

RIVER EAST TRANSCONA SCHOOL DIVISION

WARD 1

Colleen CARSWELL –

“Safety is important to me whether we are talking about the classroom, recess, or walking to and from school. There are a number of initiatives that I have supported and will continue to support if re-elected in regards to student safety walking to and from school:

- We have hired adult crossing guards in areas of our school division that have intersections that are considered to be “dangerous” for students to cross. Further to that, we have put a formula in place that takes into consideration vehicle count, stop signs, traffic lights, crossing walks, etc. when determining the need for an adult crossing guard being placed at a certain intersection.
- We have a “Walking School Bus” Program that has been piloted in our schools, with great success. This is a program that has a group of children walking to and from school with a designated adult rather than riding the school bus.
- We have and continue to support our student patrols that also help with the safety of our students walking to and from school.
- We have bike racks for those children who bike to school.
- We talk about student safety, whether walking, riding a bike, or taking the bus to and from school.

I support, and will continue to support, all of the above if re-elected. I believe that we need to provide parents with opportunities other than bus transportation for their children to get to and from school. We also need to encourage parents to take responsibility to get their children to and from school, promoting ideas such as car-pooling, walking school bus, etc. Whether a school trustee or not, as a community we need to make sure we all do our part to ensure that students get to and from school safely.”

Louise HEDMAN –

The issue of active transportation in any community is high. I agree that our children are riding the bus or in a car far too much these days, compared to when we use to walk or ride bikes to school. Although there still are allot of kids in our area who do ride bikes and walk to school, there are too many who aren't. I think the issue of building new schools as allocated within new developments would eliminate the need for some busing and promote walking and riding bikes again. The issue of safety is also one that needs attention. If we expect our kids to ride a bike to school, I would not feel comfortable allowing them to ride on the street alongside vehicles, no matter what the age of the child is. There is a definite need for safe bike paths within all our communities. Although the city has begun the process in some places, there is much need for consultation, improvement and quick response in all areas of the city. For the most part, the community of Transcona Ward 1 has sidewalks and crossings that allow the kids to walk to school safely, but riding bikes is another story. We also have major issues with infrastructure in school

zones. I would like to see direct contact between the School principal and the City of Winnipeg public works department in order to expedite any street or sidewalk repairs that pose a danger to the students within school zones. I also think there are too many school buses on our streets and would love to see a way to reduce the number.

Dakota KOCHIE – no response at this time.

Debbie NEUFELD – no response at this time.

Sandy OWCZAR – no response at this time.

Jerry SODOMLAK – no response at this time.

Lisa WEBINGER –

“Active transportation is extremely important to help improve public health and reduce healthcare costs by fighting obesity and chronic illnesses like heart disease and Type 2 diabetes. Encouraging our children to become active at an early age will help ensure a life time of healthy choices.

Encouraging and aiding Parent Advisory Councils to initiate a walking school bus would be a step in the right direction. It is absolutely necessary to engage the public to make active transportation more mainstream vs a special activity.

Implementing division wide Walk/Bike to work days and encourage staff and students alike to participate to get the message out. Hosting family and community events where families can learn about road and bike safety would also benefit members of the community.

With the new speed reduction implemented around school zones, the city has taken the first step to ensuring safer streets for our children but it is not a process that we can tackle overnight. Additions such as traffic calming measures/speed bumps, more lit cross walks, installing curb ramps, designated bike paths and speed feedback signs are also necessary to assist in the success of active transportation, so a larger conversation needs to be had with our city councilors and other elected officials.

I know a number of schools currently have a walking school bus in place, and as a Trustee, I believe this is something we can and should help facilitate without impacting the budget.

I currently live a block away from a school that has a speed feedback sign, traffic calming bumps and a walking bus in place, and the mornings are chaotic. Being a community representative, I will help advocate for active transportation to help sway the mindset of parents. I know there is another trustee running in my ward that would like to see larger drop off zones built around new schools, but I believe a more important goal would be to change the culture around how we view transportation in general.”

WARD 2

Curtis BILEWITCH – no response at this time.

Jeff CIESZECKI – no response at this time.

Rod GIESBRECHT – no response at this time.

Karen JONASSON – no response at this time.

John TOEWS – no response at this time.

WARD 3

Roland HEADLEY – no response at this time.

Eva PRYSIZNEY – no response at this time.

Wayne RITCHER – no response at this time.

WARD 4

Peter KOTYK – no response at this time.

Glenn MATSUMOTO –

I feel it is priority for students to walk or ride their bikes to school. As a school trustee I can work with the superintendent's department to continue have school patrols to ensure safe walking to schools. We also need to work with the maintenance departments to ensure adequate and safe locations for students to lock their bikes.

I can continue to support the city's stance on decreasing the speed limits to 30 km at all schools. I can also work with the superintendent's department and parent groups on what might be helpful in their particular school area.

Brian OLYNIK – no response at this time.