



# FACILITATION GUIDE: ROAD SAFETY HEAT MAP

VISUALLY MAP PEOPLE'S LEVEL OF COMFORT TRAVELLING ON LOCAL STREETS

**Activity Type:** Understand

**Participant Audience:** Residents

## Objectives

This tool helps identify the level of safety and comfort people experience while traveling through the neighbourhood. After you're done collecting feedback with this tool, you can construct a visual map of which routes feel safe, and which do not. Depending on how many people indicated that a particular road was safe or unsafe, you can use thicker or thinner lines to colour in roads. This map shows where there are infrastructure gaps, and can help narrow down areas of focus for design solutions.



## Using the Tool

### Materials needed

1. Large printed basemap with colour key to support participants to indicate their level of comfort or safety travelling along a particular route (for example: Green = Great! I like travelling here; Yellow = Okay, room for improvement, Red = Scary! I don't feel safe here). To create your own basemaps, refer to 'How to Create a Basemap' guide on [participatoryplanning.ca](http://participatoryplanning.ca).
2. Coloured markers to correspond with the colour key
3. Tracing paper

### Facilitation Process

1. With a large printed basemap, allow participants to use a tracing paper and draw routes that they frequently travel in the neighbourhood.
  - Use green, yellow, and red markers to let people indicate how comfortable or safe they feel on different parts of the route.
  - Invite people to circle key intersections, using the marker colour that indicates their level of safety at that intersection.
2. Invite participants to write additional details on their tracing paper about why they feel comfortable or uncomfortable on a route.
3. Compile all of the tracing papers into a digital map, with routes coloured in based on the feedback received. Use the line thickness to indicate how many residents identified a particular route as safe/unsafe (see Sample Materials).



**Tip:** Use this tool often! The more times people engage with it, the clearer the patterns will become.



**Tip:** You can pair the route mapping with some simple survey questions to gather richer data.

### Sample Materials

1. Sample basemap and colour key from the Jackson Park Brookdale neighbourhood, Peterborough (via GreenUP and TCAT)

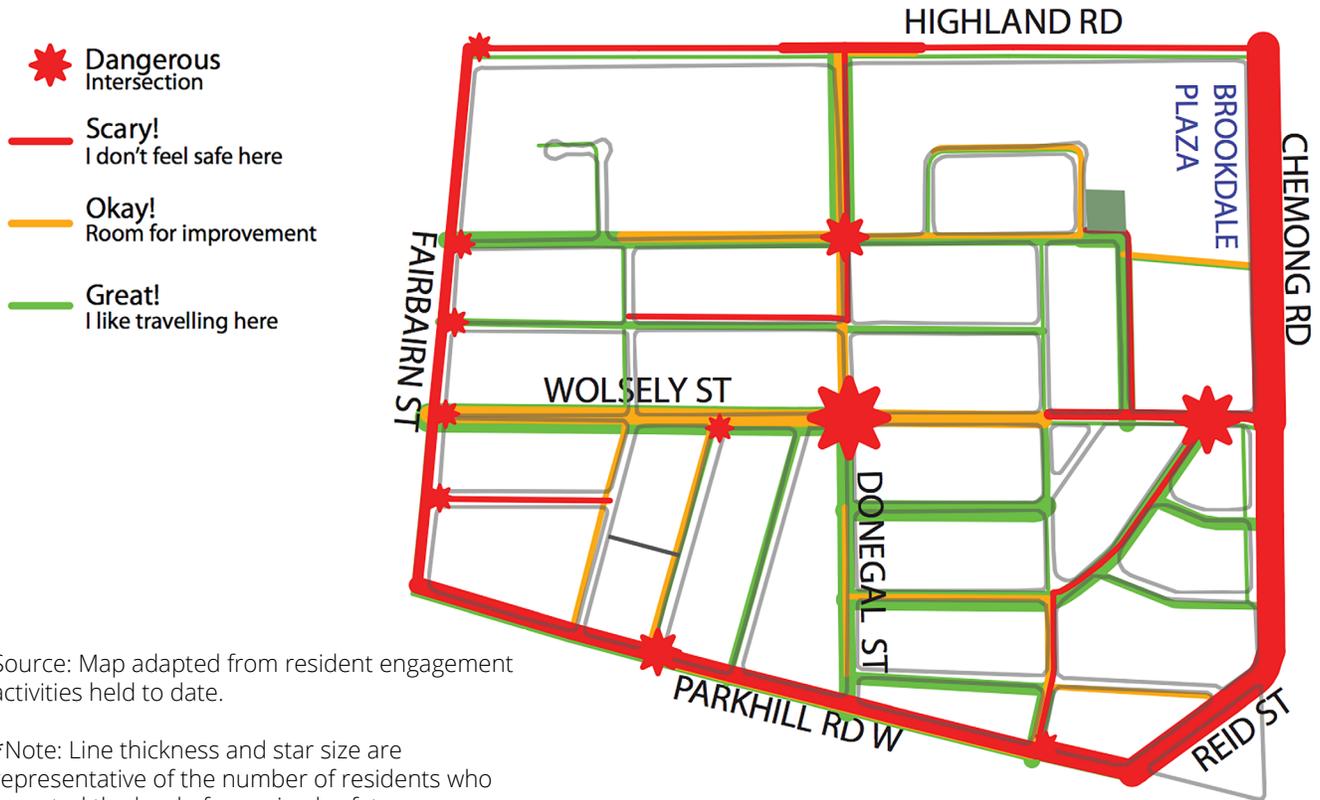
### Map Your Route Here

-  **Dangerous Intersection**
-  **Scary!**  
I don't feel safe here
-  **Okay!**  
Room for improvement
-  **Great!**  
I like travelling here



2. Tool output from the Jackson Park Brookdale neighbourhood, Peterborough (via GreenUP and TCAT)

Roads designed to accommodate heavy car traffic were identified by residents as unsafe places for pedestrians. Pedestrian safety was a key concern that emerged during the community engagement phase.



Source: Map adapted from resident engagement activities held to date.

\*Note: Line thickness and star size are representative of the number of residents who reported the level of perceived safety



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