

ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT ...equity?

We need to stop thinking that roads are infrastructure for drivers and their vehicles when this infrastructure should be serving the whole population. These spaces should be designed for everyone's transportation, safety and recreational needs.

...my safety?

Higher-income neighbourhoods get a disproportionate amount of road safety interventions, such as more speed humps, exacerbating existing inequities between wealthy and lower-income neighbourhoods. Let data, not complaints, drive your intervention budget decisions.¹

...how we get to school?

Across Canada, our roads are designed for the safety and convenience of cars and their occupants. We need to consider other road users — school children, older adults, people with disabilities and everyone who walks, cycles or wheels to move around our communities.²



...how we can play safely in our community?

Often the voices of those disproportionately impacted aren't heard when making road safety decisions. By including the diverse voices of the community at the table, program planners, policy makers and community organizers may be able to create a more equitable distribution of infrastructure-based resources.

...how I get to work?

For some populations or communities, active or public transit may be the less safe or accessible option, based on structural inequities in the built environment, as well as gender-based, socio-economic, geographic or cultural barriers. Improving safety and access to active and public transit in these communities improve the health and safety of historically disenfranchised communities.

ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT ...health and wellbeing?

Road safety is a major public health concern in Canada. More than 1,700 people lose their lives to road crashes annually and more than 23,000 people require hospitalization for their injuries.³

Improving road safety improves our physical and mental health. Limited access to public transit, green spaces and geographic barriers to necessities such as food, housing and health care also have negative impacts on largely low-income or historically disenfranchised communities.



...the accessibility of public transit in my neighbourhood?

By ensuring that active transportation and public transportation are safer, faster and more convenient than driving, urban areas can improve the health and wellbeing of their cities.

...how I can play safely and breathe clean air in my neighbourhood?

In Canada, the transportation sector is a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions and 53 per cent of transport emissions come from cars and light trucks.⁴ Increases in active and multi-modal transportation reduces the risk of collisions and can reduce air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions and noise pollution, helping to create healthier, more vibrant communities.



...how we can walk safely to our pharmacy?

Changing our environments to encourage walking, biking or wheeling as transportation positively impacts physical activity levels and mental health as well as lowers risk for chronic disease and injury.



...how I can bike safely to work?

Our roads are safer for everyone when we reduce and slow down motor vehicle traffic by improving access to public transit, creating separated bike lanes and building walkable, more connected neighbourhoods. These changes will create an environment that makes it easier for people in Canada to safely get active.



ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT ...the environment?

Road safety should not be approached as a standalone issue but as an integrated component of many policy agendas. Enabling safe and sustainable mobility plays an important role in mitigating the impact of climate change.

Climate change, and activities causing increased greenhouse gas emissions, will continue to threaten the lives and livelihoods of Canadians at increasingly catastrophic and alarming rates. In 2020, the Canadian transportation sector accounted for one-quarter of national greenhouse gas emissions.⁵

...how can I reduce my vehicle's emissions?

Slow down! Speed reduction improves road safety *and* reduces vehicle emissions. Traffic calming measures that enforce these limits such as speed bumps, narrowing lanes, roundabouts and other features are key to prompt drivers to adjust their driving speeds.



...how I get to the gym safely?

Municipal transportation systems that prioritize active transportation (e.g., walking, cycling, scooting, skateboarding), public transit and auto sharing to reduce solo car rides are key to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increase road safety.

...how we can walk to get our groceries safely?

Access to equitable, safe and climate-friendly multi-modal transportation systems provide people with both the options and the encouragement to use active modes of travel such as walking and biking that do not emit greenhouse gas.

...my health and wellbeing?

Adoption of zero-emission vehicles is a key step to decarbonizing the transportation sector. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is necessary to slow the health impacts of climate change, such as greater risk of respiratory and cardiovascular problems, injuries and deaths from extreme weather events and effects on mental health.⁶

