operations.
    - 64 permits for their fifth year of operations.
    - Any number of permits, once their fifth year of operation has been completed.

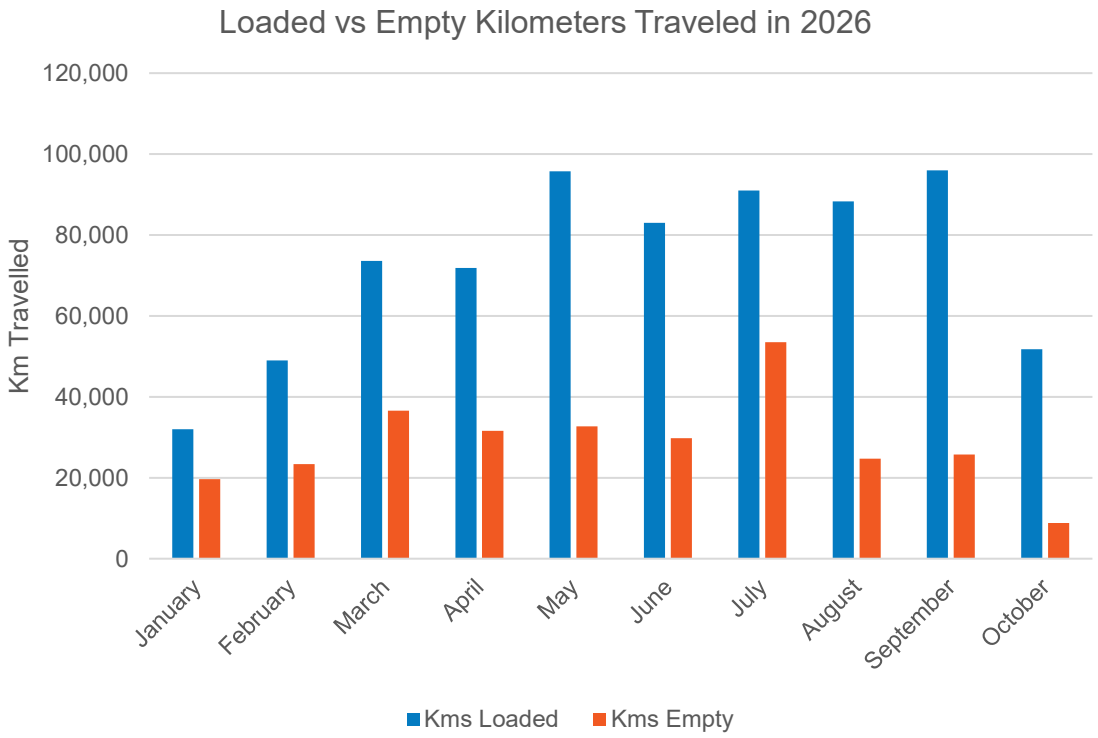
- Thus far, 3 carriers are operating with 89 permits. There are 3638 Extended Semitrailers in operation as part of the Program.

Snapshot – January 2025 to November 2026 Data Tracking

Extended Semitrailer Program

- Collectively, carriers have traveled **5,323,242 kilometers and completed 55,285 trips** since the Programs inception.





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Extended Stinger-Steer Auto Carrier (ESSAC) Program

- The ESSAC Program was launched on November 13, 2017 with 3 configuration types in operation; Full ESSAC, Transitional Hybrid, and Ontario-ESSAC (ON-ESSAC).

- In November 2025, ESSAC Program Conditions were amended toward the following:

1. Removal of the conditions related to permit distribution, which previously focused on a slow-measured approach toward adoption of ESSAC configurations.
    - Amendments aligns with typical Special Vehicle Configuration (SVC) permit regimes, allotted 4 permits per carrier for their first year of operation, and unlimited permits after a year of safe and successful operations within the Program.

2. Removal of the Transitional ESSAC configuration, a configuration that modifies existing regulated vehicles with extended overhangs, as there currently no carriers seeking to operate such configuration.

3. Relaxing of Driver Experience requirements from 5 years to 2 years, based on requests from industry.

4. Increased oversight of driver training to correspond with relaxing of rules around driver experience.

Extended Stinger-Steer Auto Carrier (ESSAC) Program

5. Changes in policy around the intake of monthly trip reports, whereby data and information around the Ontario-ESSAC configuration is reduced as the risks to road safety are not as great as that of the Full-ESSAC.

