

# TravelSmart4Kids:

## A Regional Travel Strategy for Kids 12 & Under

**A holistic Strategy that aims to enable and encourage children to travel by active and sustainable modes of transportation in Metro Vancouver.**

We know that active and sustainable transportation creates many immediate and long-term benefits for our region, including more physical activity, a stronger sense of independence, better mental health, cleaner air quality, safer roads, and more. **TravelSmart4Kids** is a first of its kind Strategy that seeks to create a region that is safe, healthy, sustainable, and ensures future generations know how to navigate a multi-modal transportation network.

The creation of **TravelSmart4Kids** was a team effort led by TransLink, along with school districts, municipalities, health authorities, regional and provincial governments, and many others.

Active and sustainable transportation is any form of human-powered transportation, such as walking, cycling, rolling, and taking transit.

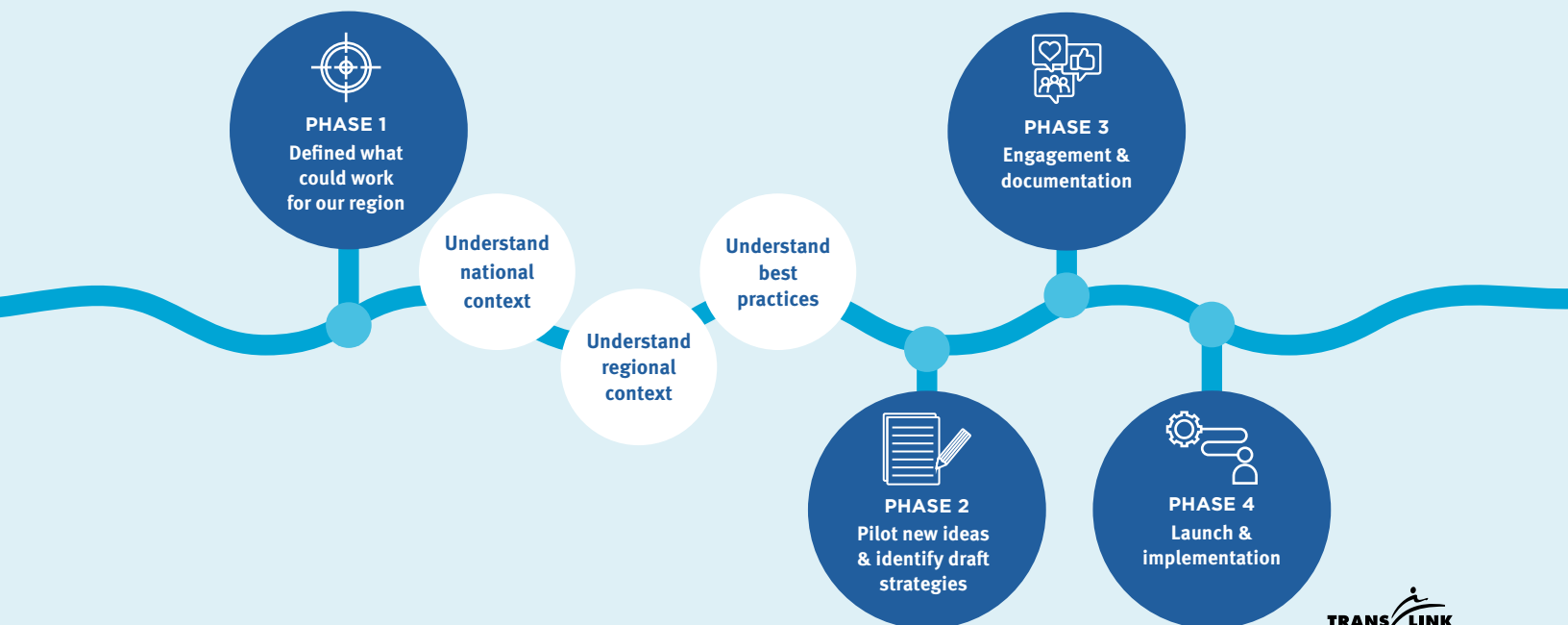
This can include scooters, e-scooters, bicycles, e-bicycles, skateboards, and in-line skates.



### Where We Are Starting From

Recent data from the Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI) found that over 50% of students travel to and from school by car, but over 60% wish they could walk, roll, bike, or take transit.

## HOW WE GOT HERE



## Breaking down the Strategy



### VISION

Children and families are healthy and safe on Metro Vancouver's transportation system and streets. They are encouraged to travel by walking, biking, rolling, and transit with skills, confidence, and infrastructure that is accessible, and equitable for all, growing into confident and healthy adolescents.



