



Hop on the Walking School Bus!

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School Travel Plans (STP)

- Based on the 16 schools that have previously conducted school travel planning projects within the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph region, some of the main concerns that parents had about their children using active transportation when commuting to and from school included:
 - Speed and volume of traffic
 - Lack of safe places to cross
 - Parents concerned about their children walking alone to and from school
 - Idling vehicles
 - Coordination and support



Active Transportation

- Any type of human-powered transportation – walking, cycling, skateboarding, wheeling a wheelchair, and so on – used to get oneself or others from one place to another.
- It is a healthy alternative to motorized transportation.
- Benefits to active transportation include:
 - Cuts down on greenhouse gas emissions and global climate change
 - Improve your overall health (energy, stress levels and blood pressure)
 - Increased contact with your neighbours and community

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Our Plan

- The Walking School Bus
- Revisiting STPs conducting in 2011 - 2015



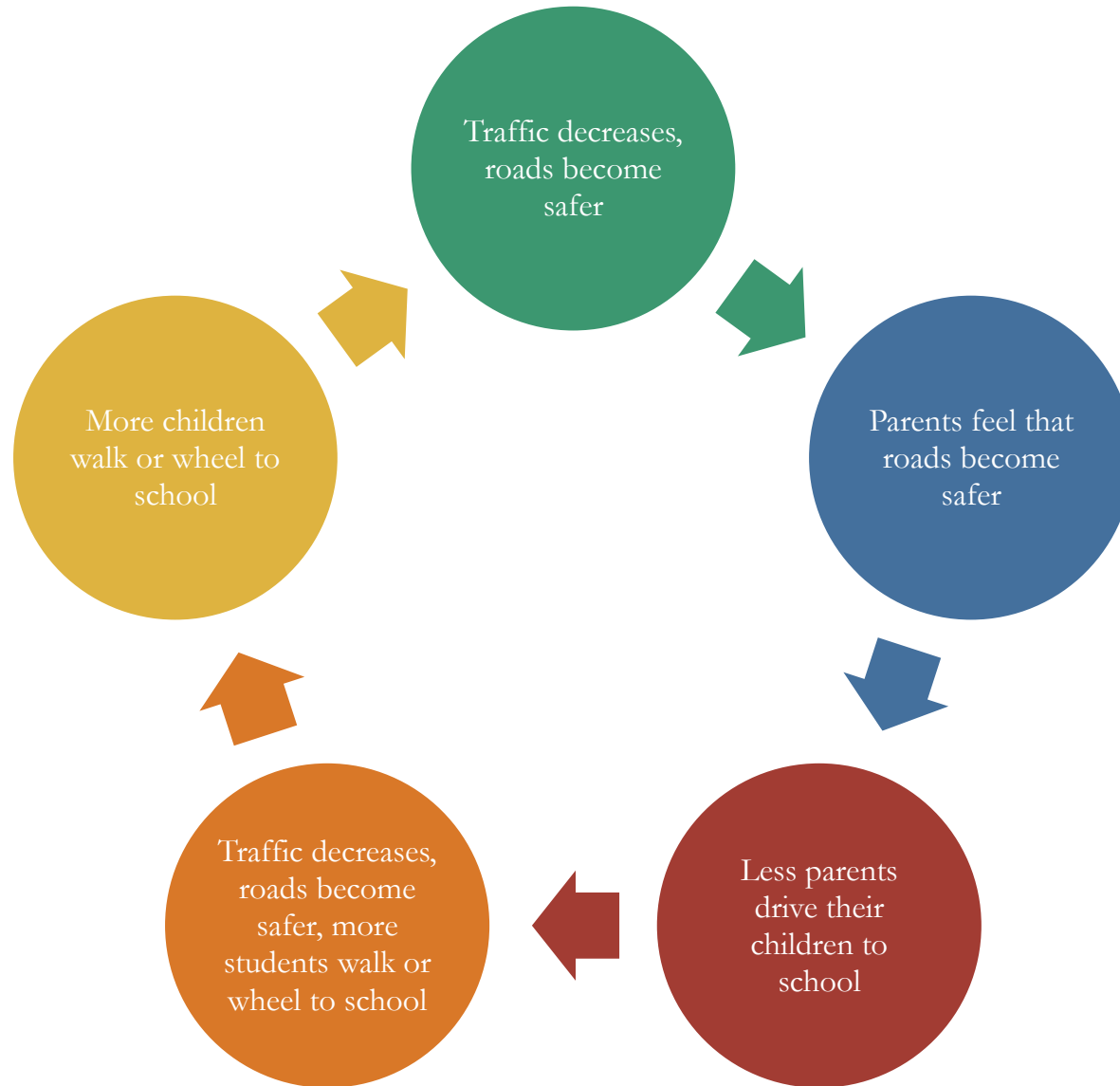
Walking School Bus

- A group of students walking to/from school with an adult supervisor – parent or volunteer
- Students are picked up at their designated “bus stops”
- Does not replace or change traditional school bus routes – most students applying live within walking distance of the school (less than 1.6 km)
- Walking School Bus can vary in structure
 - Formal, informal and hybrid method



Benefits of implementing the Walking School Bus

- Developing healthy childhood habits at an early age has been shown to have long-term health benefits.
- Reduces traffic congestion around schools
- Improved air quality due to reduced greenhouse gas emissions
- Enhanced neighbourhood safety
- Greater sense of community



A photograph showing a school bus leader, a man in a high-visibility orange vest with "WALKING SCHOOLBUS LEADER" printed on the back, walking away from the camera on a paved sidewalk. He is surrounded by several young children, some carrying backpacks. To the left is a road, and to the right is a grassy area. In the background, a brick school building is visible with signs that read "MITCHELL WOODS PUBLIC SCHOOL" and "BUILD ON EDUCATION".

