



Active School Travel Walking School Bus (WSB) Project

October 25, 2018

Did you Walk to School?

Remember *your* walk to school?

play • memories • friendship • happiness • adventure • nature • explore



"I remember walking with my older brother. It was time each day we got to spend together."



"I remember times in the fall when we would discover a large pile of leaves. It drew so many kids together all kicking and jumping in the leaves."



"I remember when I rode my bike to school stopping at the sip buckets for a taste"



"I remember always stopping at my friend Johnny's house on my walk home. Sometimes we would play guitar on his front porch."



"I remember some days there was time on the way home to climb the tree in our front yard. Several of us neighbourhood kids would hang from branches and see how high we could get."



"I remember walking past the cow fields and we would moo at the cows."



For more information on active school travel, visit www.ontarioactiveschooltravel.ca or www.healthunit.org



Ontario Active
School Travel



A program of
Green Communities
CANADA

With funding from
the Government
of Ontario



Benefits of Active School Travel

- Healthier Children
- Less Traffic and Pollution
- Safer School Zones, Healthier Communities
- Better Academic Performance
- Awareness/connection to community
- Traffic safety awareness amongst students



**Active School Travel is a low risk initiative;
the benefits far exceed the liability risks!**

Scope of WSB Project

- Received \$100,000 for two years to pilot community tailored Walking School Bus programs in Brockville, Smiths Falls and Mississippi Mills.

WALKING SCHOOL BUS



Project Objectives

- Strengthen our AST partnerships.
- Create environments that support and encourage students, and families to be active on their school journey.
- Increase the number students/ families who choose AST.
- Develop a sustainable, evidenced-informed model that can be expanded within our rural communities and shared beyond.



Why WSB Programs?

- Fewer children and youth are walking & wheeling to and from school

Biggest reasons for children not walking to school:

- Distance
- Parental fears for their child's safety such as traffic dangers, stranger danger and unsafe features of the child's route



More parents would allow their child to walk to school if they did not walk alone

Keys to Success

- Having an AST Facilitator
- Using the “5Es” Approach
 - Education
 - Encouragement
 - Engineering
 - Enforcement
 - Evaluation
- Tailoring AST to the needs of each school/ community
- Involving a diverse group of stakeholders
- Keeping up efforts over the long-term

Challenges

- Recruitment of volunteers in Smiths Falls
- First Aid training in Smiths Falls
- Families registering children
- Loss of part-time AST facilitator

Successes

- Partner engagement
- Social media engagement
- Recruitment of WSB leaders & volunteers in Brockville
- Interest from other communities
- Connection with an after school program
- Development of program resources and processes



Questions??



Thank you!

Ontario Active
School Travel



A program of **Green Communities**
CANADA

With funding from
the Government
of Ontario

