



Lord Selkirk Elementary

YEAR 1 INITIAL REPORT SCHOOL ACTIVE TRAVEL PLAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Lord Selkirk Elementary was one of four schools participating in the City of Vancouver 2015/2016 School Active Travel Program (SATP). This process seeks to improve the safety and comfort of walking and cycling to school, and to encourage more students and families to use active transportation modes to get to and from school. SATP directly supports the City of Vancouver Transportation 2040 policy and actions related to creating higher quality walking and cycling routes to schools.

The SATP process is community-based and involved members of the School Travel Planning Committee (Selkirk Principal and PAC) and the Municipal Steering Committee (including members from Vancouver School Board, City of Vancouver Engineering, City of Vancouver Parking Enforcement, Vancouver Police Department, and other advisory groups).

SATP Process

The School Travel Planning Committee, parents and students provided input into the SATP process through a site walkabout, take-home travel survey and in-class travel survey. From this information, transportation challenges and opportunities were identified. This report represents the initial year of the SATP program, and the action plan (**Appendix A**) is intended to guide all stakeholder actions until the follow-up report anticipated in Fall 2017.

School Travel Patterns

- The majority of families walk to or from school (approx. 50%). Families that drive to or from school are approximately 37%
- Of the families who drive to or from school, the parents would allow their child to walk or cycle if they were older, not alone, lived closer, safer routes were created or speeds were reduced around school

Transportation Challenges

- The need for comfortable and safe pedestrian crossing facilities around school intersections
- Visibility concerns on the existing raised crosswalk at Commercial Street and E 22nd Avenue
- Speeding concerns on Commercial Street and Welwyn Street around the school zone
- Concerns at nearby signalized intersections related to long crossing distances and the need for additional crossing time for pedestrians

- The lack of walking/cycling education and encouragement programs for students

Key Action Items

- Improve visibility of the raised crosswalk paint at Commercial Street and E 22nd Avenue by adding zebra markings
- Install speed humps on Welwyn Street and Commercial Street
- Install a zebra-marked crosswalk and a curb bulge at Welwyn Street and E 22nd Avenue
- Install a zebra-marked crosswalk and curb ramps at Commercial Street and E 20th Avenue
- Increase pedestrian crossing times at signalized intersections, including Victoria Drive at E 26th Avenue and Kingsway at Miller Street
- Improve sightlines at E 22nd Avenue and Fleming Street by requesting hedge trimming by property owner
- Provide bike education training for students through HUB cycling
- Provide pedestrian safety presentations for students by the Vancouver Police Department
- Develop best routes for walking and cycling to school map and distribute to Selkirk families

Figure ES1 – Proposed infrastructure improvements



Parents Comments

- “My daughter is accompanied by my brother to and from school. She enjoy walking but not when it is raining and too cold” - Parent of an 11 year-old girl
- “We feel very safe around the school zone. Just that our home is too far from school that’s why we drive our children to school” - Parent of an 8 year-old girl
- “Walking to school with my 8 year old every day is a good way for me as a mom to communicate or have that bond with my son. We talk, we laugh, we appreciate the weather, it’s fun and also it’s a good exercise for both of us” - Parent of a 8 year-old boy
- “My child bikes to school but can’t bike home because of our work/location/time” - Parent of a 6 year-old girl
- “Walking on the way to school, my son & I are having a good conversation and we sometimes found cool things while walking. We witnessed how the crow digs for food and squirrels running around. We really enjoyed it” - Parent of a 6 year-old boy
- “My child likes walking to and from school as it is a form of exercise” - Parent of a 7 year-old boy