

# Vision

## Zero Congestion:

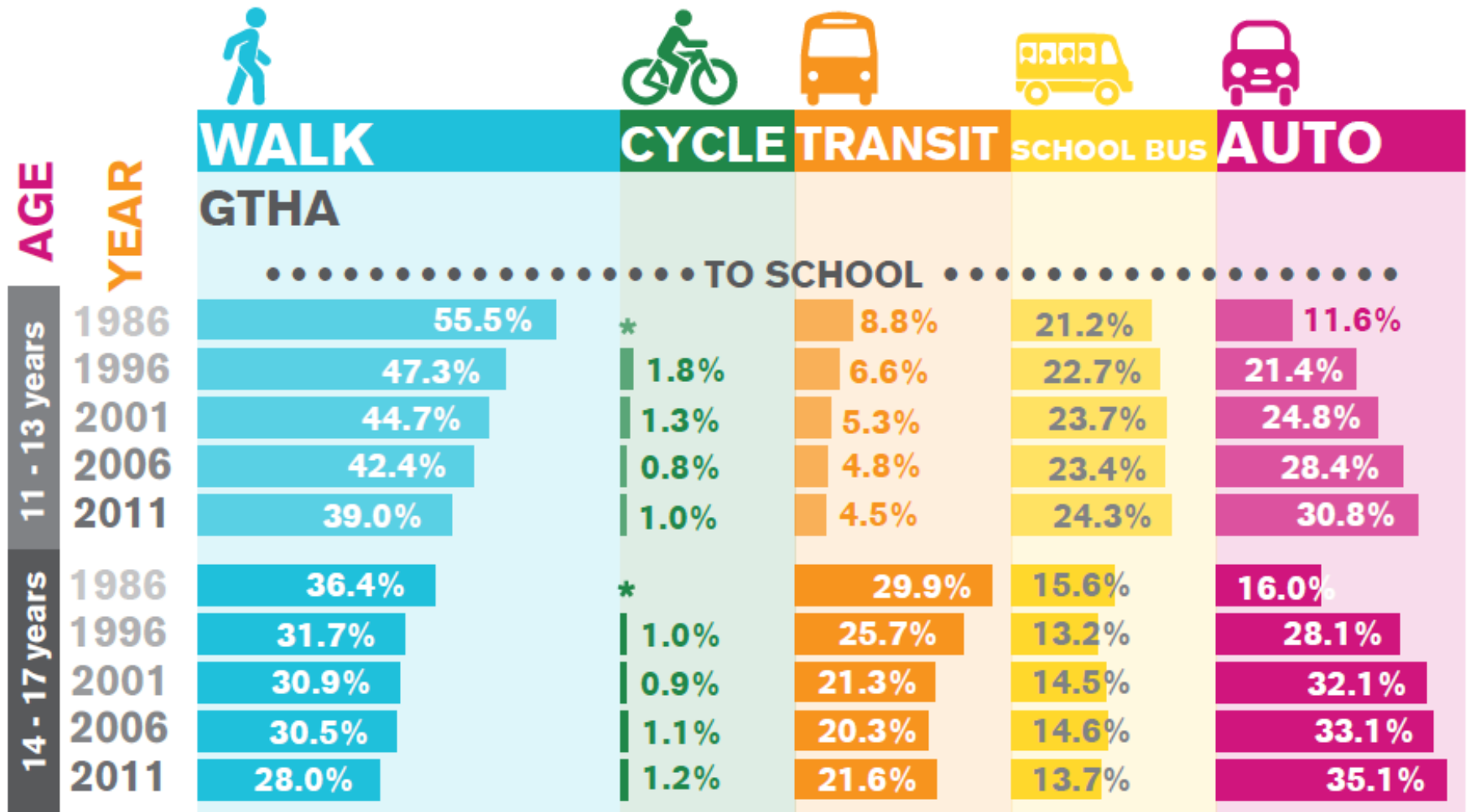
### Inter-organizational Collaboration and School Traffic Management

Laura Zeglen  
School Traffic Management Facilitator

Ontario Active School Travel,  
Green Communities Canada

CARSP Conference 2018  
Victoria, BC  
June 13 2018





Data from the Transportation Tomorrow Survey (TTS), a cross-sectional travel survey conducted every five years since 1986 in the City of Toronto and the surrounding region.



