



## Engineering

Traffic safety considerations are key to promoting and supporting active transportation to school. Engineering is an important component of ensuring that children have a safe route to school, and a safe traffic environment at the school site.

Neighbourhood and school traffic environments along with local pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure determines whether children can safely walk or bicycle to school. To be able to choose active transportation communities need well-designed, developed and maintained walk and bicycle routes.

To achieve this in many school communities, the engineering changes and alterations are often simple. When working with schools it is important to consider small changes such as updating or repositioning signage, repainting crosswalks, emphasizing No Stopping or No Parking locations around the school. Within the neighbourhood, other minor changes might include trimming hedges or tree branches to allow for better visibility. Working with a local traffic authority, it is possible to make these requests of neighbours or the local public works staff.

Alternatively a school may need to work with the local authority to plan for more significant infrastructure changes. Depending on the extent of the changes required, this may take a long time, sometimes years. Even smaller changes, such as the placement of a crosswalk, will require specific criteria to be warranted. It is useful to work with local traffic authorities and to develop a positive framework for that relationship.

It is helpful to recognize that they often have significant constraints in their work. Major infrastructure changes are expensive, and often must be identified and then proposed for funding. As a facilitator, it is key for you to remember that Engineers are also working to create the safest possible environment for pedestrians and cyclists in the community.

The **Transportation Association of Canada** has developed a resource: ***School and Playground Areas and Zones: Guidelines for Application and Implementation***. This is a valuable resource to consult, and it may be useful to recommend this reference for your local engineers: [www.tac-atc.ca](http://www.tac-atc.ca) in the Projects and Publications section, in the Bookstore.

In addition the U.S. ASRTS training resources provides a very useful framework for understanding Engineering in the context of your ASRTS work:  
<http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/guide/engineering/index.cfm>