

Toronto Coalition for Active Transportation (TCAT)
Election 2006 Survey – School Trustee Candidate

Walking and cycling (Active Transportation) are the most affordable, healthy and sustainable forms of transportation. Toronto’s school boards can play a vital role in encouraging active transportation by enabling students to walk or cycle to school.

When students walk or cycle to school, they benefit both themselves and the city:

- They improve their physical fitness.
 - The fitness of youth in Toronto is a growing concern, and childhood obesity rates are increasing rapidly.
- They benefit the environment, by reducing the number of car trips in the city.
 - It is estimated that a quarter of car trips during Toronto’s morning rush hour are parents driving kids to school.
- They learn to feel safe and comfortable in the city’s public spaces, becoming full participants in city life.
- They develop the habit of walking and cycling, which means they will recreate these benefits throughout their life.

1. Walking and Cycling to School

Despite the benefits described above, the percentage of children who walk or cycle to school has dropped significantly in recent decades. This decline has contributed to problems of student ill health and obesity, traffic congestion, and environmental pollution.

Can you describe what proportion of students walk or cycle to school in your ward?

Do you support taking measures to increase this number?

Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose
Comments:			

2. Walking Safety Education

Walking safety programs taught in elementary school play an important role in teaching young children how to walk safely in the city, which reduces accidents and gives children the confidence to begin to walk regularly.

Can you describe the extent to which walking safety is taught in elementary schools in your ward?

Do you support increasing the extent of this teaching?

Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose
Comments:			

3. Cycling Courses

Various levels of cycling courses can be made available at public schools. These courses give students confidence to ride their bikes in the city, and the skills to make sure they can do so safely.

Can you describe the extent to which cycling courses are provided at schools in your ward?

Do you support increasing their availability?

Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose
Comments:			

4. Bicycle Locking Facilities

In order for students to ride their bikes to school, they must be confident that there are sufficient and secure facilities for them to lock their bikes on school property. However, the provision of such facilities varies widely from school to school.

Can you describe how much provision there is for locking bikes securely on school property in your ward?

Do you support improving these facilities?

Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose
Comments:			

5. The School Vicinity

Issues with the area around schools can make it dangerous or uncomfortable for students to walk or cycle to school. For example, there may be a dangerous street crossing, traffic may move too quickly, there may be excessive car traffic from parents driving kids to school, sidewalks may be inadequate for the volume of walking student, or there may be a lack of bike lanes leading to the school.

Can you describe any issues with the safety and comfort of students walking or cycling in the vicinity of schools in your ward?

Do you support working with the City of Toronto to address these issues?

Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose
Comments:			

6. Reducing Car Use

The use of cars to get to and from schools by parents, students, and teachers increases congestion and pollution, and causes danger and discomfort to students and teachers who walk or cycle to school. As well, excessively large school parking lots reduce green space for students and have negative environmental impacts.

Do you support taking measures to reduce the use of cars for transportation to and from school by parents, students, and teachers? If the answer is yes, please describe what measures you would support.

Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose
Comments:			