

Smart Commute Hamilton

Transportation 101 – Sustainable Transportation and Education

Transportation 101 is an educational outreach program organized by Smart Commute Hamilton that focuses on promoting active and sustainable modes of transportation in elementary and secondary schools. Smart Commute Hamilton works in partnership with Hamilton Public Health on the Active and Safe Routes to School program. This program emphasizes the importance of active transportation in relation to healthy living and sustainable communities. To complement the existing program, Smart Commute Hamilton is also involved with developing school travel plans in partnership with Public Health and Metrolinx. The program will focus on school travel route analysis and further educational materials distribution.

Cycling Infrastructure is a fundamental component of active and sustainable transportation. Smart Commute Hamilton is currently developing a funding program to encourage cycling as a viable form of school transportation. A one-time contribution of up to \$600 will be provided for each school that applies for school bicycle racks. This program will allow schools to provide a safe location to store the bicycles of staff and students. To apply for the bicycle rack funding, the school needs to prepare a written request to the City identifying the proposed design, location and estimated overall cost. As well, schools will need to demonstrate a commitment to alternative transportation and other environmental programs through the formation of a “green committee”. More details on this initiative can be found on the next page.

Green Committee Toolkit - A green committee is a group composed of staff, students and parents which engages the school community through events, initiatives and projects. A committee to promote awareness of environmental issues in transportation, air quality, energy conservation and waste management may already exist in your school. For those schools which do not have a green committee, Smart Commute Hamilton can provide assistance in creating one. A green committee does not have to be very formal or time consuming. It can involve only a few members of the school community who help to ensure that the school is aware of environmental initiatives, including cycling, as a part of sustainable transportation. The committee could also encourage recycling initiatives, energy conservation, walking and healthy lifestyles. Our Green Committee Toolkit can be made available for your school to help you get started.

Promotion of Active Transportation - The promotion of cycling and transit, also promotes walking, as most forms of transportation, other than the automobile, require walking as a part of traveling to one’s destination. Active transportation is a vital part of sustainable communities. Smart Commute Hamilton collaborates with School Boards, Public Health and other City departments to promote healthy and active lifestyles in schools in the following ways:

- Information Sessions
- City Wide Event Planning and Contests
- Information Booths at Fairs
- Education Seminars

We are available, on request, to come to your school or workplace and provide resources on sustainable transportation.



Bike Rack Funding Opportunity for Schools

To encourage schools to increase their supply of bike racks for students and staff

Cycling is a very viable mode of transport for many students and some staff at Hamilton schools. Providing bike racks at schools so cyclists can securely lock their bicycle is a key factor in the promotion of cycling. A one-time contribution of up to \$300.00 for high socioeconomic status, and up to \$600 for low socioeconomic status schools, has been made available to each school, toward the capital cost of bike racks, contingent on the following criteria:

1. That the City receives a completed application form from the school. This form is available on the Transportation 101 Website – <http://www.smartcommute.ca/hamilton/101>
2. That the school meet with Smart Commute Hamilton staff to complete a site analysis to determine the appropriate location and number of bike racks to be installed.
3. That any future maintenance costs will be the full responsibility of the school/school board.
4. That the school acknowledges Smart Commute Hamilton and Metrolinx as financial contributors in any printed notification, including small decals (provided by the city) to be placed on the racks.
5. That the funds will be made available to the school once the bike racks have been purchased and placed on the school's property.
6. That the City of Hamilton accepts no liability for the construction, installation, operation, destruction or theft of the bike rack.
7. That the school be required to demonstrate a commitment to cycling, sustainable transportation (transit, walking, cycling, etc.) and other environmental programs through a "Green Committee" comprised of students, teachers and/or parents.
8. That the amount of funding may be limited depending on the number of applicants and amount of bike parking spaces being constructed.

This program expires on December 1, 2010.

This program is an initiative of the City of Hamilton Public Works Department, Metrolinx and the Smart Commute Hamilton Transportation 101 Initiative, which aims to educate students and staff about sustainable and active transportation options. Smart Commute works in partnership with Hamilton school boards and Public Health Services to pursue strategies which encourage safe and active routes to school, active and healthy children and reduced air emissions.