

March 2019

## Quarterly Update: 4

*An overview of developments in active school travel with provincial significance during the past quarter.*

**Round one projects.** Round 1 funded projects are underway.

**Ontario Active School Travel Network.** The Network was launched in late February with a first round of invitations sent to 35 School Travel Planning facilitators and others on the frontline of AST program implementation. The Network will serve as a community of practice for active and aspiring practitioners working at the local, regional, or provincial level to increase rates of AST. It will offer peer-to-peer sharing of information, resources, knowledge and strategies as well as provide mutual support and guidance to enhance capacity and impact. A broader invitation to join will follow later this year. See [www.ontarioactiveschooltravel.ca/network](http://www.ontarioactiveschooltravel.ca/network).

**Data collection.** GCC worked with Ryerson University during 2018 to undertake research on behalf of Metrolinx to examine best practices for coordinated data collection for school travel. The study report has now been published by Metrolinx on the smart commute website (December 2018): <http://smartcommute.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/2018-Coordinated-Data-Collection-Tools-to-Evaluate-School-Travel-Related-Programming.pdf>. GCC will use the findings of the research to determine next steps for developing further data collection tools and techniques for School Travel Planning.

**BikeWalkRoll.** GCC worked with Green Action Centre to further develop BikeWalkRoll, an online data collection tool for measuring school travel mode share. The updated tool now aligns with the Student Travel Survey template (STP Toolkit) and has 'Champion-user' functionality so that STP Facilitators and program leads from School Boards and Student Transportation Consortia are able to manage a portfolio of schools, access the travel data and coordinate board-wide surveys if so desired. A webinar about BikeWalkRoll (28 February) was delivered by GCC in partnership with Green Action Centre (Manitoba) and Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region (Ontario). The webinar drew 86 participants.

**Winter Walk Day.** Schools across the province celebrated Winter Walk Day in February. Though ice and cold saw closed schools and cancelled buses across regions, it didn't hinder active participation: **447 schools in 76 communities, representing 125,000 students registered their events to champion the winter walk to school, setting a new record for active school travel.**

**OASBO Presentation.** Lori Powell secured a session at the Ontario Association of School Board Officials (OASBO) Annual General Conference in May 2019. The session will be a panel discussion featuring representatives from school boards, student transportation consortia, NGOs and municipalities. The session will focus on school siting, design and active transportation solutions that reduce congestion, improve safety and support wellbeing by encouraging more students to walk and cycle to school.

**Bike education.** Tammy Shubat, Ophea, reports that the Ontario Ministry of Tourism Culture and Sport has not committed to moving forward with a bike education framework.

**Call for federal leadership.** A call for national action on active transportation has been issued, addressed to federal transport minister Marc Garneau and the Council of Ministers Responsible for Transportation (federal-provincial). The call is endorsed by over 20 prominent organizations in multiple sectors, including the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. See FCM's [near unanimous resolution](#).

The call for action is prompted by an October 2018 report on active transport by the Council's Environment and Transportation Working Group. The report cites a number of implementing actions, including support for active school travel. See: <https://comt.ca/english/activetransportation-10-18.pdf>.

The call is led by Green Communities Canada, Canada Bikes, and Active School Travel Canada, an informal network of provincial level organizations in provinces across the country. A letter requests a meeting with the federal minister to discuss plans for implementing the report, including strategic partnerships with multi-sectoral champions and experts.