## Active Transportation and Active School Travel



**Physical Activity  
& Mental Health**



**Less Traffic &  
Pollution**



**Alertness &  
attentiveness**



**Community  
Connections,  
Safer School Zones**



# The costs of traffic congestion

## Reduced Safety

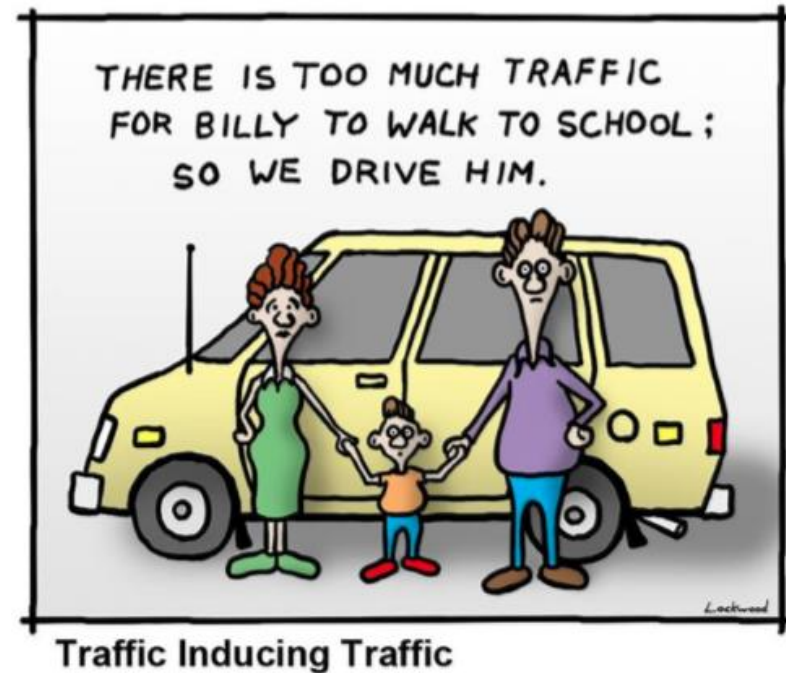
- Too many cars = driver frustration and dangerous driver behaviours
- Congestion can make it harder for drivers to see children, whose behaviours can be unpredictable

## Degraded local air quality

- Children experience the negative impacts of air pollution at lower concentrations compared to adults

## Opportunity Costs

- Children missing out on physical activity, mental stimulation and mental health benefits of active time outdoors, opportunities to socialize and develop independence



