



Waterloo Region School Travel Planning 2015

School Travel Planning



- Process that combines ASRTS programming with Transportation Demand Principles
- Encourages active and sustainable travel modes to and from school
- Designed to address barriers to active travel
- Recognized as a best-practice to:
 - Decrease vehicular traffic around schools
 - Increase physical activity of children
 - Improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists

Project History



- Funding from Waterloo Region Healthy Communities Partnership
- Sustainable Waterloo Region contracted to work with 4 schools during 2014/2015 school year
 - Millen Woods Public School (Waterloo)
 - St. John Paul II Catholic Elementary School (Kitchener)
 - Manchester Public School (Cambridge)
 - Silverheights Public School (Cambridge)
- Subgroup of Active & Safe Routes to School Committee provided input and guidance

School Travel Planning (STP) Process



- Initiate project
 - Choose schools
 - Establish school STP committees
- Collect data
 - School Profile
 - Classroom hands-up counts
 - Family surveys
 - Walkabout
 - Traffic counts/ observation
- Develop Action Plan
 - Education
 - Encouragement
 - Environmental changes
 - Enforcement
- Implement Action Plan
- Monitor and Evaluate

Data Collection 2015



- Classroom Hands-Up Surveys
 - 5 consecutive school days falling between January 27 – February 9, 2015
- Family Surveys
 - 410 surveys submitted
 - Average response rate – 28%
- Staff Surveys
 - 43 surveys submitted (3 schools)
- School Walkabouts
- Traffic Observations

