*The following three newsletter articles are examples that can be used as is or with some adaptation in school newsletters to keep school communities informed about School Travel Planning progress.*

## STP Introduction Article

# Walking is good for everyone!

We are excited to announce that we have begun an exciting process called School Travel Planning (STP) that will help us get more students walking or cycling to/from school. The STP approach has had much success at other schools across the country—helping to improve children’s physical and mental health, and reduce traffic congestion and emissions.

The STP approach looks at what already works well to encourage our children to be active on their school journey, and asks about barriers that might be preventing them from walking and cycling to [school name]. Our concerns will then be shared with people like city planners, school planners and police so that we can benefit from their support and advice if we need big-picture changes to our streets or enforcement. We will also be working with Public Health on education and encouragement activities.

Anyone who is interested in joining a committee to help make it easy for kids to get [link to On the Move webpage] to and from school is encouraged to attend an introductory meeting on [date] at [time] in the [location/virtual meeting details]. If you cannot make this meeting but you are interested in helping with this program, please leave your name with [secretary name] in the office or contact our STP Facilitator ([name, phone number, email]).

Please watch for a Family Survey that will be sent home with students on [date] that will ask you to share your concerns about your child’s school journey. Your thorough and honest responses will make our program more successful. Thanks for your help!

## Baseline Findings Article

# School Travel Planning data collection results

Thank you to those who returned our School Travel Planning Family Survey on time. The results from that survey are being used along with other data we’ve collected to assess the current travel conditions at our school. We’ve collected a lot of helpful information that will guide our committee as they develop a plan to get more children walking and cycling to/from school. We really want more children to benefit from this regular physical activity and some unstructured outdoor time. You may want to benefit, too! Many parents who join their children on the walk to school find it an invigorating start to their own day.

Our surveys showed that [%] of our students who live in the ‘walk zone’ are already walking or wheeling, but that [%] students within walking distance are still being driven. We also learned that [%] of our students who live in the ‘bus zone’ are not riding the bus but instead are being driven in a personal vehicle. (Part of School Travel Planning is encouraging those in the ‘bus zone’ to ride their bus so that we decrease traffic congestion at the school and improve safety for our walkers and cyclists.)

Our research showed that the biggest concerns about the school journey are [list top three].

As we meet over the next few months, the School Travel Planning committee will determine effective actions to take to address these issues so that more of our students walk and cycle. Our goals for this work include: [list key goals from School Travel Plan].

If you are interested in joining this committee, please contact the STP Facilitator with any questions you have ([name, phone number, email]) or come to our next meeting on [date] at [time] at [location].

We would love to see everyone within walking distance leave their cars at home and enjoy the fresh air on the way to school. Don’t forget to dress for the weather—students will need their proper outdoor gear to enjoy recess time, anyway!

## Action Plan Highlights Article

# Walking to school is about to get easier

Our School Travel Planning committee has been working hard and finalized our Action Plan to address barriers and encourage walking and wheeling to/from school. I want to thank all the parents involved for their dedication to our students’ school journey.

We have decided that our first course of action will include [describe].

With these steps, we anticipate the number of students walking and wheeling for the school journey will grow significantly. We are looking forward to the resulting improvement in traffic safety and air quality near the school, and the many physical and mental benefits our active students will enjoy.

There are many ways you could get involved with implementing our plan. For example, we are looking for volunteers to [list some example tasks such as: assist with traffic observation]. Contact [insert name, phone number and email for best contact person] if you’d like more information about getting involved.