



centre
d'écologie
urbaine



SafeMobility



VILLE DE | CITY OF
WESTMOUNT

Co-design Workshop at Akiva School Highlights

Participatory creation of active and
safe school routes
June 2026

Context and Objectives

Following the 2025 mobility and safety study on Metcalfe, Kensington, Argyle, and Montrose avenues, the City of Westmount initiated a participatory process to secure the surroundings of four schools (Akiva, Selwyn, Ecole Internationale, and ECS).

On May 14, 2026, the Centre d'écologie urbaine and Safe Mobility facilitated a 1.5-hour workshop with **34 students from Akiva School**. This workshop aimed to:

- 1 Demystify the process of improving road safety
- 2 Gather students' diagnostic of their environment (dangerous vs. appreciated areas)
- 3 Codesign road marking layouts (curb extensions and concrete slabs) for the Fall pilot phase

What Students Said

The workshop generated strong engagement and a feeling of being heard among the students. Four in five students appreciated having shared their ideas.

"I liked sharing my ideas and choosing what to paint."

"I like that we get to do art for the city!"

Selected Design Guidelines

The students' votes revealed a very clear consensus for the visual appearance of the future painted slabs and curb extensions.

The **organic theme** (74%) vastly outperformed the geometric theme (26%). Students put forward various theme proposals, such as nature or sports elements for the patterns used.



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Highlights

Discussion

A series of structured questions was presented to students. The discussion focused on students' travel experiences, locations where they felt safe or unsafe, factors influencing their sense of safety, and potential improvements to school routes.

Highlights

Traffic volume and congestion are major concerns

Driver behaviour strongly influences perceived safety

Crossing intersections is a recurring safety issue

Adequate pedestrian space improves comfort and safety

Social and emotional factors matter

A preference for quiet and residential streets

Improvements recommended by students

- Additional crossing guards
- Changing street direction from two-way to one-way
- More traffic lights and controlled crossings
- Installation of speed bumps and traffic-calming measures
- Wider sidewalks and improved pedestrian space
- Better organization of school drop-off and pickup zones
- Reduction of vehicle traffic around school entrances

What makes a street safe?

"A street that is safe is when a car does not go on the sidewalk."

"Unsafe: rush hour, no traffic lights, intersections."



One wish?

"One wish is to have bigger sidewalks."

"A system so kids can cross the street safely."