Symbols



Walked



Drove



Cycled



Carpooled



Rode school bus

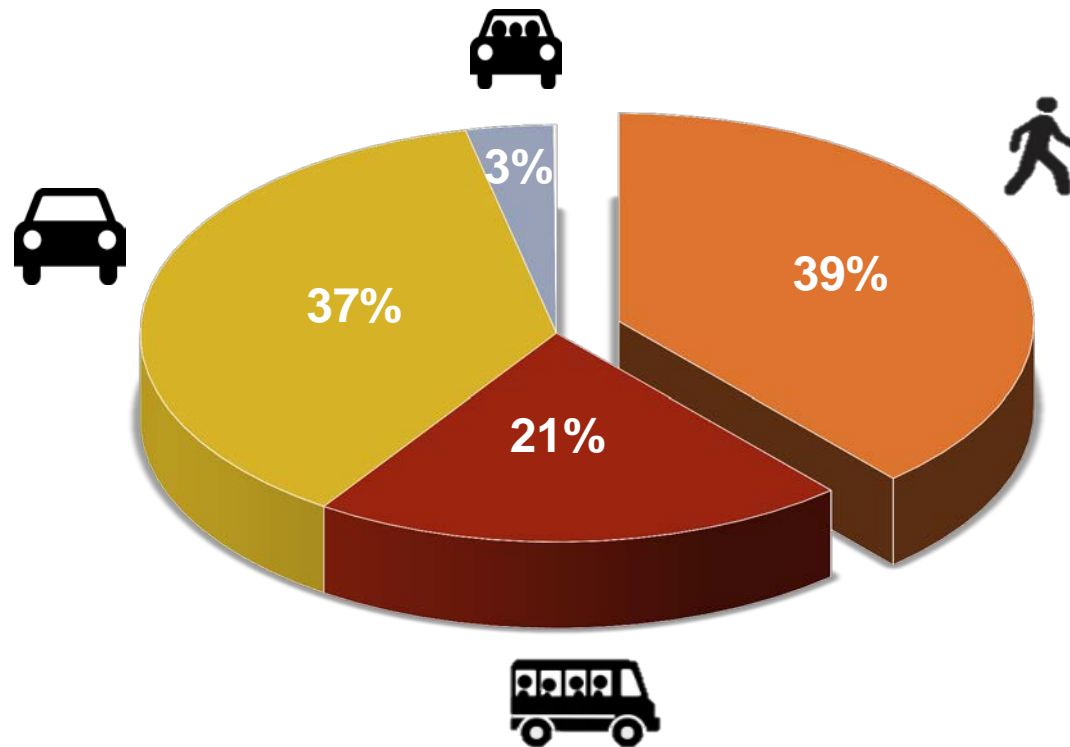


Other



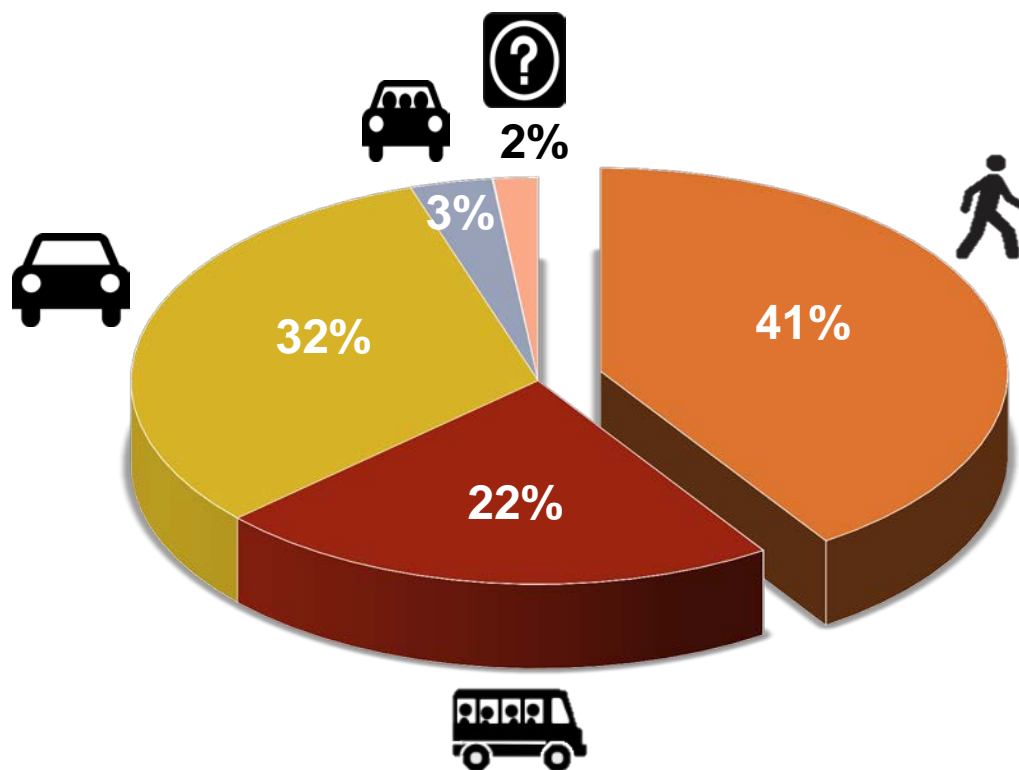
Did not know

Morning Travel Mode Split – All Schools



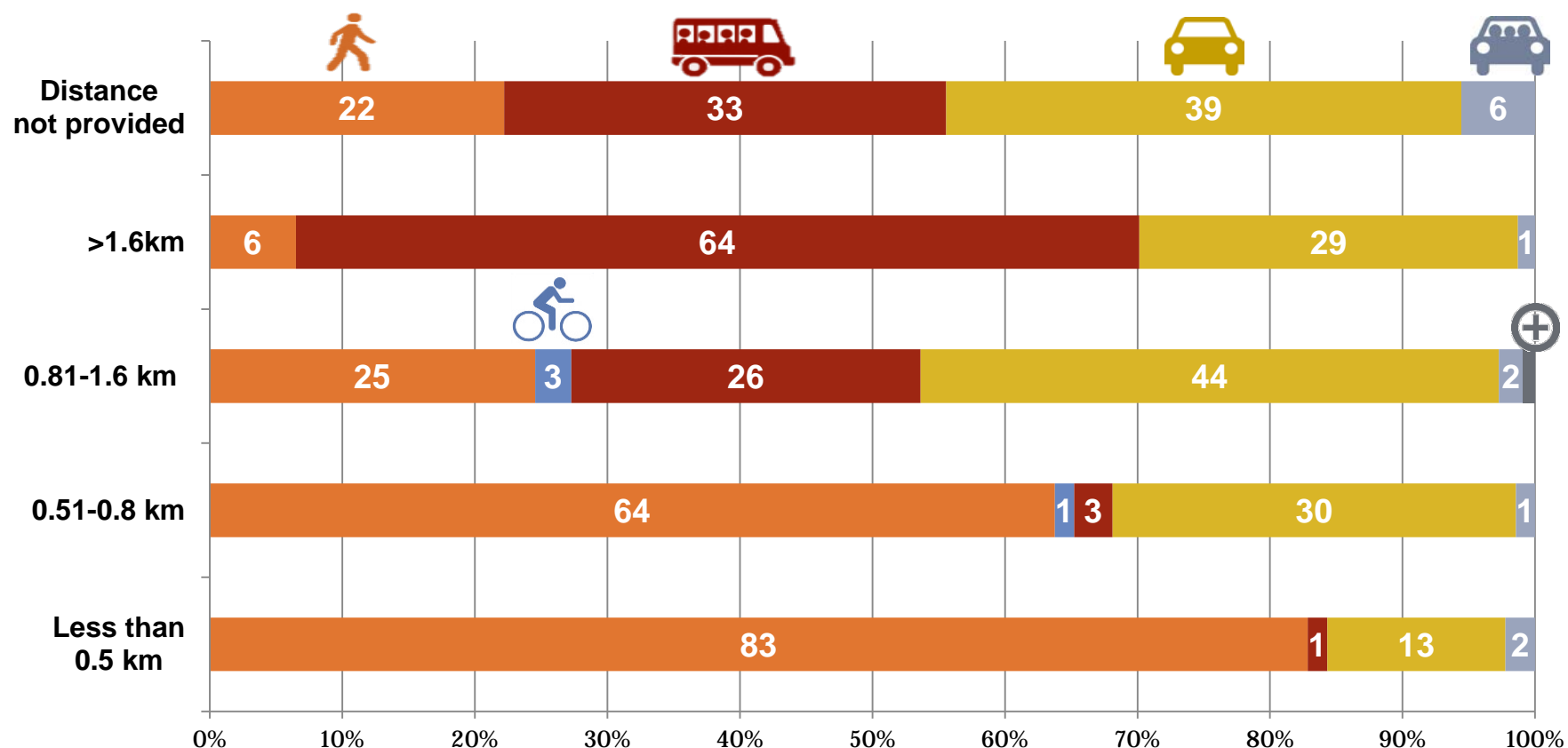
Based on 7798 student responses from four schools in Waterloo Region, over five consecutive school days between January 27 and February 9, 2015

Afternoon Travel Mode Split - All Schools



Based on 7408 student responses from four schools in Waterloo Region, over five consecutive school days between January 27 and February 9, 2015

