

INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Mayor and Members Board of Health
COMMITTEE DATE:	November 13, 2017
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Active & Sustainable School Transportation Charter BOH15006(a) (City Wide) (Outstanding Business List Item)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Kelly Scott (905) 546-2424, Ext. 1309
SUBMITTED BY & SIGNATURE:	Kevin McDonald A/Director, Healthy Environments Public Health Services

Council Direction:

Board of Health, at its meeting of July 9 2015, approved a motion regarding the following:

- (a) That Appendices A and B attached to Report BOH15006 respecting the Active and Sustainable School Transportation Charter be endorsed;
- (b) That the Board of Health authorize and direct the Medical Officer of Health; and the General Managers of Public Works and Planning and Economic Development to assign staff to work with the Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District School Board to develop an action plan for Active and Sustainable School Transportation, to develop an implementation strategy for Active and Sustainable School Transportation and to prioritize schools/school neighbourhoods for school travel planning implementation; and
- (c) That upon the endorsement of the Active and Sustainable School Transportation Charter by the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board, the Board of Health authorize and direct the Medical Officer of Health and the General Managers of Public Works and Planning and Economic Development to assign staff to work with the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board to develop an action plan for Active and Sustainable School Transportation, to develop an implementation strategy for Active and Sustainable School Transportation and to prioritize schools/school neighbourhoods for school travel planning implementation.

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

Information:

This update fulfils BOH15006 Report recommendations (b) and (c); therefore, these items can now be removed from the Board of Health Outstanding Business List.

In October 2015, City of Hamilton (COH), Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board (HWCDSB), and Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) signed the Active and Sustainable School Transportation (ASST) Charter [BOH15006 Report recommendation (a)]. ASST emphasizes the importance of walking, wheeling, and public transit. More students, parents, and workers using ASST means fewer cars on the road, less pollution, improved safety, and increased physical activity. The ASST Charter goal is to increase community impact and accelerate current initiatives by promising commitment, accountability, and resources towards ASST.

BOH15066 Report recommendations (b) and (c) directed COH to work with HWCDSB and HWDSB to develop an action plan and implementation strategy for ASST, and to prioritize schools/school neighbourhoods for school travel planning implementation. The following outlines these recommendations, summarizes accomplishments, and highlights a key pending initiative.

ASST Action Plan & Implementation Strategy

The Hamilton ASST Hub's action plan and implementation strategy has had several iterations since its inception in 2000. In June 2016, the Hub hosted an ASST Sustainability Workshop to help guide ASST work. Listed below are priority activities identified to further the ASST agenda:

- Resourcing a position to coordinate School Travel Planning in Hamilton;
- Carrying out feasible ideas that were developed in the March 2016 School and Municipal Design Workshop;
- Enhancing ASST measurement and monitoring tools;
- Improving ASST brand recognition in Hamilton; and
- Developing and implementing an ASST parent engagement strategy.

Prioritizing Schools/School Neighbourhoods for School Travel Planning (STP)

School travel planning started in 2009 and it remains a priority for Hamilton. The following criteria help prioritize schools for STP and help achieve greater population impact:

- New schools or schools scheduled for consolidation.
- Schools that have received or are scheduled for a school zone review through the Strategic Road Safety Committee.
- Schools that have reported transportation concerns.
- Schools with at least 50% of the student population living within 1.6km of the school.

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- Schools in urban and suburban settings followed by rural schools and schools in other boards.
- Schools with grades junior kindergarten to grade 8.
- Schools with a champion such as the principal or school council.

ASST Accomplishments

Since the ASST Charter signing, ASST stakeholders have continued to make strides towards achieving their vision, goals, and objectives (see **Appendix A**). Top highlights over the past two years are outlined below:

From January to July 2016, the ASST Hub received approximately \$100,000 from the Healthy Kids Community Challenge through the Ministry of Health & Long Term Care. Funding supported six ASST projects within Wards 6, 7, & 8:

1. Provided an STP Facilitator Training Workshop;
2. Hosted the School & Municipal Design Workshop;
3. Implemented STP at 12 schools;
4. Facilitated cycling training at 12 STP schools;
5. Distributed 180 helmets to 12 STP schools; and
6. Purchased and installed 15 bike racks at STP schools.

City of Hamilton staff from Public Health Services, Public Works, and Planning and Economic Development contributed in two ways to new school development that supports ASST:

1. Reviewed nine school development applications that provided comments about how to better support ASST through school design. Changes to the applications included (i) improvements to walkway and inclusion of bike racks, and (ii) reduction in paved footprint by minimizing/eliminating kiss-and-ride areas and by moving the bus loading area to an on-street layby or curb-side; and,
2. Commented on School Board's Secondary School Design Guidelines to better ensure designs support ASST before development applications are submitted to the City of Hamilton. The School Board integrated these comments into both the Secondary and the Elementary School Design Guidelines.

ASST Future Plans

In order to sustain and grow the momentum of Hamilton STP efforts, PW-TDM continues to contract an STP Coordinator which is funded for 2017/2018 by COH and HWDSB. HWDSB is investigating funding the STP position starting in 2019.

Appendices/Schedules Attached

Appendix A to Report BOH15006(a) - Active & Sustainable School Transportation Charter