

Forest Hill Collegiate Institute School Travel Plan: Summary Document

2016/2017



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Travel Challenges Summary at Forest Hill CI

This section presents the main travel challenges at Forest Hill CI identified by the Walkabout on May 17 2016, our school travel planning committee meeting on June 6 2016, and also the student travel survey conducted in June 2016 and March 2017.

1. Traffic/road issues of greatest concern:
 - **High traffic area with minimal separation from sidewalk:** In particular along Eglinton; many construction vehicles and buses using this road, passing very close to the sidewalk.
 - **Many sidewalks/curbs missing or in poor condition:** In particular, Gardiner Road and the northeast corner of Chaplin/Eglinton.
 - **No bike lanes along Eglinton:** Cyclists must share the lane with buses and construction vehicles
 - **Major streets have high levels of noise pollution** due to heavy vehicles (e.g. trucks, buses) and construction activities; less desirable for walking and cycling.
 - **Cars using school drop-off zone for making U-turns, and parking illegally in front of library:** Extra traffic at the main school entrance could interfere with safety of students as they arrive at/leave school.
2. Main reasons students DO NOT walk to travel to/from school (from Student Travel Surveys):
 - **Distance:** I live too far to walk
 - **Time:** It would take too long/ I would be late for class
 - **Tiredness/laziness:** I'm too tired in the morning to walk, and don't want to get up earlier to do so
 - **Comfort:** Hot or cold weather makes the journey uncomfortable/ I don't want to get sweaty
 - **Convenience of other options:** I have the option of a drive to school from my parents
3. Main reasons students DO NOT cycle to travel to/from school (from Student Travel Surveys):
 - **Distance:** I live too far to cycle
 - **Bad weather/icy roads:** This barrier is especially salient in the winter months
 - **Need for education/practice:** I'm not comfortable riding in traffic/ I don't know how to ride on the road with traffic
 - **Tiredness/laziness:** I'm too tired in the morning to bike, and don't want to get up earlier to do so
 - **Not necessary:** I live close enough to walk/ I prefer to walk
 - **No bike:** I don't have a bike
 - **Inconvenience:** It is awkward and/or inconvenient to travel with a bike (e.g. having to carry a lock and a helmet, finding a place to park, etc)
4. Main reasons students DO NOT take the TTC to travel to/from school (from Student Travel Surveys):
 - **Not necessary:** I live close enough to walk/ I prefer to walk
 - **Saving money:** It is cheaper to walk, cycle or get a drive with someone else
 - **Time:** It takes longer than other travel modes; there are often delays on the TTC/ it gets stuck in traffic
 - **Inconvenience:** It doesn't come near my house/ the route is out of my way
5. Challenges with implementing STP at this school:
 - **Staff and Student engagement:** It has been difficult to get students to participate in ASST encouragement events, and to engage staff in helping to organize/implement (e.g. low turnout at Tour de Beltline and Bike to School Week events; no teacher volunteers to host free TDSB cycling education workshops)
 - **Parent engagement:** There has been some resistance/lack of interest from School Council and parents in general in supporting STP action items (e.g. low enrollment at proposed information night event; opposing application for school crossing guards)

School Travel Planning Goals and Objectives at Forest Hill CI

Primary Goal: To get even more students at Forest Hill CI to walk, cycle or take transit to school, toward improving the health and well-being of students at this school.

Key Objectives: In order to achieve our primary goal, we will strive to:

- Provide pedestrian and cycling safety education to students, toward making the journey to school safer;
- Raise awareness about the benefits and importance of active and sustainable school travel;
- Increase enthusiasm and support for active and sustainable school travel among students, parents and staff;
- Make the streets around the school safer and more attractive for active and sustainable school travel, both during and after construction of the Eglinton Crosstown;
- Monitor goals by evaluating progress and updating the school travel plan as needed.

Specific action items are detailed in the Action Plan.

The 5 Es of School Travel Planning

Action items from across all 5 action areas- **education, encouragement, enforcement, engineering and evaluation**- are all important to promoting walking, cycling and other active and sustainable forms of school travel.

	Examples
Education ASST skill building, and/or raising awareness on the benefits of active school travel, traffic safety, and other topics that would encourage active and sustainable school travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycling education and workshops • Articles in school newsletters about benefits/importance of walking to school • Information campaigns at the school (e.g. posters, social media)
Encouragement Prizes, incentives, and social events and activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in events such as Walk to School Days and Bike to School Week • Competitions between grades or with other schools • Prizes/recognition for ASST
Enforcement Monitoring traffic (e.g. Student patrolling, police enforcement, program, crossing guards)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police enforcement of areas with dangerous driver behaviour • Crossing guards • Student patrollers
Engineering Improving existing infrastructure, installing new infrastructure or changing/adding other aspects of the built environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installing bike racks • Traffic calming measures (e.g. bollards) • Improving signage/ replacing old signage
Evaluation Gathering baseline data, creating a school travel plan, and monitoring progress on goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbourhood walkabout • Surveys of student travel behaviours • Meeting regularly as a school travel planning committee

Action Plan Summary for Forest Hill CI




Note: Status indicated is current as of June 2017.




Acronyms:




IWalk Day= International Walk to School Day

STP= School Travel Planning

ASST= Active and Sustainable School Travel, i.e. walking, cycling, and all other human-powered forms of transportation; also includes public transit.