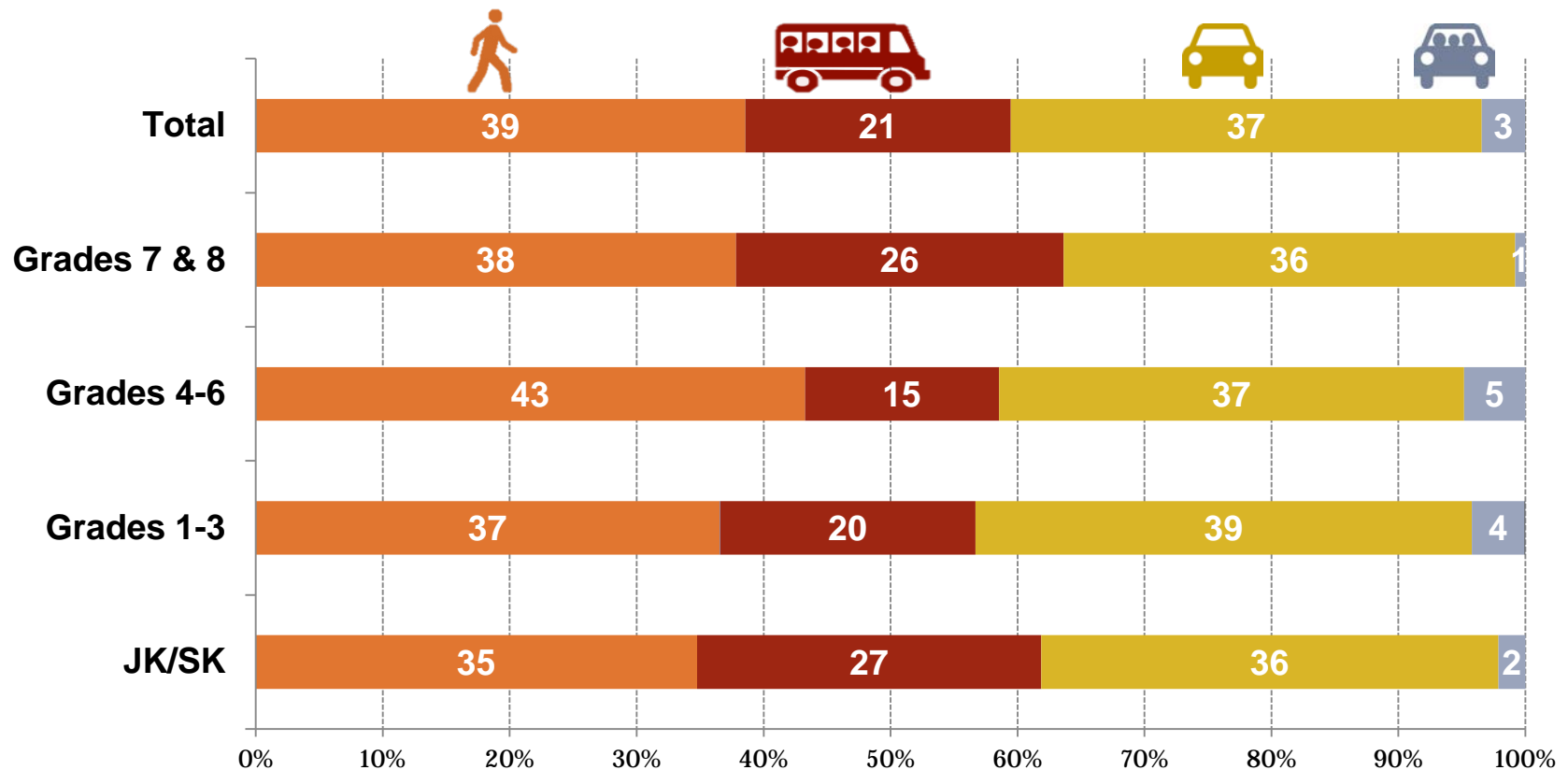
Travel Mode Split by Distance to School - All Schools



Based on 408 families who answered this question (out of 410 submitted surveys)
from four schools in Waterloo Region, February 2015

