

Route planning has a HUGE impact on safety!

There are many considerations to take into account when choosing a bike route, such as traffic, bike paths, speed, and even scenery! The newest cycling evidence shows that the routes we take have a strong impact on bike safety.

Which road would you rather ride on?



The good news is that the routes that people prefer to ride on often align with the safest routes, with a couple key exceptions.

Three least safe route types:

1. Major street with parked cars
2. Multi-use pathway
3. Major street, with bike lane and parked cars (shown above)

Three safest route types:

1. Cycle Track (separated bike lane)
2. Residential street, bike route (shown above)
3. Residential street

★ People often perceive multi-use paths as one of the safest routes to take, when in fact it has one of the highest rates of collisions! While the collisions are not severe because there are no cars involved, it's important to teach kids courteous riding, while sharing space with other riders, dog-walkers, skateboarders, and strollers.

★ Residential streets are always safer than major streets whether or not it is a bike route. If you are going to bike on a major street, those without parked cars are *by far* safer than those with parked cars.

Route planning resources:

Google maps, Bikemaps.org

Municipal bike maps (available at HUB and your local City Hall)

For more information, please contact schools@bikehub.ca