

Quarterly update: 10

July 2020

An overview of developments in active school travel with provincial significance during the past quarter. Please let us know if we've missed anything. For elaboration and discussion at the Council meeting.

OAST Council Statement.

The Ontario Active School Travel Council has issued a statement containing recommendations and guidelines to assist the Ministry of Education and school boards as they develop plans to reopen the province's schools. In it the Council urges the Ministry and its partners to prepare for a "new normal" as it relates to the journey to school, one that will require a multi-modal approach to student transportation. [Read the statement](#)

OAST Fund.

MEDU has agreed to GCC's request to extend the 30 June deadline for OAST Fund grant recipients to submit their final progress reports. Projects will now have until early November to wrap up their activities, most of which were significantly disrupted by the Covid-19 school closures.

OAST Network.

Two coaching sessions were held for Network members this spring:

- ***Covid19 & AST: Keeping the Conversation Going*** took place on 28 April. It was an opportunity for AST/STP practitioners to share resources and ideas for engaging schools and families during the extended school closure. The slides and related resources were shared on the Network's workspace in Slack.
- ***Telling the AST Story*** on 10 June explored the principles of effective storytelling as a way to help strengthen AST communications. It included examples from the world of active school travel and beyond. [Slides & recording here.](#)

Encouragement Events.

- **Bike to School Week 2020:** Due to the province-wide school closures organizers postponed this event scheduled for late May and are tentatively planning to celebrate biking to school during [Bike Month](#) in September and [International Walk to School Month](#) in October.

Wayfinding for Routes to School.

This OAST webinar on 12 May highlighted diverse examples of school wayfinding initiatives from York Region, Toronto, London and Gatineau (Québec). Interest was high with almost 300 registrants. [Slides and recording here.](#)

National Active Transportation Strategy.

Progress remains relatively slow due to Covid 19 but GCC and its active transportation alliance partners (Vélo Canada Bikes, Active School Travel Canada, CAA, Heart and Stroke) continue to convene regularly and maintain a positive dialogue with MP Andy Filmore's office. It appears that the strategy will be developed by staff within Infrastructure Canada.