



Good day,

Congratulations on running as Mayor/Councillor/Trustee for Ward/Zone ___. Our organization, School Streets Ottawa, is approaching you with a short questionnaire to ask your thoughts on something important to many Ottawans: having safe and healthy ways for our kids to get to school. We are asking for your response by August 5th.

Who we are: School Streets Ottawa is a newly formed, grassroots organization, whose mission is to encourage students to use travel modes that are active, safe, and sustainable. Our organization consists of a coalition of local volunteers along with supporting organizations who support our mission. We have a broad audience of parents and community advocates across Ottawa.

Our ideas: A School Street is the closure of a street (or part of a street) to vehicular traffic during drop off and pick up times, turning it into an open and safe space for families to walk, bike, roll and scoot to and from school. School Streets provide many community benefits, including opening spaces for families to connect and experience a safe and vibrant school zone. There are also public health benefits, as School Streets encourage more families to use active transportation all or part of the way to school, leading to increased physical activity, cognitive and academic performance. The dependence of families on private vehicles for transportation is a major contributor to community GHG emissions, and School Streets have been proven to increase active transportation rates, improving air quality in school zones. Our organization supports programs and policy striving for similar outcomes such as increasing Automated Speed Enforcement in school zones, and a commitment to Vision Zero, which have made a demonstrable difference of healthier and safer communities in cities around the world.

Our request for your engagement: Your response will be shared on [School Streets Ottawa](#) and social media at Twitter handle @schoolstreetsYOW, we also encourage you to share your answers on your platforms. And yes, non-replies will be noted, so we are giving lots of notice. We are asking for your response by the 5th of August by direct reply to this email. We look forward to hearing your ideas for making healthy and safe communities for everyone in Ottawa.



Question 1: Automated Speed Enforcement in Ottawa has [proven effective](#) at protecting vulnerable road users – especially near daycares and schools. Will you support wider adoption of Automated Speed Enforcement in Ottawa school zones?

Question 2: Presently Ottawa has committed to reduce traffic injuries and deaths [20% by 2024](#), however to incentivize safe active transportation we think Ottawa must do better. Will you support the city of Ottawa making a commitment to a [Vision Zero](#), along with a clear path on how to achieve it?

Question 3: School Streets are stated as Action 11-2A in Ottawa’s draft [Transportation Management Plan](#) as an option to encourage healthy and active travel. Will you support a pilot of a city wide School Street program in Ottawa, along with any funding required for implementation?

Question 4: What message would you like to share on encouraging students and parents on using travel modes that are active, safe, and sustainable?

Ward XX Question: Specific questions or concerns for a Ward or Zone go here. For example:

“Parents of G.E. Gowling Public School have reached out to School Streets Ottawa about lack of safe options for kids to walk or ride to the school, particularly when crossing at Merivale Road where drivers often speed. What, if any, solutions would you propose to address this issue? Will you call for Automated Speed Enforcement at this location?”

Thank you for taking the time to share your ideas on creating active, safe and healthy communities.



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