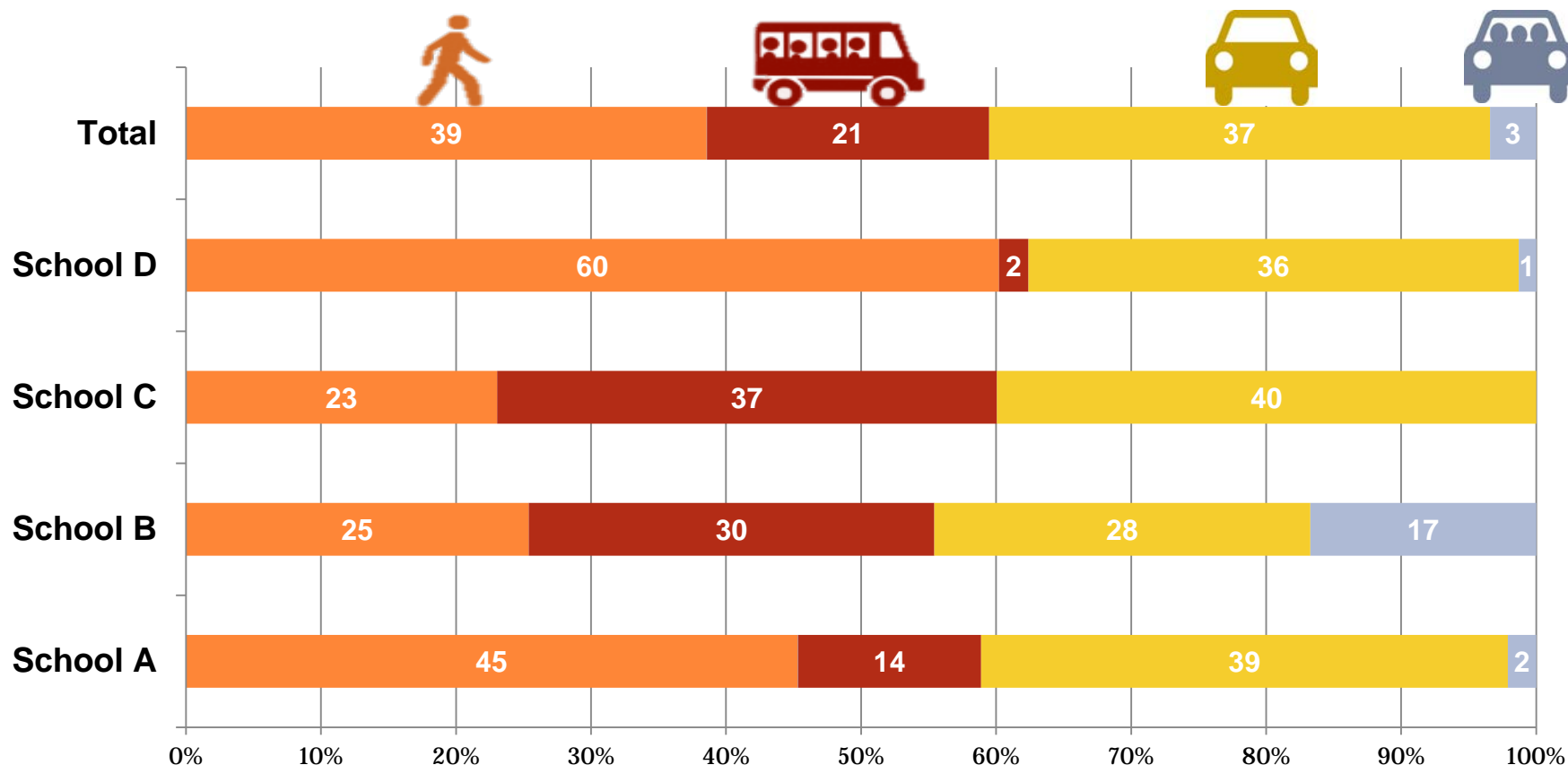
⊕ = Other (public transit, etc.)

Morning Travel Mode Split by Division - All Schools



Based on 7798 student responses from four schools in Waterloo Region, over five consecutive school days between January 27 and February 9, 2015