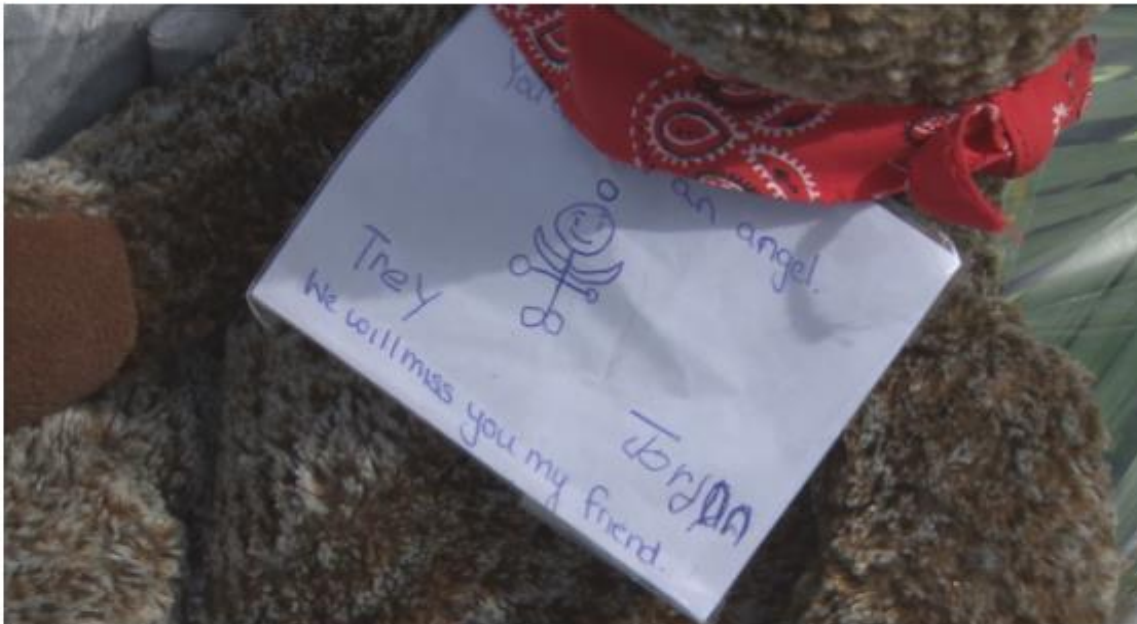


# Responding to tragedy

## 'We will miss you': Community grieves after boy, 6, struck and killed near school

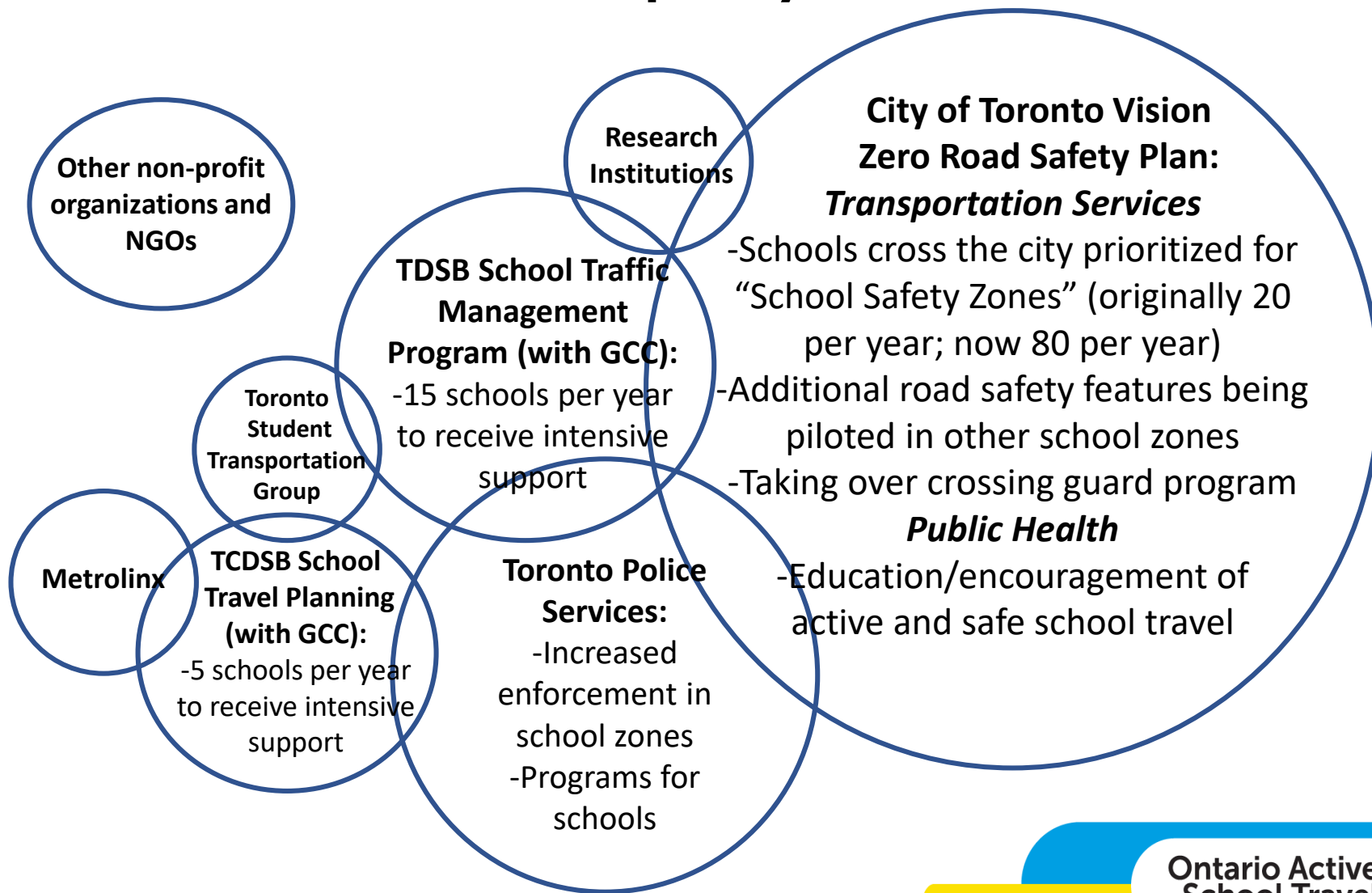
Flowers, toys and handwritten notes marked the site where the child died Friday

