

Case Study:

Consortia-Led Program Development

Description: In Ontario, School Transportation Consortia are responsible for administering transportation policies, planning transportation services, and contracting with school bus operators. The focus for many consortia to date has been almost exclusively on school bus transportation, which has left gaps related to walking and wheeling that individual schools, non-profits and parent groups have sought to fill with programs like Active and Safe Routes to School, and School Travel Planning. At some consortia this has begun to change, and they are taking an active role in promoting other modes of transportation.



Key Takeaway:

Some local school transportation consortia have begun to take the lead in developing traffic skills training programs, and they are an important partner for advancing this work due to their longevity and official role in school transportation in Ontario.

Example(s):

Niagara Student Transportation Services is one consortium that has developed in-house walking safety programs for schools within their jurisdiction. Working with the safety curriculum experts at Intertain, they developed a video-based training program that is highly transferable and delivered by crossing guards, public health officials and trained instructors. The video can also be streamed at home to reinforce safety messaging with parents.

The program has been based on their winning model with the *Buster the Bus* training program, which has been mandated in all Niagara schools and receives 50% of its funding through the Ministry of Education. Highly transferrable, the *Blue the Butterfly* program has now expanded as a pilot in partnership with Student Transportation Services – Brant, Haldimand, Norfolk.

Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region is another consortium that has developed a skills training program. Their *Sidewalk Smarts* program is focused on walking.

Learn More:

<https://www.nsts.ca/walk-zone/active-school-travel-program>