

Quarterly update: May 2019

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

Ministry of Education funding. Green Communities Canada received formal notification that its transfer payment agreement will remain in place with the Ontario government, and that the balance of funds under the agreement, \$1.5 Million, will be paid in full. All funds will be received within the 2019-20 fiscal year of the government. The agreement end date is August 2020.

OAST Fund Round 2 projects. With formal notification of provincial funding, GCC has moved ahead with Round 2 of the Fund. Applications were assessed by an external review panel and 16 projects have been selected, totalling \$0.9M. Current forecast for Round 2 to leverage matching funds (cash and in-kind) of \$1.1M or 120%. GCC has completed intake meetings with project leads and has issued Funding Agreements. The Round 2 funded projects are located in:

- North Grenville
- Barrie
- Simcoe Muskoka district
- Durham region
- Markham
- Brampton
- Caledon
- Town of Ajax
- Timiskaming district
- Mississauga
- Sarnia
- Blind River
- Stratford
- Brantford
- Brant County
- Toronto

Ontario Active School Travel Network. The Network has been launched and is initially targeting front-line STP facilitators and practitioners (membership currently stands at 32 individuals). It utilises the online platform slack.com as a collaboration hub for sharing information and resources and facilitating dialogue between members. One online coaching session for Network members has been held with another planned for early June.

Ontario Active School Travel Bulletin. A new active school travel communications vehicle has been launched targeting local and provincial decision-makers. The first edition was sent out by email in May to over 750 contacts, mostly in the OAST Fund communities.

OAST Council Web page. Launched: ontarioactiveschooltravel.ca/council

OAST Council - Parent Engagement Working Group. Nancy Wirtz of CCS has replaced Susan Flynn as chair. Membership has expanded to include representatives from OAST Fund projects in Hamilton and Ottawa. At its most recent meeting the group reviewed some initial findings from a recent Metrolinx study of parental attitudes to AST. Seth Lajeunesse (US National SRTS Centre) also shared insights on social marketing campaigns in the context of AST. The Group continues to do an environmental scan and review existing resources.

Spring into Spring hit new heights this year with 72 schools representing 16,000 students in 32 communities celebrating their outdoors journey during the month of April – a five-fold increase over 2018.

Bike to School Week is underway, 27-31 May. Once again, GCC is partnering with Cycle Toronto to enable province-wide support for the event. To date 500 schools have registered, which indicates an increase on 2018 participation levels.

Bike-Friendly. The Bike Friendly Community designation program, hosted by Share the Road, is expanding from Ontario only to Canada-wide, including a partnership with Vélo Quebec for Quebec delivery. The designation is supported by the Canadian Automobile Association \ national office and CAA Clubs across Canada.

Automated Speed Enforcement. Preparation continues for the use of automated speed enforcement (photo radar) in school zones. Regulations are expected by fall 2019 and the first ASE program is expected to be up and running in Toronto by the end of 2019. See Ontario Traffic Council magazine: otc.org/communications/otc-magazine.

Call for federal leadership. A national alliance of walk, bike and active school travel champions continues to press for a response from Transport Canada Minister Marc Gameau to a call for collaborative national action on active transportation. The call is endorsed by over 20 prominent organizations, including the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, which urges federal leadership on AT. Meanwhile, discussions are underway with multiple parties regarding AT and 2019 party election platforms. In May, at the National Bike Summit, GCC's Wallace Beaton participated in an Ottawa meeting organized by Vélo Canada Bikes with MP Mona Fortier, vice chair of the federal Liberal campaign platform committee, urging action on a national AT strategy, funding, and data collection.