CBC News | Posted: Apr 22, 2017 7:57 PM ET | Last Updated: Apr 22, 2017 7:57 PM ET

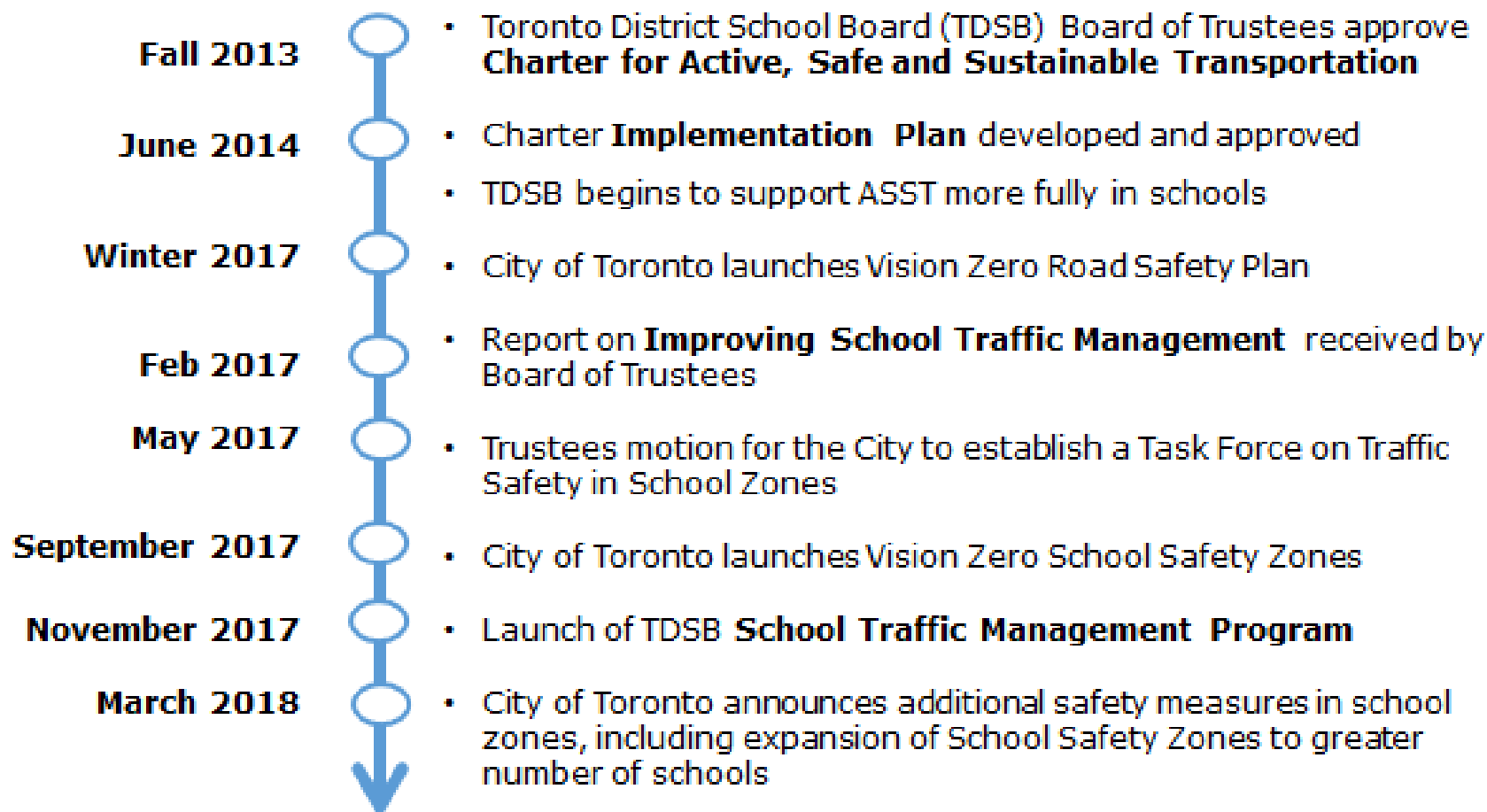


A hand-written note bidding farewell to a friend at the scene of a crash that claimed the life of a six-year-old boy Friday. (CBC)

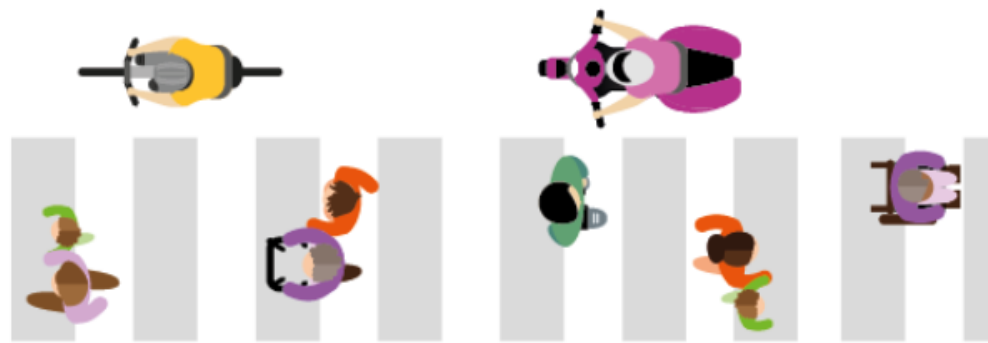
# The Toronto players



# We didn't get here overnight...



# TORONTO'S ROAD SAFETY PLAN **VISIONZERO**



## Emphasis Area 2: School Children



CREATION OF "SCHOOL SAFETY ZONES"

- City of Toronto recognized School Children as a group are vulnerable road users
- School Safety Zones to **increase driver awareness in front of schools**: Locations prioritized based on evidence-based criteria such as:
  - School located near high collision cluster in the City
  - Size of school catchment area = reasonable distances for students to walk or bike to school





# Features of School Safety Zones



Flashing Beacon  
with Timer



New Rapid Flashing  
Beacons at Crosswalks  
(Optional)



Watch Your Speed  
Driver Feedback Signs



Speed Reductions  
(Optional)



Data Driven Enforcement



School Stencil  
Pavement Markings  
Speed Markings (Optional)



Enhanced Pedestrian  
Crosswalk Markings



Increased Pedestrian Walk  
Times and Advanced Green for  
Pedestrians  
(Optional)



Designation as Community  
Safety Zones  
(Optional)



Automated Speed Enforcement  
(FUTURE)  
(Optional)

