Questions and Answers posed in the BikeWalkRoll webinar held 28 February 2019

A recording of the webinar is available on the Ontario Active School Travel YouTube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bZarIZH3RY0&t=1s

1) **This data collection would be useful for planning purposes?**

   Yes. Often the first step in any planning exercise is getting a baseline measure of existing conditions. The Hands Up student travel survey that BikeWalkRoll is built on is part of the School Travel Planning Toolkit. The map is a particularly powerful planning tool and a way to look for underlying built environment issues that are impacting school travel.

2) **Can students lead a survey and create a profile if they are investigating transportation as a school sustainability project?**

   Yes! students can definitely lead a survey, and it works particularly well for junior high or high school when students are grouped into homerooms. We've had student groups be delegated this task and sent class to class with an iPad.

3) **Can you please elaborate on the research that validates Hands Up classroom surveys?**

   This research concluded that The Hands-Up survey is a valid and reliable tool to determine travel mode to school among elementary school children:
   https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=hinckson+e+hands+up

   The Ryerson University research on Coordinated Data collection (August 2018) identified that "Hands-up surveys are among the most cost-effective tools to understand how children travel to and from school."

4) **Are there different levels of access - so while a school can see their data, a board coordinator could see multiple schools?**

   Yes there are different levels of access to certain functionality, but in general anyone can access the data. That is intentional and avoids the appearance that the data itself is something to profit from. Rather, this is a public good exercise and the more access the better.

   Quick clarification re: "a board coordinator could see multiple schools?" Short answer is yes! In fact, we built something just for that. Have a look at a school division profile page. It works a little differently than the individual school pages: on the school board pages, the map shows all the schools who are participating, it also shows a score that is an overall average of all the scores of the schools. This lets a board official focus on their own schools. Here is an example:
   https://bikewalkroll.org/Divisions/view/38

5) **Who owns the data? Does it go back to the teacher only or it counts all classes in a school? How would municipalities access this information?**

   Everyone owns the data – it is open source. It gets displayed immediately in real time as scores and graphs on the website. The detailed data can be downloaded as a spreadsheet.

6) **Have you had any issues with sharing school data on open data? We have a lot of rules around what we do with school data.**

No, we have not run into issues with sharing this type of data, due to it being aggregated and anonymized. Individual students are not identified. Each school division/board approaches permissions differently though. Sometimes a champion needs to take extra steps to secure permission.

7) **Does the data get saved every school year, then restarted at each school?**

No, but you can do that analysis quite easily. Either by scrolling down in the histogram on the school's page and looking at the dates, or analyzing the spreadsheet data. We do see value in making it easier to do that comparison, so thanks for the comment.

8) **How would you do input split grades?**

Split-grades are available to chose in the dropdown list that you see when you do the survey.

9) **Does the survey account for multi-modal trips? Say a student walks, takes transit, then walks again to reach school, and it's a 50-50 walk/transit split.**

For the purpose of replicability, no. The default questions are carefully worded to get at what the student did for the majority of a trip. But trip chaining is indeed important. You would love to see one of our experimental survey types that is intended to try and capture that. The only issue with it is that its not a quick survey to do and the questions you need ask are complex to describe that information.

10) **How was the "expected" mode share calculated [in the Waterloo region example]?**

The expected mode comes from student allocation in the bus zone and the walk zone. This data comes from Student Transportation Services

11) **Does the system allow you to track inclement weather that is likely to impact active transportation patterns? for both general bad weather or snow days**

No not within the program itself, but having the timestamp means that the big data can be cross referenced with online databases of daily weather info (ie. Environment Canada). We also explicitly avoid too much weather-based caveats. The reason for this is that there are numerous jurisdictions around the world (Scandinavia for cycling in the winter for example) where the weather itself is not seen as a barrier. So we want people to look at the results and draw their own conclusions.

12) **Would you ever consider including a search function on the website (unless there is one we can't see) to search for specific schools or boards, etc.?**

Yes! We have considered a more global search function both on the main page and the listings of schools/boards. Not just considered, it is high on our wish list. What's there is admittedly a bit clunky and we hope to make it better. If you'd like learn how to support the project, feel free to contact us at info@bikewalkroll.org