### GOALS

**Goal 1:** Improve transportation safety and equity for children.

**Goal 2:** Increase trips made by walking, cycling, rolling, and transit for children.

### THEMES + STRATEGIES



#### Theme 1: Culture & Behaviour

**Strategy 1.1:** Understand How Children and Youth are Travelling.

**Strategy 1.2:** Support Children and Youth Travel Through Policy, Planning, and Design.



#### Theme 2: Sustainability & Legacy

**Strategy 2.1:** Ensure Programs and Initiatives Have a Lasting Impact.

**Strategy 2.2:** Develop, Monitor, and Enhance Programs Focused on Encouraging Active Youth Travel.



#### Theme 3: Resources & Funding

**Strategy 3.1:** Fund Sustainable Travel and Resources.

**Strategy 3.2:** Develop and Share Resources that Encourage Sustainable Travel.

## We couldn't wait to get started!

A handful of immediate actions were implemented in close collaboration with stakeholders across the region, including:

- Kid Commute: A Walking School Bus Program.
- Get on Board: Kids 12 & Under Ride Free.
- Tactical Urbanism Toolkit.

### TRAVELSMART4KIDS TESTIMONIALS

*Dr. Emily Newhouse, Medical Health Officer, Fraser Health*

*"Fraser Health acknowledges the need for inclusive and equitable programming and infrastructure investment that encourages active transportation, as active transportation improves health among our children of all abilities and backgrounds. We endorse this strategy that promotes social connections, physical activity, safe and climate friendly travel for children in our communities."*

*Dr. Michel Schwandt, Medical Health Officer, Vancouver Coastal Health*

*"Children benefit from safe, active and sustainable transportation. Research and experience show us physical and mental health benefits when children travel by walking, biking, rolling or using public transportation. A strategic approach can deliver the plans, infrastructure and healthy policies we need to support all children in moving through our communities."*

## Let's Make it Happen Together!

Our region is a leader in active and sustainable travel for children, meaning we have a solid foundation to build from.

**TravelSmart4Kids** is intended to be implemented collaboratively over the short- (0 to 1 years), medium- (1 to 5 years) and long-term (5+ years), and to align with TransLink's Regional Transportation Strategy Transport 2050.

### Action + Strategy Overview

Four priority actions were identified that would have the greatest impact in the short-term and lay the foundations for future years.

- \* A Regional Coordinator role created to lead this work.
- \* Establish a Regional Working Group.
- \* Consolidate resources.
- \* Establish a formal commitment for the implementation of the Strategy.

<b>Theme 1: Culture &amp; Behaviours</b>		Ongoing	0-1 years	1-5 years	5+ years
<b>Strategy 1.1: Understand How Children and Youth Are Travelling</b>					
<i>Action 1.1A Formalize a Regional Data Collection Process</i>					
1	Annual survey and tool to track results			•	
2	Partnerships with existing surveys			•	
3	Collect information from other levels of government		•	•	
4	Trip Diary and TravelSmart Employer Survey		•	•	
5	Work with school districts to understand where students live	•			
<b>Strategy 1.2: Support Children and Youth Travel Through Policy, Planning, and Design</b>					
<i>Action 1.2A Engage Children, Youth, Parents, and School Districts in the Planning and Design Process</i>					
6	Conduct engagement to understand child/youth issues	•			
7	Include children, youth, and parents as stakeholders	•			
8	Use schools as a hub for neighbourhood engagement	•			
9	Ensure school districts are stake-holders in land use planning process			•	
<i>Action 1.2B Establish Policies and Initiatives that Support Active and Sustainable Transportation</i>					
10	Establish support for children and youth policy, planning, and infrastructure prioritization for active and sustainable modes.			•	
11	Support flexible and sustainable travel for employers				•
12	Establish a Healthy Development Assessment				•
13	Establish and document policies and programs that support active and sustainable trips to school			•	
14	Establish criteria to prioritize infrastructure projects near schools			•	
<i>Action 1.2C Work to Ensure the Design of Infrastructure is Child, Youth, and Family Friendly</i>					
15	Implement tactical urbanism projects			•	
16	Plan and design AAA infrastructure			•	
17	Review the impact of new mobility technologies on school and youth travel				•
18	Implement 'child friendly streets'				•
19	Develop school siting guidance and best practice			•	
<i>Action 1.2D Support the Provincial Get On Board Program to Encourage Children to Travel on Transit</i>					
20	Develop transit training materials for schools and parents		•		
21	Information and support for field trips via transit		•		
22	Engage with school districts to support Get on Board			•	