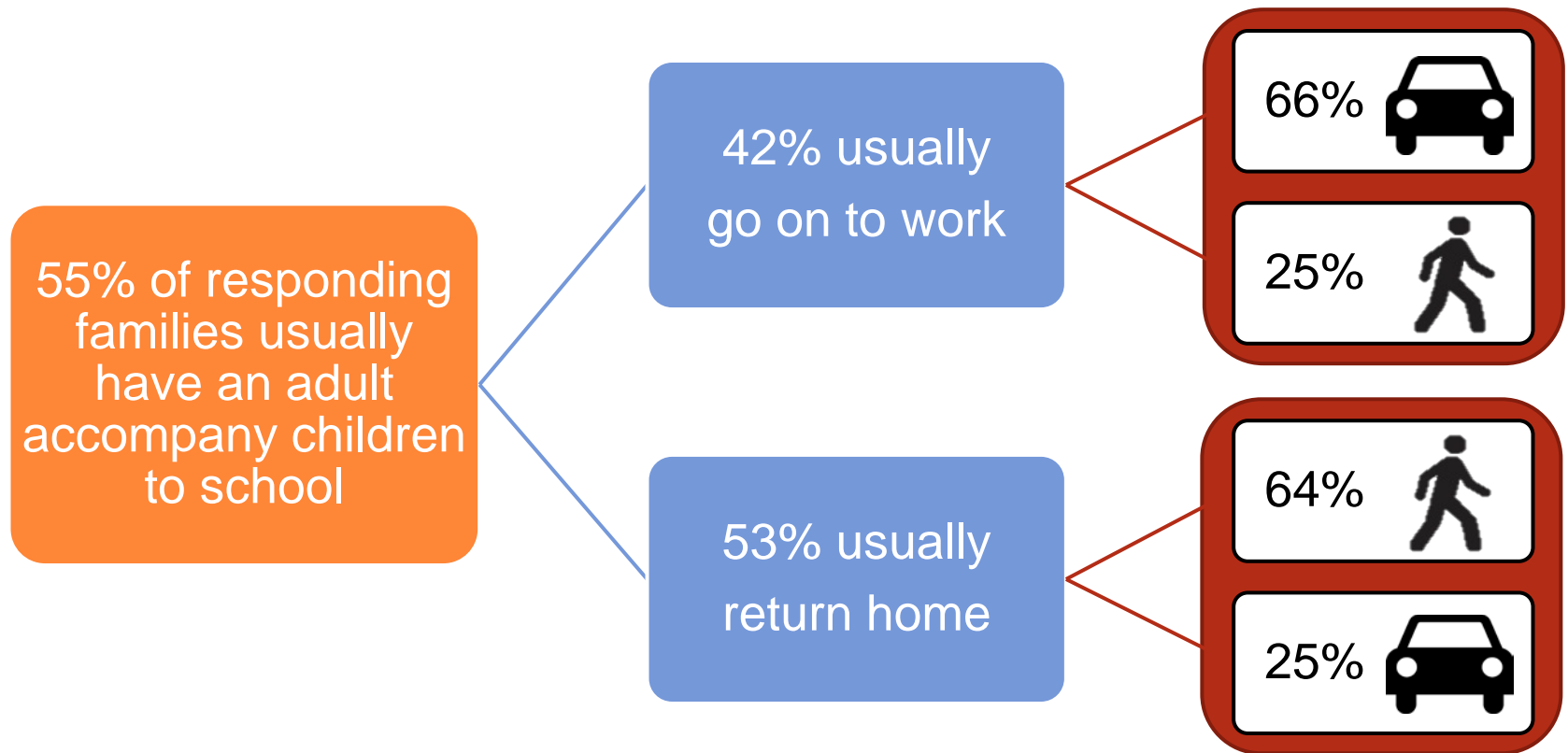
Morning Travel Mode Split by School



Based on 7798 student responses from four schools in Waterloo Region, over five consecutive school days between January 27 and February 9, 2015



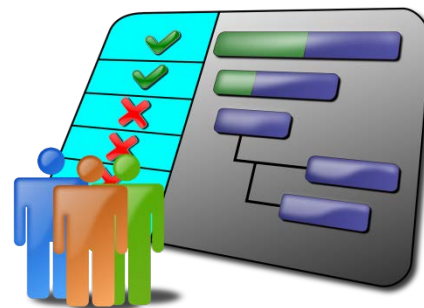
Morning Routines



Why do children walk to school?



It is good for their health



It fits with family routines



They enjoy it

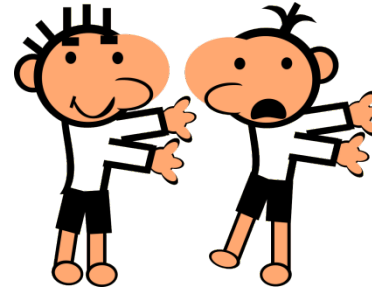


It is good for the environment

Why are children are driven to school?



Parents going somewhere else



Concerns for personal safety (bullying, strangers)



Time pressures



Weather

Opportunities to get more 4-10 year olds walking



Parents of **4 -10 year old students** said they would allow their children to walk to school if...



Based on 247 families with children 4-10 years who answered this question (out of 410 submitted surveys for all ages) from four schools in Waterloo Region, February 2015

