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## **Active School Travel Program Update Information Report to Council**

Report Number: INFO-2021-27

Department(s): Engineering Services

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In accordance with the Procedure By-law, any member of Council may make a request to the Town Clerk that this Report be placed on an upcoming Committee of the Whole agenda for discussion.

### **Purpose**

This report is to outline the Active School Travel (AST) pilot program, and the elements of the program. The AST pilot program was highlighted during the Smart Commute presentation to the Committee of the Whole at the regular meeting on April 12, 2021

### **Background**

York Region, Smart Commute Central York, and both School Boards (York Region District School Board (YRDSB) and York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB)) are working with Town staff to promote active transportation to a few school sites as part of their AST pilot program. York Region is funding the program, and the School Boards are promoting the AST program internally to the schools selected for the pilot. The Town's involvement is to install some signs and pavement markings, as noted further below. The City of Markham showcased the AST pilot at nine of their schools. Lessons learned from the Markham pilot resulted in improvements that will be applied to the Newmarket pilot. The two School Boards looked at all elementary schools in Newmarket and selected six schools: Stonehaven Public School, Prince Charles Public School, Alexander Muir Public School, Maple Leaf Public School, Notre Dame Catholic Elementary School, and St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Elementary School.

The AST program will be evaluated over time and additional schools may be brought into the program in the future.

## **Discussion**

The largest part of the AST program occurs at the school sites with education and promotion, along with some additional infrastructure like bicycle/scooter racks, line painting and signage.

The AST program requires some infrastructure components on Town roads, which will be visible to the school children and the community. These would include:

1. **Marker Signs.** At the 5, 10 and 15 minute walking distances to the school, specialized marker signs will be installed. An example of the marker signs can be found in Appendix A.
2. **Stylized Stencils.** Near the school site, a stylized stencil will be impressed into the sidewalk. These have not been determined yet, but an example of a popular stencil includes a 'hop-scotch' game board.
3. **Curb markings.** The Markham pilot used red paint on the curbs to denote 'No Stopping' areas to draw visual attention to these areas.
4. **School Zone.** School Zone pavement markings will be implemented on the roads at the approaches to each school to provide motorists more visual cues that a school site is up ahead.

Due to the availability and timing of pavement paint and sign material, these infrastructure components will be installed over the next 1 to 3 months.

## **Conclusion**

The AST pilot program is to promote active transportation to school sites. Aside from the health benefits of the program, improvements are expected to traffic and parking operations at the school sites.

## **Business Plan and Strategic Plan Linkages**

Well-planned and connected...strategically planning for the future to improve information access and enhance travel to, from, and within Newmarket.

## **Consultation**

The consultation for the AST pilot program has been primarily undertaken by the School Boards and Smart Commute staff with the individual school administration and some school councils.

## **Human Resource Considerations**

None.

## **Budget Impact**

York Region is funding the cost of the program and therefore, there would be no impact on the Capital budget.

Over time, there may be some Operating Costs to maintain the pavement markings and signage, but these would be worked into the annual pavement markings maintenance programs.

## **Attachments**

Appendix A – Example of Marker Sign

## **Contact**

For more information or questions regarding this report, please contact Mark Kryzanowski, Manager, Transportation Services, at 905-895-5193 extension 2508 or [MKryzanowski@newmarket.ca](mailto:MKryzanowski@newmarket.ca).

## **Approval**

Rachel Prudhomme, Director, Engineering Services

Peter Noehammer, Commissioner, Development & Infrastructure Services

Appendix A: Example of Marker Sign

