



## The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

Development Services

**To:** Mayor and Members of Council

**From:** Brian Hillman, Director Development Services

**Date to Council:** July 12, 2022

**Report Number:** DS-2022-25

**Subject:** Active School Travel Charter for Windsor-Essex County  
Windsor-Essex County Health Unit

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### Recommendations

It is recommended:

**That** report DS-2022-25, entitled “Active School Travel Charter for Windsor-Essex County: Windsor-Essex County Health Unit”, **be received**;

**And that** the “Active School Travel Charter for Windsor-Essex County”, as supported and promoted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit, **be endorsed**.

### Background

The Windsor-Essex County Active School Travel Regional Committee (“Committee”) was formed by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit (“WECHU”) and includes membership from a number of community partners, including the local school boards, Bike Windsor Essex and the County of Essex.

The Committee’s work was made possible with financial support provided by a Green Communities Canada: Ontario Active School Travel (“OAST”) grant. This grant program supports the development, promotion, and implementation of active school travel across communities in Ontario.

One of the outcomes of the Committee's work was the preparation of an Active School Travel Charter ("AST") (see Attachment 1). The AST advocates for a long-term commitment to providing support, resources, and education towards active school transportation and to encourage safe, healthy, and sustainable routes to school for students. In addition, it provides guidance on the importance of ensuring area school communities are accessible for active transportation and the promotion of such modes in order to achieve personal, environmental, and community-wide benefits.

WECHU received County Council's endorsement of the AST on May 4, 2022. After County Council's endorsement of the AST, WECHU is asking all County municipalities to also endorse the AST.

## Comments

An AST Charter will help to further strengthen regional coordination and collaboration between schools, school boards, municipalities, student transportation services, and other community partners, to allow for safer and more accessible active transportation in our local communities. The AST Charter also supports and emphasizes the key principles of the County Wide Active Transportation System (CWATS) such as equity, health and well-being, environmental sustainability and community safety.

An endorsement of the AST would be another essential step in recognizing the importance of coordinated programs and policies to support the active transportation infrastructure within Windsor-Essex County.

The AST notes that active transportation is any human-powered form of transportation such as walking, cycling, wheeling, rolling, and using mobility devices.

School community members who choose active transportation benefit from:

- Lifelong habits of physical activity;
- Improved mental well-being;
- Heightened independence; and
- Stronger community connections.

Reducing the reliance on and need for an automobile to bring children to school by prioritizing active transportation modes, school buses, or public transit, provides a multitude of benefits to both students and the environment. Additionally, the reduction of traffic in school zones creates a safer environment for all users (both vehicular and pedestrian). Normalizing and promoting active and sustainable travel as the preferred choice of transportation options for students to get to school reflects the principles of Ontario's Foundation for a Healthy School. Furthermore, it creates a culture where active transportation is the norm, rather than the alternative.

The AST's goal is to encourage safe, healthy, and sustainable routes to school through its commitment to its principles and the execution of the following actions:

- Develop and support the implementation of school policies that promote active transportation;
- Incorporate active transportation policies when making municipal and school facility planning decisions;
- Conduct multi-stakeholder active transportation audits and assessments of school travel plans and neighbouring communities for safety and accessibility;
- Advocate for safety enhancements and infrastructure to encourage all modes of active travel;
- Support, promote, and participate in regional and international active travel and road safety events to encourage active transportation;
- Educate school communities about the physical and mental well-being, learning, and environmental benefits of active transportation; and
- Complete annual scans of active transportation policies and resources to provide community partners with updated information and best practices.

Tecumseh Council support for the AST would be an appropriate progression towards promoting healthy lifestyles in the community and includes objectives that are consistent with the Town's Official Plan and the Town's Transportation Master Plan. Municipal endorsement of the program will assist the WECHU in the promotion of the AST to schools in the Town of Tecumseh, which are:

- A.V. Graham Elementary
- D.M. Eagle Elementary
- St. Andre Elementary
- St. Antoine Elementary
- St. Mary Elementary
- St. Marguerite D'Youville Elementary
- St. Peter Elementary
- St. Pius X Elementary
- L'Essor Secondary
- Tecumseh Vista Academy Elementary and Secondary
- North Shore Elementary (opening September 2023)
- Lakeview Montessori Elementary

- Al-Hijra Academy  
Elementary

Based on all of the foregoing, it recommended that Council endorse the “Active School Travel Charter for Windsor-Essex County”.

## Consultations

Public Works & Engineering Services  
Windsor Essex County Health Unit

## Financial Implications

## Link to Strategic Priorities

Applicable	2019-22 Strategic Priorities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Make the Town of Tecumseh an even better place to live, work and invest through a shared vision for our residents and newcomers.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ensure that Tecumseh’s current and future growth is built upon the principles of sustainability and strategic decision-making.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Integrate the principles of health and wellness into all of Tecumseh’s plans and priorities.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steward the Town’s “continuous improvement” approach to municipal service delivery to residents and businesses.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Demonstrate the Town’s leadership role in the community by promoting good governance and community engagement, by bringing together organizations serving the Town and the region to pursue common goals.

## Communications

Not applicable ☒

Website ☐

Social Media ☐

News Release ☐

Local Newspaper ☐

This report has been reviewed by Senior Administration as indicated below and recommended for submission by the Chief Administrative Officer.

Prepared by:

Enrico DeCecco, BA (Hons), MCIP, RPP  
Planner

Reviewed by:

Chad Jeffery, MA, MCIP, RPP  
Manager Planning Services & Local Economic Development

Reviewed by:

Phil Bartnik, P.Eng.  
Director Public Works & Engineering Services

Reviewed by:

Brian Hillman, MA, MCIP, RPP  
Director Development Services

Recommended by:

Margaret Misek-Evans, MCIP, RPP  
Chief Administrative Officer

<b>Attachment Number</b>	<b>Attachment Name</b>
1.	Active School Travel Charter