Opportunities to get more 11+ year olds walking



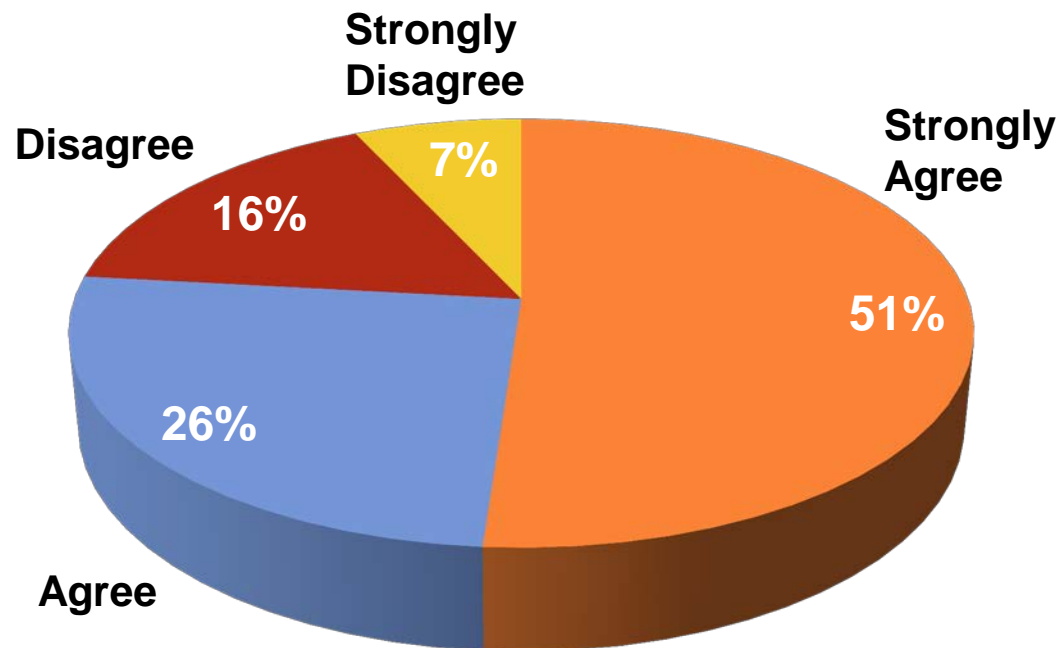
Parents of **11+ year old students** said they would allow their children to walk to school if...



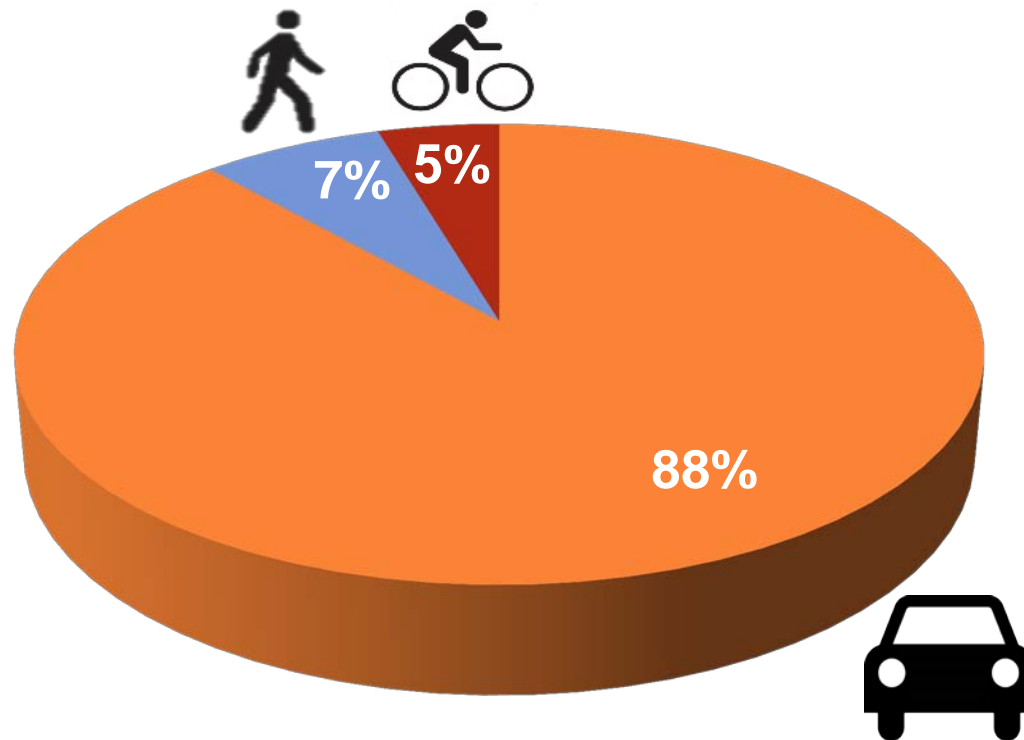
School Staff Support for School Travel Planning