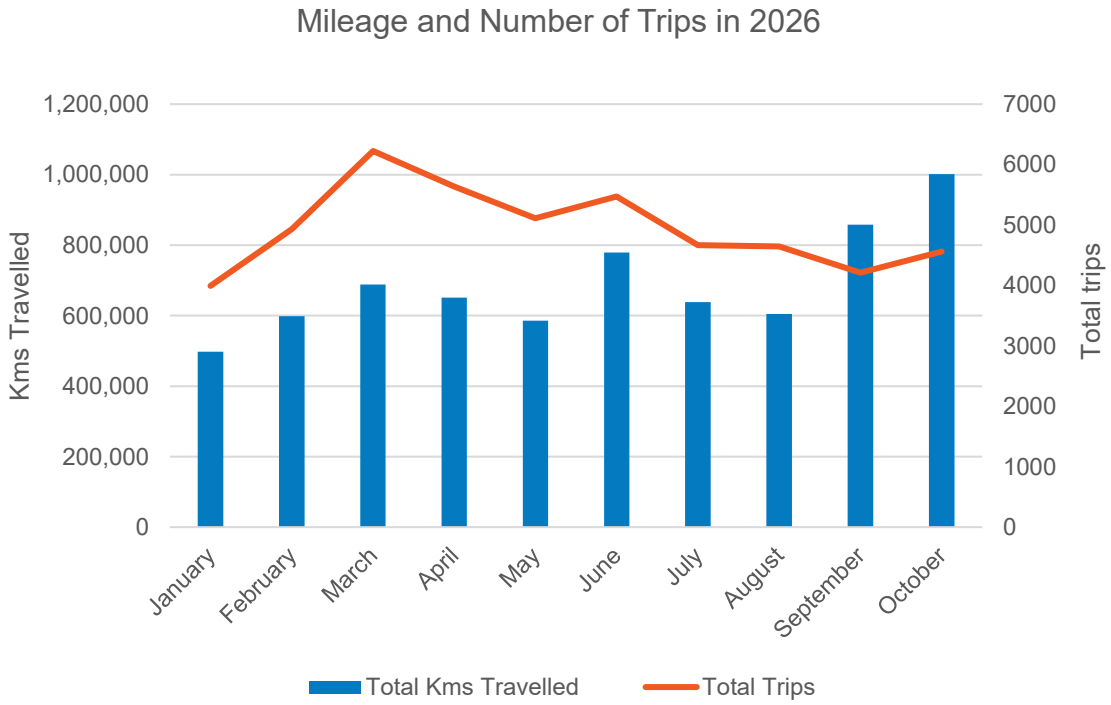
    - Full-ESSAC configurations must only operate on the Authorized Network for Travel, thus it is imperative that monthly trip reports reflect all routings, so to properly monitor and enforce the operations of these more-risky configuration types.
    - ON-ESSAC configurations may operate on all-roads in the province, putting the onus on carriers to properly route safe-passage of these less-risky configuration types.

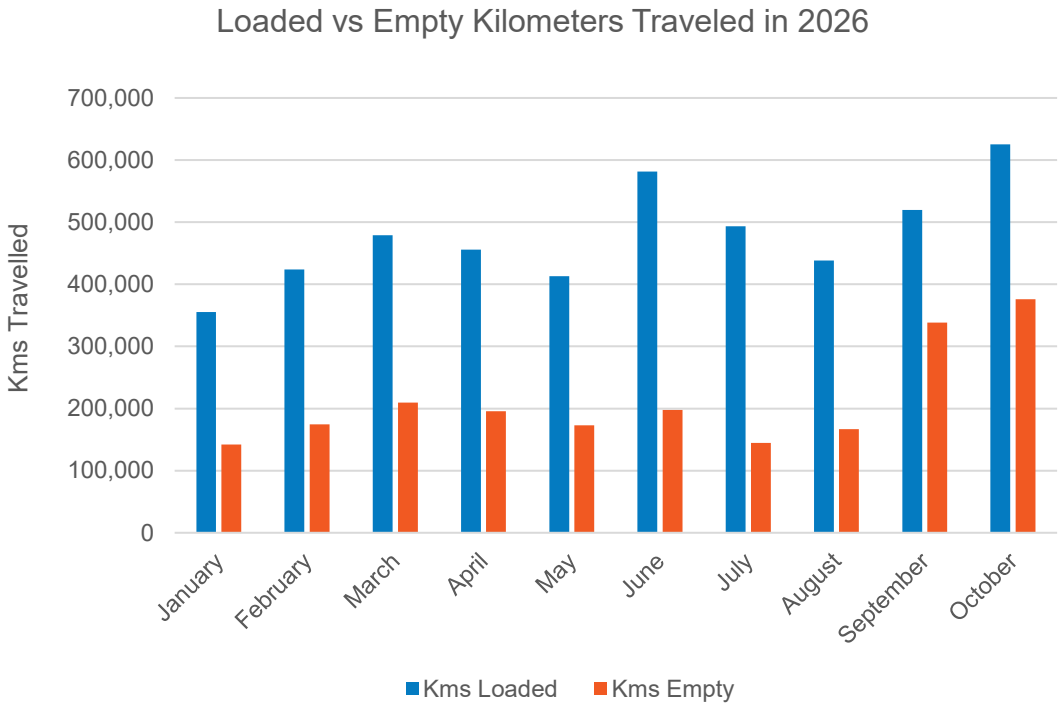
- Thus far, 16 carriers are operating with 267 permits. (Note: permits are VIN-based, owned by the semitrailer).

Snapshot –January 2025 to November 2026 Data Tracking

ESSAC Program

- Collectively, carriers traveled **40,728,025 kilometers and completed 271,678 trips** since the Programs inception.





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Automated Commercial Motor Vehicle (ACMV) Program



- https://www.ontario.ca/page/automated-commercial-motor-vehicle-pilot-program
- https://www.ontario.ca/page/automated-commercial-motor-vehicle-pilot-program-conditions

QUESTIONS? → ACMVpilot@ontario.ca



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Thank you

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