**VISIONZERO**

# TDSB Traffic Management Program (with Green Communities Canada)

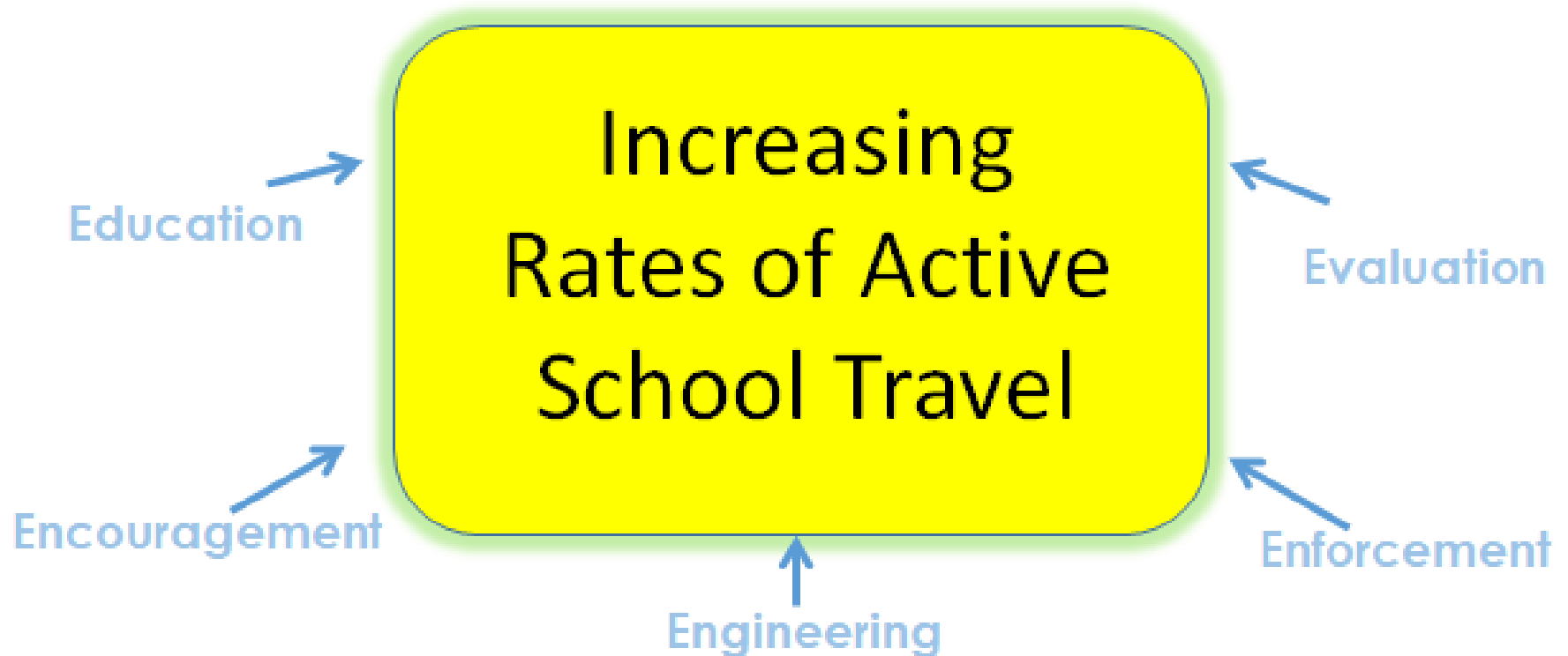
- 3 year pilot; 15 schools per year
- Follows School Travel Planning model
- All Year 1 schools are aligned with City of Toronto School Safety Zones; close working relationship with City of Toronto and Toronto Police Services
- Program includes:
  - Detailed and in-depth evaluations of school sites and surrounding neighbourhoods
    - Site audit
    - Walkabout
    - Traffic Observations (a.m. and p.m.)
  - Route map planning as an education tool
  - Action planning to reduce traffic congestion and increase rates of active school travel



