



Ontario Active School Travel Grant

Endorsement of the AST Charter for Windsor-Essex County

Active School Travel (AST)

What is AST?

Human powered modes of transportation to travel to and from school

What are the benefits?

Increases children's physical activity levels, enhances academic performance, and reduces air pollution and traffic in school zones



Ontario Active School Travel (OAST) Grant



OAST Grant

- Overseen by Green Communities Canada (GCC)
- Increases resources available to support AST related initiatives
- WECHU received \$60,000 in OAST funding in December 2020
- Funding allocated to AST initiatives with 6 pilot schools until June 2022



Community Partners

An AST regional committee was formed with vested community partners including:

- **GECD**SB
- **WECD**SB
- Csc Providence
- Windsor-Essex Transportation Services
- The City of Windsor
- Windsor Police Services
- Bike Windsor Essex
- County of Essex (CWATS)

What Has Been Done?

Progress to Date:

Hired an AST planner

Created a Terms of Reference and AST Charter

Selected 6 pilot schools and on-boarded a working group lead at each school

Conducted AST baseline surveys with pilot schools

Conducted walkability and bikeability checks of common school routes

Active and Safe Routes to School Toolkits have been updated and shared with all schools

What's Next?

Future project initiatives and activities will involve:



Installing equipment storage (e.g., bike racks)



Delivering bike safety seminars



Implementing AST activities (e.g., crosswalk painting)



Promoting universal AST initiatives (e.g., walking school bus programs)

Importance of an AST Charter



Strengthens regional coordination and collaboration

Leverages our collective resources and capacity to support program sustainability

Serves as a set of principles to encourage more active transportation in our local communities

How Can Municipalities Support the AST?

Collective endorsement of the AST Charter from local municipalities will **highlight the importance of active transportation**-enabling policies and programs in Windsor-Essex County



Benefits of Endorsing the AST Charter

- Further demonstrates a commitment to active transportation in alignment with other municipal mandates (e.g., CWATS)
- An avenue for municipalities, community organizations, and local school boards to collectively pursue opportunities to ensure long-term program sustainability

