



TO: Chair and Members of the Finance and Facilities Committee

FROM: Christopher Mackie, Medical Officer of Health and CEO

DATE: 2015 May 7

EVALUATION OF THE SCHOOL TRAVEL PLANNING PROGRAM - SINGLE SOURCE VENDOR

Recommendation

It is recommended that Report No.010-15FFC re Evaluation of the School Travel Planning Program - Single Source Vendor be received for information.

Key Points

- School Travel Planning (STP) is a program designed to bring together community stakeholders to identify barriers to active transportation to and from school.
- Our regional Active and Safe Routes to School Committee is implementing an STP program locally.
- The contract to evaluate the School Travel Planning program has been awarded to the Human Environments Analysis Laboratory, Department of Geography, Western University.

Background

Physical activity plays an important role in the health and wellbeing of the children in our community. One easy, inexpensive way for children to get their required 60 minutes per day of physical activity is to use active modes of transportation when traveling to and from school, or active school travel (AST). School Travel Planning is a major component of AST.

School Travel Planning is a comprehensive process designed to increase local ownership of Active & Safe Routes to School by engaging stakeholders including school boards, municipal transportation planners and engineers, public health, police, parents, students and school staff. STP programs utilize research to assess the barriers to active school travel and use this knowledge to develop and implement action plans. The involvement of local stakeholders is an important step to ensuring the sustainability of active school travel activities. Benefits include increased physical activity, reduced traffic congestion, improved air quality, enhanced neighbourhood safety and a greater sense of community.

Active & Safe Routes to School (ASRTS) partners from several organizations throughout the Counties of Elgin, Middlesex, Oxford, and the cities of London and St. Thomas are working together to promote and sustain ASRTS programs that encourage children and families to choose active transportation. They have been implementing a School Travel Planning program and developing action plans to build upon strengths and remove barriers to active school transportation at local schools. A key component of this STP program is its evaluation. A thorough evaluation of the program will provide valuable information to help ensure sustainability into the future.

Vendor Procurement for STP Program Evaluation

The Human Environments Analysis Laboratory (HEAL), Department of Geography, Western University has been an in-kind supporter of Active and Safe Routes to School for many years. Part of their in-kind support included assistance in the development and implementation of the School Travel Planning programs being run in LDCSB and TVDSB schools. As a result, HEAL has unique technical knowledge and expertise not held by any other firm or organization.

In accordance with MLHU Procurement Guidelines 3.2(2)(iii) & (iv), HEAL was hired as a single source vendor to assist with the evaluation of the School Travel Planning program. This decision was considered and approved by the Director and Medical Officer of Health and the Board of Health is receiving this report as per the Procurement Guideline.

The Evaluation Proposal received from HEAL is attached as [Appendix A](#).

This report was prepared by Ms. Mary Lou Albanese, Manager, Healthy Communities and Injury Prevention.



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Medical Officer of Health

<p>This report addresses the following requirement(s) of the Ontario Public Health Organizational Standards: Management Operations 6.7 & 6.8</p>
