

Recommendation for a Motion to the Ontario Ministry of Education re Cycling Education

Whereas approximately twenty per cent of morning car traffic is composed of children being driven to school, causing increased congestion, collision and insurance rates;¹

Whereas congestion and accidents use excessive amounts of police, city traffic control, and school administration time²;

Whereas vehicular emissions cause about a 34% (2012)³ of Ontario's greenhouse gas production;

Whereas reduced congestion would reduce road construction⁴, maintenance and repair costs⁵, as well as easing parking lot congestion and safety of students in school zones;

Whereas reduced congestion would reduce air pollution⁶ in school zones, enhancing the health of students and staff, thus improving healthcare⁷ and employee benefit costs;

Whereas only four to seven per cent of Canadian school-age children and youth receive the requisite one hour per day of moderate to vigorous physical activity, down from eighty-four per cent of preschool children⁸;

Whereas studies have shown that active transportation to school increases brain activity for up to four hours⁹, and increases academic performance¹⁰ and decision-making opportunities;

Whereas cycling safety training will make cycling to and from school safer, increase rider confidence and therefore increase the level of ridership, making cycling the "normal" option of student transportation to and from school¹¹;

Therefore, the Brampton Cycling Advisory Committee recommends that the Council of the City of Brampton ask the Ministry of Education to adopt mandatory cycling education in the Ontario Elementary and Secondary School Curriculums, on a graduated basis, integrated with existing curriculum, from grade one to grade ten, including both safety and skills training.

¹ Region of Peel. The Region of Peel's Active Transportation Study – Active Transportation Plan, IBI Group, November 2011, p.41 <http://walkandrollpeel.ca/projects/pdf/TTR-ATplan-part1-final-v2-2011-11-23v2.pdf>

² Metrolinx. Stepping It Up Project: Qualitative Data from Pilot School Administrators, 2012 as cited in Metrolinx. Stepping It Up – Final Report: Making Active and Sustainable School Transportation a Priority in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area, June 2012, p.8 <http://www.metrolinx.com/en/projectsandprograms/schooltravel/steppingitupreporteng.pdf>

³ Region of Peel. Peel Long Range Transportation Plan Update 2012, p.38 <http://www.peelregion.ca/planning/residents/transportation/LRTP-Report.pdf>

⁴ Region of Peel. Peel Long Range Transportation Plan Update 2012 <http://www.peelregion.ca/planning/residents/transportation/LRTP-Report.pdf>

⁵ Region of Peel. Peel Long Range Transportation Plan Update 2012 Final Draft, p.51 <http://www.peelregion.ca/planning/residents/transportation/LRTP-Report.pdf>

⁶ International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). Agents Classified by the IARC Monographs, Volumes 1-111, p 25, updated October 17, 2014 <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Classification/ClassificationsAlphaOrder.pdf>

⁷ Mowat D. Gardner C. McKeown D. Tran N. Moloughney B. Bursley G., Medical Officers of Health. Improving Health by Design in the Greater Toronto-Hamilton Area: A Report of Medical Officers of Health in the GTHA, May 2014 2nd Edition, p.26

<https://www.peelregion.ca/health/resources/healthbydesign/pdf/moh-report.pdf>

⁸ Active Healthy Kids Canada. The 2014 Active Healthy Kids Canada Report Card on Physical Activity for Children and Youth _

http://www.participaction.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/AHKC_2014_ReportCard_ENG.pdf

⁹ Vinther D. Children who walk to school concentrate better, Science Nordic, November 30, 2012 <http://sciencenordic.com/children-who-walk-school-concentrate-better>

¹⁰ Hillman C.H. et al. (2009). The effect of acute treadmill walking on cognitive control and academic achievement in preadolescent children. Neuroscience. 159(3):1044-1054.

¹¹ Mowat D. Gardner C. McKeown D. Tran N. Moloughney B. Burse G., Medical Officers of Health. Improving Health by Design in the Greater Toronto-Hamilton Area: A Report of Medical Officers of Health in the GTHA, May 2014 2nd Edition, p.7

<https://www.peelregion.ca/health/resources/healthbydesign/pdf/moh-report.pdf>