## Let's Make it Happen Together!

<b>Theme 1: Culture &amp; Behaviours</b>		Ongoing	0 to 1 years	1 to 5 years	5+ years
<b>Strategy 1.2: Support Children and Youth Travel Through Policy, Planning, and Design</b>					
<i>Action 1.2E Ensure School Catchment Geographies and Policies Promote Active Travel</i>					
23	Review and update school catchments		•		
24	Work to ensure future school catchments promote active travel			•	
<i>Action 1.2F Build the Foundation for Active Travel / Children's Independent Mobility in the Early Years</i>					
25	Active travel in kindergarten orientations and activities			•	
26	Link messaging for children's independent mobility and active travel			•	
27	Raise awareness of the importance of building capacity in the early years			•	
28	Provide early childhood educators with resources			•	

<b>Theme 2: Sustainability &amp; Legacy</b>		Ongoing	0 to 1 years	1 to 5 years	5+ years
29	Provide parents and caregivers resources			•	
<b>Strategy 2.1: Ensure Programs and Initiatives Have a Lasting Impact</b>					
<i>Action 2.1A Establish a Formal Relationship and Commitment for Supporting the Implementation of the TravelSmart 4 Kids Strategy</i>					
	30	Establish commitment for the implementation of the Strategy		•	
<i>Action 2.1B Incorporate Active and Sustainable Travel into the Education Curriculum</i>					
31	Work with the Ministry of Education to incorporate active travel into the curriculum and professional development			•	
32	Support and promote programs in lesson plans			•	
<i>Action 2.1C Support and Encourage Children's Independent Mobility within Government</i>					
33	Provide guidance on benefits and techniques for independent travel			•	
34	Develop a formal program/checklist for parents		•		
35	Provide clarification on child supervision laws			•	
<b>Strategy 2.2: Develop, Monitor &amp; Enhance Programs Focused On Encouraging Children's Active Travel</b>					
<i>Action 2.2A Set Up and Evaluate Regional and Provincial Pilot Programs</i>					
36	Set up, deliver, and evaluate pilot programs		•		
37	Continue to identify, review, and evaluate pilot projects		•		
38	Expand existing pilots to include all school aged children			•	
<i>Action 2.2B Formalize and Evaluate Existing Children / Family Active Travel Initiatives and Programs</i>					
39	Develop a template for school infrastructure audits				•
40	Develop a school travel plan evaluation				•
41	Develop a post school travel plan process				•
42	Develop TDM initiatives				•
<i>Action 2.2C Monitor Overall Health, Environments and Safety in School Zones</i>					
43	Monitor air quality in school zones				•
44	Monitor collisions, injuries, and traffic safety concerns in school zones				•

Let's Make it Happen Together!

<b>Theme 3: Resources &amp; Funding</b>		Ongoing	0-1 years	1-5 years	5+ years
<b>Strategy 3.1: Fund Children's Active Travel Resources</b>					
<i>Action 3.1A Develop Dedicated Staff Position(s) with Funding that Encourage Active and Sustainable Children's Travel</i>					
* 45	Define funding for the Regional Coordinator role		•		
46	Establish a school board/district role			•	
47	Establish a municipal role			•	
<i>Action 3.1B Provide Dedicated Funding for Programs and Infrastructure that Support Active and Sustainable Travel</i>					
48	Ensure grant funding for infrastructure for children			•	
49	Ensure grant funding of projects for children			•	
<i>Action 3.1C Support Community Organizations with Delivery and Implementation of the TravelSmart 4 Kids Strategy</i>					
50	Work with community organizations to deliver the Strategy				•
51	Establish a formal funding program for community organizations				•
<b>Strategy 3.2: Develop And Share Resources That Encourage Children's Active Travel</b>					
<i>Action 3.2A Establish a Regional Working Group and Network</i>					
* 52	Establish a Regional Working Group	•			
53	Publish and provide quarterly updates	•			
<i>Action 3.2B Consolidate Existing and Create New Resource Materials</i>					
* 54	Consolidate existing resources		•		
55	Work with partners to develop new and update resources	•			
56	Launch a provincial website			•	

**PRIORITY ACTION**

You can read the complete **TravelSmart4Kids** Strategy by visiting [translink.ca/travelsmartforkids](https://translink.ca/travelsmartforkids)