Example Route

Legend

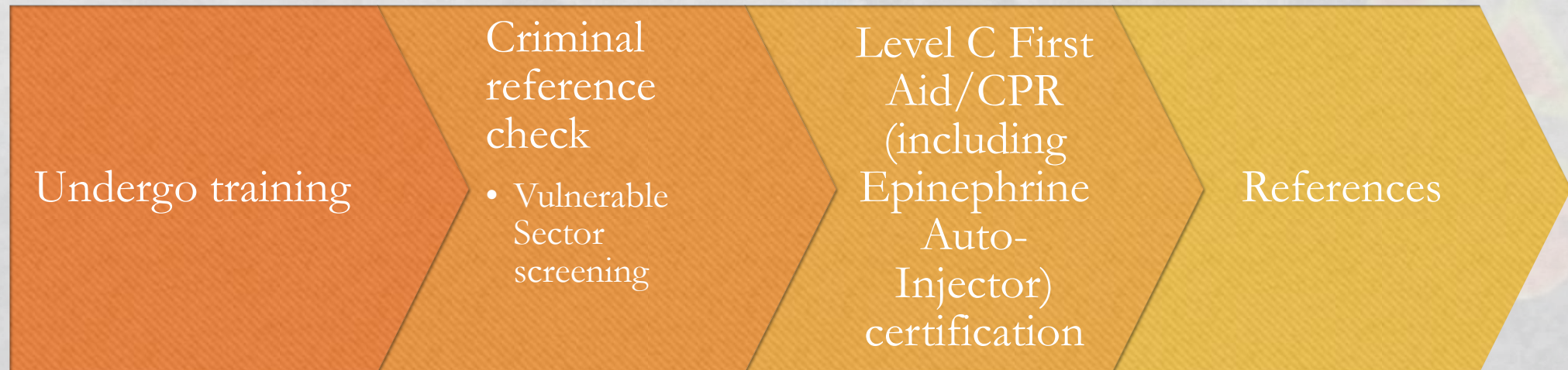
-  Walking School Bus Stop
-  School



Walking Directions

- Start # 1 (8:05 am) – 148 Fleming Road; turn to Law St.
- Stop # 2 (8:08 am) – 95 Law Dr; head southwest on Law Dr toward Clythe Creek Dr
- Stop # 3 (8:12 am) – 72 Law Dr; Head southwest on Law Dr toward O'Connor Ln
- Stop # 4 – (8:15 am) – 39 Law Dr; turn right onto O'Connor Ln
- Stop # 5 – (8:18 am) – 45 O'Connor Ln; Turn right onto Grange Rd

Walking School Bus Leaders



Safety Rules

- Walk with the walking school bus – do not run or skip!
- Use the sidewalks instead of the grass
- Watch for vehicles pulling out of/turning into driveways/streets
- Look Left-then Right-then Left again, and keep looking while crossing the street
- Obey traffic signs and signals
- Follow the instructions of the Walking School Bus Leader

Program components and resources

1. Conduct a feasibility assessment to determine interest in establishing a WSB in their school
 - School Champions, Parent Interest, Principal Commitment, Current School Active Travel Activities, Number of Students in Walking Zone (JK-Grade 4), Current Active School Travel Behaviours, Distribution of Walkers, Complaints Received by Traffic Services and Number of Bylaw Traffic & Parking Tickets
2. Promote program in local community via newsletter, social media, and parent council.

Program components and resources Cont'd

3. Develop policies and procedures
4. Recruit and train the Walking School Bus Leaders
5. Plan a launch event
 - Publicize the event via newsletter or media platforms
6. Determine the walking routes based on clusters of students that are registered for the Walking School Bus.
7. Continue to promote the walking school bus and active transportation



Phase I and Phase II

Phase I

- Implemented at Mitchell Woods PS
- Two WSBs
- Four Leaders
- 30 students

Phase II

- Implemented at Mitchell Woods PS, Holy Trinity CS, and Ken Danby PS
- Four WSBs
- 11 Leaders
- 68 students

Recommendations of implementing the Walking School Bus

Leaders

- Post as soon as possible
 - School's website
 - Registration form
- Encourage them to stay committed to the position and encourage the students to walk to school

Students

- Contact families that do not use the WSB frequently
- Ask for parent and Principal/Vice Principal for feedback
- Invite guest to walk with the walking school bus – Police, Fire fighters and mascots

A Walk in Their Sneakers

- Contacted the Guelph Police to inquire if they were interested in participating in the Walking School Bus to further promote active transportation in the area.
- Officers Kevin Dahl and Sherry Pettapiece learned about the students' trip to school while sharing school zone safety tips and traffic information.
- On Halloween, there will be a “Spooky Walk” where students can come dressed in their costumes.



Encouragement



- Attend school events such as open house
- Hold special events and theme days
- Reward frequent walkers with small incentives – bookmarks, stickers, and keychains
- Keep the routes safe and up to date
 - Ask the leaders and students if they would like improvements in the route
- Recognize the WSB leaders with certificates and awards

A group of children, seen from behind, are walking along a paved sidewalk. They are wearing backpacks of various colors and designs. In the foreground, a boy with a black backpack and a girl with a red and black Under Armour backpack are prominent. Further ahead, other children are visible, some wearing high-visibility vests. To the left of the sidewalk is a grassy area with a black SUV parked. In the background, a multi-story brick school building with many windows is visible under an overcast sky. A light blue car is driving on the road to the left of the sidewalk. Large green bushes are on the right side of the frame.

Thank you!
