L'École Bilingue Elementary

YEAR 2 FOLLOW-UP REPORT

SCHOOL ACTIVE TRAVEL PLANNING

CITY OF VANCOUVER

August 2017

1   EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2012-13, L'École Bilingue Elementary School (L'École Bilingue) participated in the City of Vancouver's School Active Travel Planning (SATP) program. This program is a partnership between the City and the Vancouver School Board and involves other local stakeholders including the Vancouver Police Department, Parking Enforcement, HUB, and HASTe. The SATP program directly supports the goals of the City of Vancouver's long-term transportation plan, Transportation 2040. The plan seeks a city-wide shift towards sustainable travel modes, with an overarching target of 2/3rd of all trips by 2040 to be made on foot, bike or transit. To support this, Transportation 2040 sets out a series of actions to achieve this target, including school-related actions to:

1. Provide high quality walking and cycling routes to and from school; and
2. Educate and encourage active and safe travel to school.

This report is the second document produced as part of the L'École Bilingue Elementary School Active Travel Planning (SATP) program. During Year 1 (the 2012-13 school year), an initial report and an Action Plan (**Appendix A**) were developed to gather information and guide L'École Bilingue's SATP process. During Year 2, the documents were updated to incorporate new information and to create this supplementary follow-up report.

Typically, as part of the program the school community participates in hands-up and take-home travel surveys during Year 1 and Year 2 of the program. Surveys are conducted to better understand school travel patterns and evaluate the impacts of the program by comparing baseline and follow up travel survey results. However, during Year 2 of the program the school was temporarily relocated to a site at E 45th Avenue and Fraser Street, as part of the seismic upgrading process. Survey data was not collected during this time as it would not show typical travel patterns. During the move, the school continued to support the many families who choose to walk and cycle to school. In January 2017, the L'École Bilingue community returned to the seismically upgraded building and follow-up surveys are anticipated during Fall 2017.

Transportation Challenges

The Year 1 travel plan had identified the following transportation challenges in this area:

- Large catchment area reduces the number of families who live within walking distance;
- Nearby bicycle routes needed improvement;
- Concerns about pedestrian comfort and visibility at intersections around the school including: W 16th at Oak Street and Wolfe Avenue; W 15th Avenue and Montcalm; and W 14th Avenue and Alder Street;
- Prior to the seismic upgrading process, there was uncertainty surrounding the new alignment of the school and resulting infrastructure changes. Most of these concerns have since been addressed through the seismic upgrading design.

Key Action Items

To address the identified challenges and achieve the SATP goals, the City of Vancouver has completed or is planning the following infrastructure improvements around the school (to be complemented by ongoing education and monitoring programs) (see **Figure ES1**):

- (Complete) On school site: Bike parking expanded with additional bike racks.
- (Complete) Alder street at W 14th Avenue: Install **zebra crosswalk** on south side of intersection.
- (Complete) Oak Street at W 16th Avenue: **Increase crossing time** in north-south direction to allow more time for children to cross.
- (Anticipated) Montcalm Street at W 15th Avenue: Install **zebra crosswalk** and **curb bulge** on west leg of intersection to improve pedestrian comfort.
- (Anticipated) Alder Street adjacent to the school: Install **speed humps** between W 14th and W 15th Avenues.
- (Anticipated) Improvements to create new local street bikeways on W 14th Avenue (from Alder to Ontario St) and Alder Street (from W 7th to W 14th Ave).

Figure ES1 - Map of Infrastructure Improvements

Legend:
- Anticipated Improvements
- Completed Improvements
- Zebra Crosswalk
- T Intersection Curb Bulge
- Future Bikeway
- Speed hump
- Bike Racks
- Slow Crossing Time