

Hamilton Active & Sustainable School Transportation Charter

Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District School Board

All Hamilton schools exist in a safe, healthy, and sustainable community where people of all ages can choose to and are able to use active and sustainable modes of transportation (ASST)

I/We the undersigned recognize that making our communities and schools more walkable and bikeable has social, economic, environmental, and health benefits. I/We recognize that changing school travel now influences the mode choice of future generations towards an active and sustainable community. This charter reflects the principles of the Ontario Ministry of Education's Foundations for a Healthy School, the Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District School Board's (HWCDSB) approach that "every action toward ecological responsibility take place within the context of the Stewardship of God's Creation"*, and the City of Hamilton's Strategic Plan.

This charter serves to inform a long-term commitment to providing support, resources, and training towards active and sustainable school transportation. I/We will work together to encourage safe, healthy, and sustainable routes to school through our commitment to the following ASST principles:

- 1. Street design for comfort, convenience, and safety for all users**
- 2. Supportive land use and site planning**
- 3. Personal and community safety**
- 4. Partnership, collaboration, and shared responsibility**
- 5. A culture of active and sustainable transportation**

Signature:	_____	_____
Name (print):	_____	_____
Position:	_____	_____
	City of Hamilton	Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District School Board
Date:	_____	_____

ASST Principles & Actions

Each ASST principle provides a list of practical applications that serve as a starting point. However, actions are determined in the context of feasibility and local needs.

1. Street design for comfort, convenience, & safety for all users

Commit to creating public spaces that are balanced towards all modes, ages, and abilities of travel.

Actions

- Encourage the installation and all season maintenance of cycling facilities leading to and around the schools
- Encourage the installation and all season maintenance of walking facilities leading to and around the school
- Reduce speed limits and install traffic calming devices along school commuting routes
- Work with public transit where applicable to provide timely and reliable service for students and staff

2. Supportive land-use and site planning

Ongoing comprehensive, collaborative approach to school siting and school site design policies and planning that contributes to a healthy community. These policies apply to both new and existing schools.

Actions

- Locate schools that meet community needs and anticipated future growth
- Ensure site design guidelines and current best practices are implemented to maximize opportunities for walking, cycling, and transit use
- Ensure complete community design that provides live, learn, work, shop, and play opportunities for convenient access by walking, cycling, and transit
- Design for green and active schools that encourage physical activity by including plants, trees, school gardens, and outdoor classrooms

3. Personal & community safety

Environments that are designed and maintained to reduce crime and the fear of crime promote active transportation.

Actions

- Adopt community designs that provide attractive walking environments such as adequate lighting, graffiti removal, building design, street greening, way-finding, and redevelopment of vacant lots and buildings
- Conduct neighbourhood walkabouts to audit and identify personal security concerns

- Provide safety education and awareness through curriculum and community partnerships
- Increase policing in high-crime areas and high risk areas

4. Partnership, collaboration, and shared responsibility

Collaborate with all partners for a comprehensive approach to planning, implementation, and evaluation of active and sustainable transportation.

Actions

- Develop and implement School Travel Plans for all schools to ensure safe routes to school
- Support and implement Transportation Demand Management** (TDM) strategies for staff, parents, and where applicable students.
- Identify and eliminate challenges to using active and sustainable transportation for the trip to, from, and during school
- Advocate for resources and investments from all sectors to build an active and healthy community.

5. A culture of active and sustainable transportation

The community takes a leadership role in creating a culture where active and sustainable transportation is the norm where we live, learn, work and play.

Actions

- Champion education and awareness activities related to active and sustainable transportation
- Participate in local, regional, and international events that encourage active transportation
- Develop policies and support environmental changes for active and sustainable transportation
- Pursue recognition and awards for environment, health and active and sustainable transportation
- Provide the resources and training required to champion and build capacity for active and sustainable transportation

* The HWCDSB believes that creation includes the natural environment in which we live, our social and cultural communities, and the very bodies we inhabit. Active transportation is a means of supporting our personal health and strengthening our physical well-being. Sustainable school transportation is a way of caring for our community, our earth, our home. In these ways, we give glory to God by reverencing the creation which we have been gifted.

** **TDM** is a set of tools, policies, and programs that aims to reduce the travel demand associated with single occupancy vehicles (SOVs) and encourages a shift to other modes including walking, cycling, transit, carpooling, carsharing, bikesharing, telework, and work-shifting.