



# How-to for Mayors, MP's & City Leaders

## 10 top tips to cut school gate traffic congestion

The world has changed a lot in the last few decades. Working mums are now the norm, and many families have not one but two cars. Busy lives, choice of school, before- and after-school activities, fears about safety and sometimes sheer laziness have worked together to create a situation where most children (70%) are driven to and from school.

There is a huge opportunity for Mayors, MP's, City Leaders and schools to cut traffic congestion and improve road safety around schools with direct benefits to individual children, their parents and residents in the surrounding streets.

Imagine if every family at just one school sent their car on holiday for just one day each week; that could potentially be 50 or even 100 fewer cars outside of their school. Traffic congestion could be removed for the cost of administering a sticker and certificate to participating children. Image removing 100 cars from around a school for less than \$100?

Here's a checklist of questions to consider and ask yourself if you want to cut school traffic congestion in your town/city.

1. What is my vision?
2. What is my financial commitment?
3. What are the conditions that discourage walking?
4. Do existing planning policies support or discourage congestion around schools?
5. Does my council provide pedestrian and cycle training?
6. Does council transport support extended school day programs?
7. Have council surveyed pupils and parents/carers about their travel behaviour?
8. Can we stagger school opening hours?
9. Do we have funding to provide bicycle storage and lockers?
10. Do we have technical support to assist schools in designing safer routes to school?

**What's your vision for safety around schools? Are you committed to cutting school traffic congestion?**

If you enjoyed these tips and want more.... I'm available for presentations, workshops and school assemblies

**Buy my book.** Decongestion is 232 pages of help, advice and information in paperback (\$24.95), e-book & Kindle formats from \$10 <http://www.cyclingrachelsmith.com/buy-books-services-speaking/>

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