Education and Encouragement	
<p>Completed Action Items</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established “Community Transit Committee”, group of student leaders who help plan events and promote ASST to their peers Guest speaker presentations to students, including Metrolinx representative explaining how to use Presto card, and Toronto Public Health teaching about mental health benefits of ASST Students ran #walkbikeTTC campaign at school, including posters, announcements and a booth in the school foyer at lunchtime Students presented their work at school assemblies, and submitted written pieces for online student newspaper “The Golden Falcon” School Travel page set up on the updated FHCI website Display case in school hallway of STP-related information Winter Walking Contest with prize for class with most steps over one week Bike Blender demonstration during Spirit Week to promote cycling and healthy active living Participated in Bike to School Week Student presentations to School Council to share updates on our work Semi-regular updates sent home to parents about STP, via Fast Facts at Forest Hill 	<p>In-Progress Action Items</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metrolinx continuing to provide timely updates about Crosstown construction to the school community
<p>Ideas for Future Action Items</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to run student Community Transit Committee, including annual #walkbikeTTC campaign and other promotion events Apply for cycling education programming through TDSB EcoSchools (can be run as part of Phys Ed curriculum) Get bike repair station on school site and/or coordinate bike repair workshop/demonstration Participate in Bike to School week (Annually in Spring) Metrolinx to continue to provide timely updates about Crosstown construction to the school community Continue to include items in Fast Facts at Forest Hill, including ASST safety tips, information about benefits of ASST, and promotion of school events related to STP Foster connections with other existing school committees and groups to share in planning for events/align messaging (e.g. COPE) 	

Enforcement	
<p>Completed Action Items</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter written to apply for crossing guards near school (Discussion that followed with School Council led to decision not to submit request) 	<p>In-Progress Action Items</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
<p>Ideas for Future Action Items</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School to call 53 Division to request enforcement of specific locations where bad driver behaviour (e.g. rolling through stops signs, speeding) is identified 	
Engineering (aka 'the built environment')	
<p>Completed Action Items</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal submitted for updated 33 Bus Route; new route not approved, but new timing of stops at school approved to better align with school dismissal time City staff assessed items identified during Walkabout and implemented the following suggested changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional "School Zone" signs added on streets abutting the school property Faded street lines repainted Faded "No parking" sign near library has been replaced 	<p>In-Progress Action Items</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
<p>Ideas for Future Action Items</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to report issues and concerns around Crosstown construction sites directly to Metrolinx and also to your City Councillor's office Keeping in mind future needs, requests have been made for permanent changes to Mayfair Avenue over the long-term to slow traffic once construction along Eglinton is complete (e.g. curb bump outs) Use "Guide to Safer Streets Near Schools" to see what traffic calming measures would be best-suited for the local streets around the school: http://www.tcat.ca/project/guide-to-safer-streets-near-schools/ Call 311 to report broken sidewalks, faded pavement lines, requests for improved street lighting, etc. Engage students and school community more actively in planning for Eglinton Connects project Apply for additional bike racks, when needed, through TDSB Ecoschools 	

Evaluation	
<p>Completed Action Items</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish Forest Hill CI STP Committee • Conduct Neighbourhood Walkabout • Conduct Baseline Student Travel Surveys • Conduct Winter Student Travel Surveys • Conduct 1 Year follow-up Student Travel Surveys 	<p>In-Progress Action Items</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the Action Plan; revise list/timelines to prepare for next year
<p>Ideas for Future Action Items</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the Action Plan on a yearly basis and adapt as necessary • Continue to meet regularly as an STP Committee to keep on track with STP and ASST goals • Conduct annual Student Travel Surveys to monitor ASST rates over time (can use https://bikewalkroll.org/) • Conduct traffic counts around the school, to arm yourself with data (can use http://counterpointapp.org/) • Conduct follow-up Neighbourhood Walkabout in future (once construction is complete) to identify areas for improvement 	

Sample Resources for School Travel Planning

Related to Education and Encouragement:

- Apply for cycling education programming through TDSB EcoSchools: <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/ecoschools/Home/EnrichyourProgram/CyclingSupports.aspx>

Connect with and encourage students to volunteer and/or do co-op placements with organizations that promote ASST:

- Cycle TO: <https://www.cycleto.ca/volunteer>
- Bike Pirates: <http://bikepirates.com/volunteer/>
- Culturelink: <http://www.culturelink.ca/get-involved/volunteers/>

Participate in ASST encouragement events:

- Rent the FoodShare Bike Blender to promote cycling and healthy active living: <http://foodshare.net/program/blender/>
- Bike to School Week (May/June): <http://www.bikemonth.ca/biketoschool>
- Start a Bike Club at School: <http://walkandrollpeel.ca/projects/pdf/10-step-handbook-high-school-bike-proj.pdf>

Related to Engineering (aka the “built environment”):

- Explore options to calm traffic on neighbourhood streets, lowering traffic speeds and increasing safety: <http://saferstreetsnearschools.ca>
- Connect with your City Councillor’s office to stay informed about the Eglinton Connects project: <https://goo.gl/4W6cqj>
- Share links to City of Toronto Cycling maps with all staff and students to help plan the safest and best route to school: <http://www1.toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vgnextoid=1a63970aa08c1410VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD>

Related to Evaluation:

- Count traffic around the school site, including pedestrian versus vehicle traffic, using the CounterPoint app: <http://counterpointapp.org/>
- Use the BikeWalkRoll app to track and instantly graph how students travel to school: <https://bikewalkroll.org/>

Student Travel Survey Findings

Results of our student travel surveys, conducted with a sample of classes across all grades at this school, showed that walking rates have increased since starting the program, and rates of being driven to school have decreased. There have been incremental increases in TTC rates as well. The follow-up survey took place before our focused cycling promotion efforts began in Spring 2017.