# The School Travel Planning Model

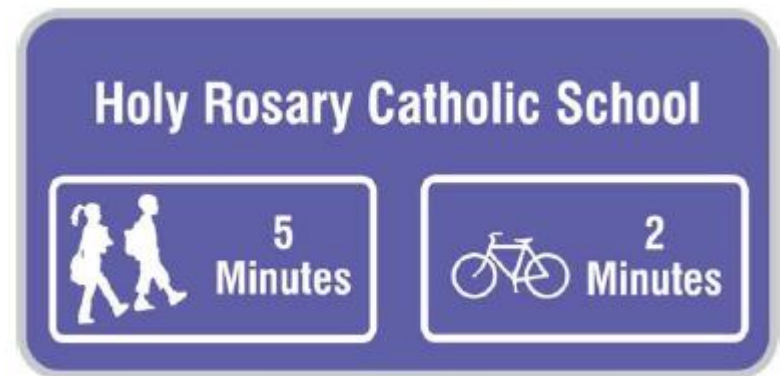


# Components of the Action Plan



# Key partnerships

- TDSB/GCC with Toronto Transportation Services, Toronto Public Health and SickKids Hospital Research Team





# Key partnerships

- TDSB/GCC with Toronto Public Health





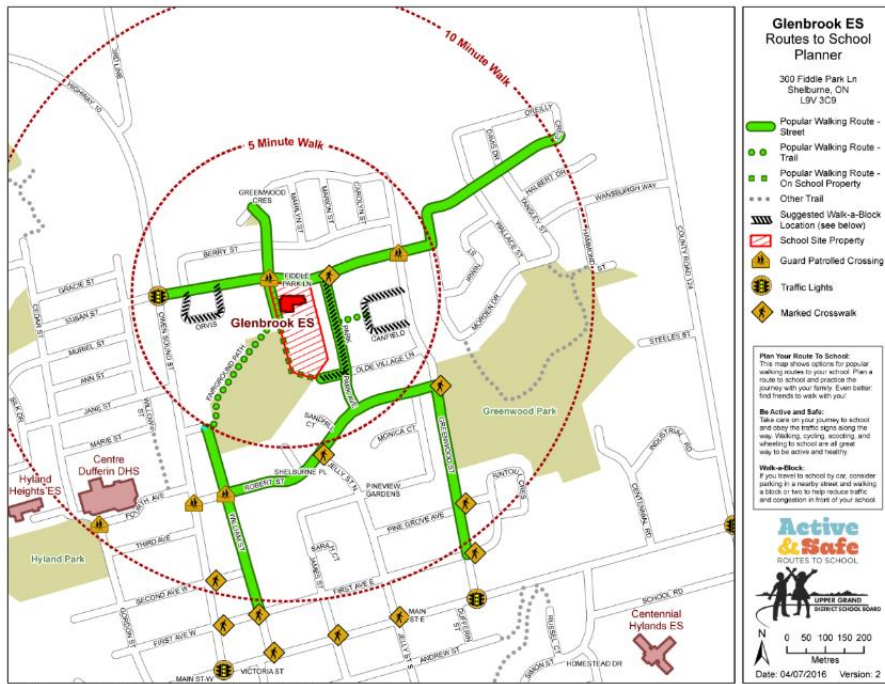
# Key partnerships

- TDSB/GCC with Toronto Police Services



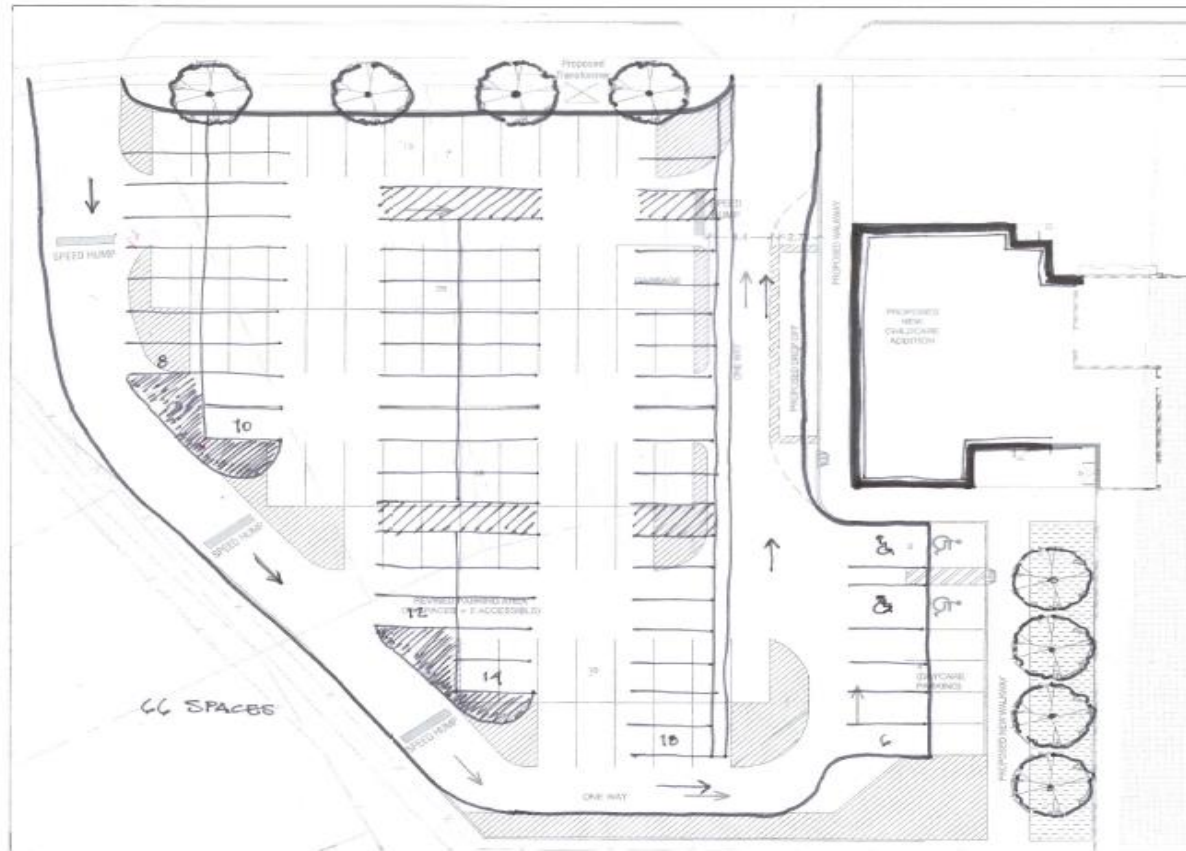
# Key partnerships

- TDSB/GCC with Toronto Student Transportation Group and TDSB Facilities



# Key partnerships

- TDSB/GCC with TDSB Facilities





# Where we're at now

- Working group including multiple stakeholders meets regularly to update progress and align efforts related to goals of Vision Zero/School Traffic Management



# Where we're at now

- Momentum and political appetite to invest time and resources into this
  - City and Police have expanded scope and expedited roll-out of safety measures related to school zone safety
  - Looking to expand TDSB/GCC Traffic Management Program to 45 schools/year
- Still too early to evaluate success ; however, evaluation has begun of certain aspects (e.g. School Safety Zones)



# Lessons Learned

- Many stakeholders have been doing related work; overlap and gaps in services
- Need to standardize processes and protocols across organizations/City departments to minimize inefficiencies





# About Ontario AST

- Mission: create a culture of active school travel
- Multiple benefits
- A long history
- Our approach: integrated, local, partnerships
- Elements
  - activities like walking school bus
  - events like Winter Walk Day
  - iwalk-iwheel club
  - school travel planning



# About Ontario AST.

- work directly with schools, Metrolinx
- support communities to build capacity, deliver
  - Ontario Active School Travel Fund
  - resources
  - training, coaching, networking
- Summit - 1 October
- Council - a voice



# Thank you!

Laura Zeglen  
[lzeglen@greencommunitiescanada.org](mailto:lzeglen@greencommunitiescanada.org)

Please stay tuned to our website for updates and details. Visit our News page for the latest posts and Sign up for our Newsletter.

Follow us on social media: @OntarioAST; #activeschooltravel.

Let's get  
more kids walking  
and wheeling  
to school

Ontario Active School Travel is  
a program of Green Communities Canada

