



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

10 top tips to improve road safety and cut school traffic congestion

Last week I was at a primary school that had some serious issues – parents double parking, obstructive car parking on a busy arterial road, parents and their children running through moving traffic and lots of traffic congestion. In my opinion the school and community are lucky that no one has been killed or seriously injured. It was chaos. It was scary.

Ironically half of the kids at that school live less than 2 kilometres from school. Some families could walk to school in less than 10 minutes... it takes some parents more than 10 minutes to find a car parking space!

There's a huge opportunity for Mayors, MP's and City Leaders to cut traffic congestion and improve road safety around schools by starting walking school buses. A walking school bus is a group of children walking to school with one or more adults. If that sounds simple, it is – that's the point! It can be from as informal as two or three families walking to school together to a structured "bus" route with meeting points and a timetable. If you are a Mayor, MP or City Leader here's how:

1. Ignite the fuse...invite families who live near your local school to walk.
2. Identify a coordinator, a "driver" and a "conductor".
3. Council may provide training, insurance, Police checks and risk assessments.
4. Choose a safe route.
5. Take a test walk with the parents/carers (without the children) to identify any risks and hazards.
6. Do a risk assessment.
7. Identify a sufficient number of adults to supervise the children.
8. Provide some basic training for the adults and children.
9. Finalise the logistics: start point, route, meeting times and pick-up points.
10. Decide how often the bus will operate; for example, every Wednesday morning.

Clicking 'LIKE' on Facebook does NOTHING (sorry to be so blunt!). If road safety, car parking and traffic congestion are an issue at your local school please send these 10 Top Tips to your Mayor, MP or City Leaders. Send it to your local Council too.

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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