## Vision Zero Congestion:

Inter-organizational Collaboration and School Traffic Management

Laura Zeglen School Traffic Management Facilitator

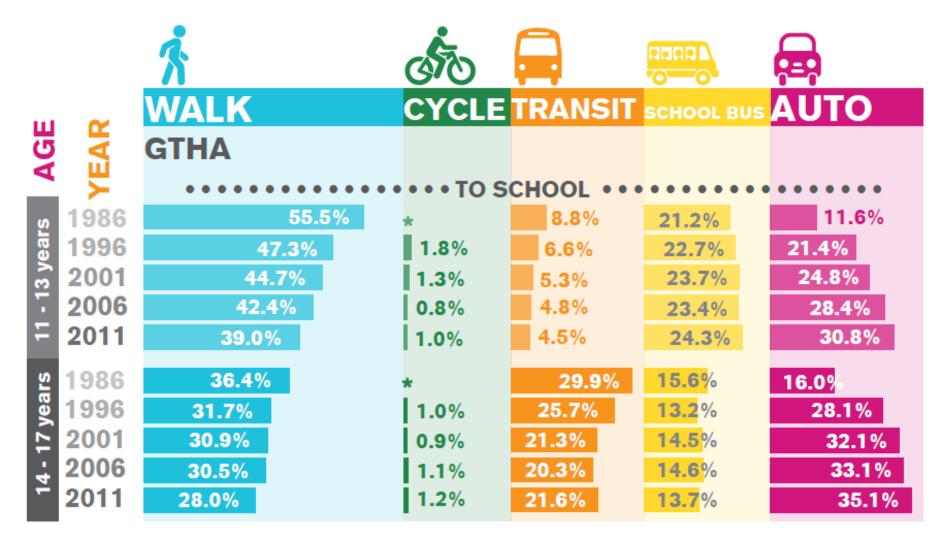
> Ontario Active School Travel, Green Communities Canada

> > 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.

Ontario Activ

Ontario Active School Travel











## 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



**Traffic Inducing Traffic** 

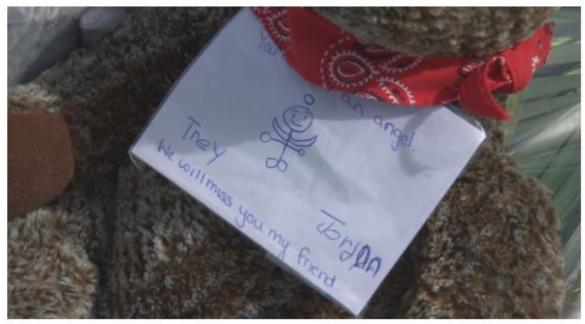


## Responding to tragedy

## '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

Other non-profit organizations and NGOs

Metrolinx

Research Institutions City of Toronto Vision Zero Road Safety Plan: Transportation Services

Management
Program (with GCC):
-15 schools per year
to receive intensive

support

-Schools cross the city prioritized for "School Safety Zones" (originally 20 per year; now 80 per year)
 -Additional road safety features being piloted in other school zones

Public Health

-Education/encouragement of active and safe school travel

-Taking over crossing guard program

Student Transportation Group

TCDSB School
Travel Planning
(with GCC):

Toronto

-5 schools per year to receive intensive support Toronto Police Services:

-Increasedenforcement inschool zones-Programs forschools



## We didn't get here overnight...

Fall 2013	Toronto District School Board (TDSB) Board of Trustees approve     Charter for Active, Safe and Sustainable Transportation
June 2014	Charter Implementation Plan developed and approved
	<ul> <li>TDSB begins to support ASST more fully in schools</li> </ul>
Winter 2017	City of Toronto launches Vision Zero Road Safety Plan
Feb 2017	Report on Improving School Traffic Management received by Board of Trustees
May 2017	Trustees motion for the City to establish a Task Force on Traffic Safety in School Zones
September 2017	City of Toronto launches Vision Zero School Safety Zones
November 2017	Launch of TDSB School Traffic Management Program
March 2018	City of Toronto announces additional safety measures in school zones, including expansion of School Safety Zones to greater number of schools







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)