“Our school neighbourhood is safe for children to walk to and from school”



School Staff Travel Mode Split



Based on 43 submitted staff surveys from three schools in Waterloo Region, February 2015

Walkabouts & Traffic Observations

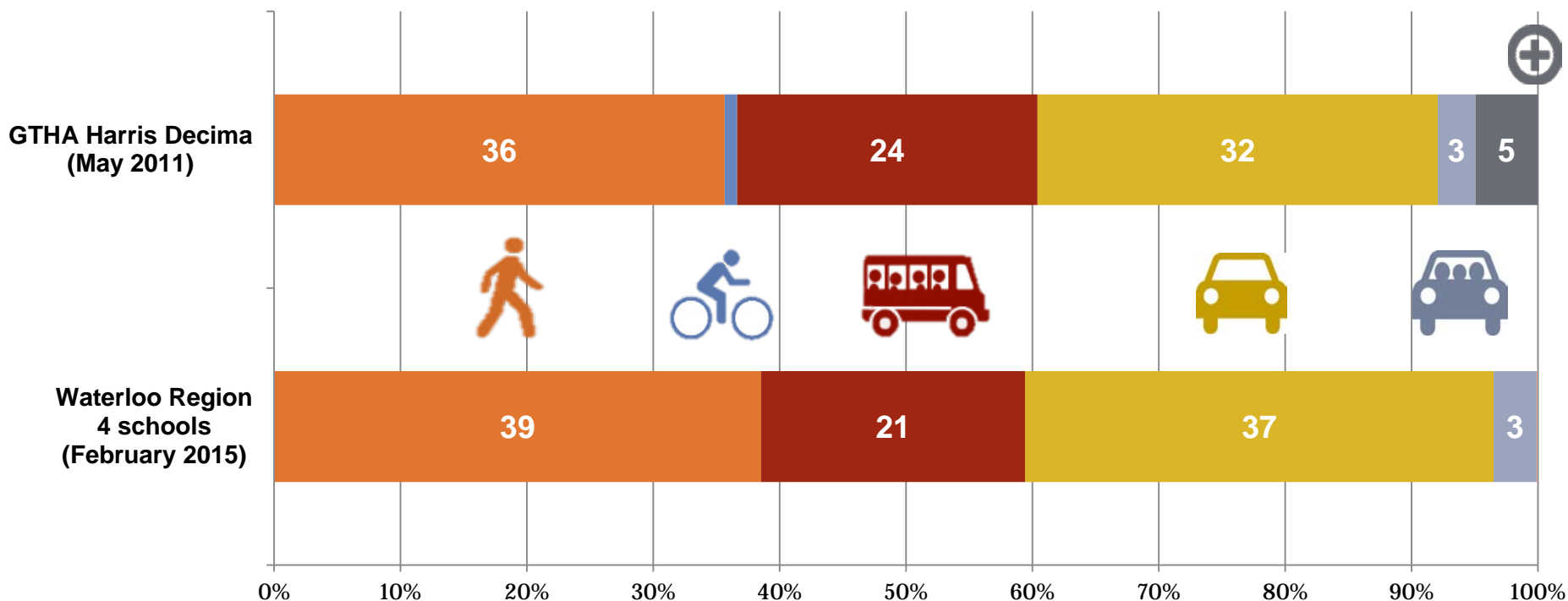


- Winter-related obstacles
- Driver behaviours
- Pedestrian behaviours
- School bus drop-off/pick-up locations
- Other
 - Garbage trucks
 - Trains
 - Major roads

How do we compare?



Travel Mode Split to School



 = Other (public transit, etc.)



Possible Focus Areas

- Travel behaviour to school
- Students living more than 0.5km from school
- Strategies so students do not walk/cycle alone
- Strategies that identify safer routes to walk
- Strategies that address safety issues (real and perceived)
 - Traffic safety
 - Personal Safety

We're all in this together



- Students
- Parents
- School staff and administration
- School Boards
- Student Transportation Services
- Municipalities
- Public Health

For more information:



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