Re-Defining Transportation

This activity is to encourage students to think about the positive aspects of active transportation and how walking and cycling can sometimes be aligned with their priorities and values.

Start with a large blank sheet of paper with a definition of “transportation” in the centre. One common definition is:

To transfer or convey from one place to another.

Have one piece of paper for each of the modes you would like to discuss (ex. walking, public transit, driving and cycling) and clearly mark the mode on each piece of paper. Ask students to write one negative and one positive aspect of each mode of transportation on the pieces of paper (pictured below). If you prefer, you can exclude driving and public transit from the activity.

Next, have students create their own personal definition of transportation by adding two transportation characteristics to the basic definition of transportation. Example : *Transportation is to convey me from one place to another <u>quickly</u> and <u>cheaply</u>.*

While students are writing their own definitions, quickly highlight the common characteristics students have associated with each mode on the large pieces of paper so that they are clear. Ask students to compare their own personal definitions of transportation with the definitions that have been created by the whole group and encourage discussion. If a student values speed & cost above all else in their own definition, ask them to consider all of the modes that have been characterized as quick and low cost by students during the activity (perhaps other students have assigned those characteristics to walking or cycling).