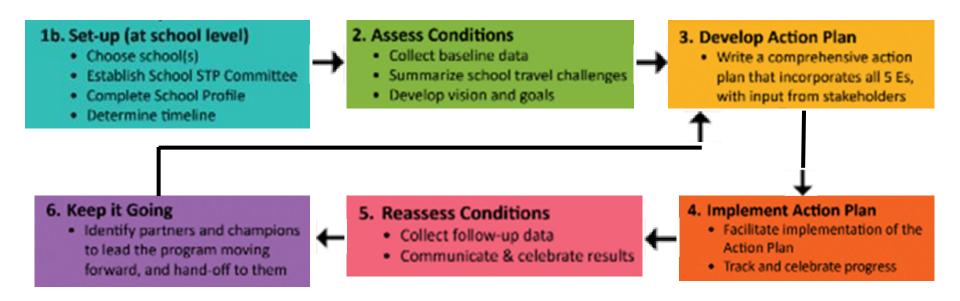


# TDSB Traffic Management Program (with Green Communities Canada)

- 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

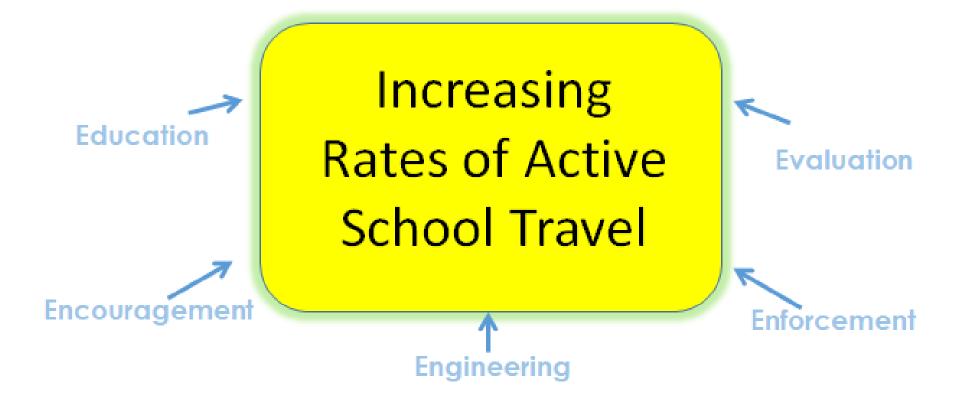


# The School Travel Planning Model





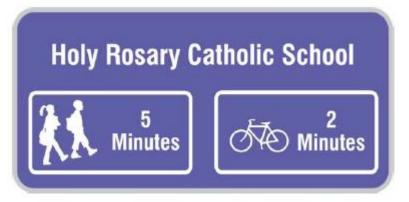
## Components of the Action Plan





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





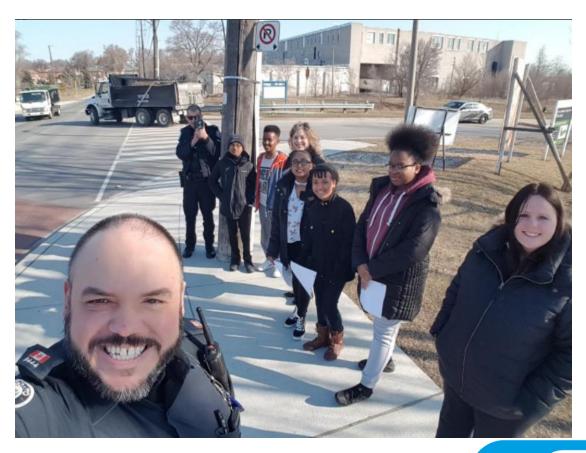


• TDSB/GCC with Toronto Public Health



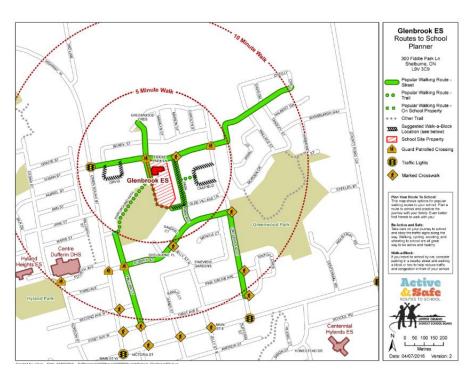


• TDSB/GCC with Toronto Police Services





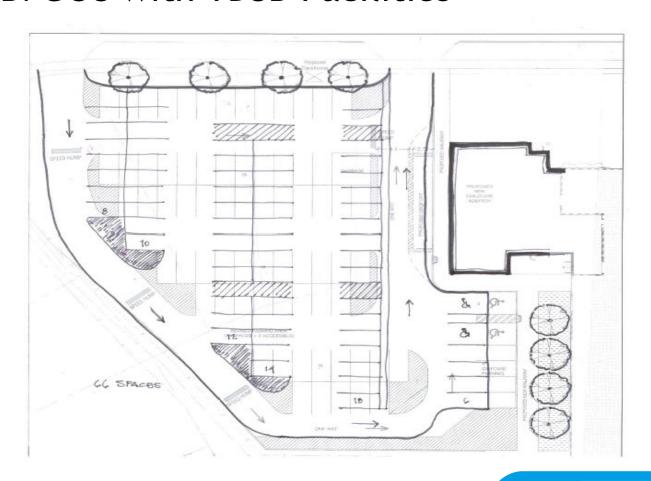
 TDSB/GCC with Toronto Student Transportation Group and TDSB Facilities







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!

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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

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