active streets ASSESSMENT TOOL

Case Study

Birmingham City Council have been active users of the Active Streets Assessment Tool since September 2020. Currently being used extensively by the principle and senior travel demand officers, ASAT is helping with the creation of travel plans across the city.

Birmingham turned to ASAT in order to help facilitate their proactive work with schools looking to implement more evidence-based measures in support of active travel and allocation of additional road space for pedestrians and social distancing.

As with many highway authorities, Birmingham faced a lack of readily available data to inform the planning process. ASAT provided ease of access to consider the data and evidence most relevant for changing priorities brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The huge wealth of information that goes into building ASAT allowed Birmingham City Council to access a single data rich repository granting them the ability to operationalise insights from data on:

- Collisions
- Annual average daily flow
- Traffic speed
- Congestion
- Bus routes
- & location data for stations and schools

Birmingham partner with ModeShift stars, who specialise in the delivery of effective travel plans for education. Data taken from ASAT is being used to enrich school travel plans providing easy access to information on quiet streets for walking and location of public transport services.

With over 400 schools across the city, prioritisation becomes a major issue. Birmingham worked with their consultants Mott MacDonald to take data from ASAT and feed it into a scoring matrix that would then allow engineers to prioritise plans for schools with the greatest needs.

Feedback from Birmingham City Council has also been important in the continuous development of ASAT. They asked for new features including a search function based on road name and a ruler to be able to measure distances from A to B, which are now being rolled into the tool.

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