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To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)
CC: ["City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"](#)
["LaClaire, Lon" <lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca>](mailto:lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca)
Date: 3/18/2021 10:59:40 AM
Subject: Memo - School Streets Pilot (with Vancouver School Board) – Spring 2021
Attachments: Memo - School Streets Pilot (with Vancouver School Board) – Spring 2021.pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Lon LaClaire. A short summary of the memo is as follows:

- The School Active Travel Planning Team will be partnering with the Vancouver School Board (VSB) to launch a 4-week “School Streets” Pilot beginning on April 12, 2021 at three elementary schools.
- A School Street is a car-free block adjacent to a school open to walking, biking, and rolling during pick-up/drop-off (30 to 45 minutes in duration depending on location).
- The aim of the pilot is to better understand if School Streets can encourage active travel, decrease private vehicle use and create a safer environment for all at Vancouver schools.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lon LaClaire at 604-873-7336 or lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca.

Best,

Karen

City of Vancouver Deputy City Manager
karen.levitt@vancouver.ca

The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.

MEMORANDUM

March 18, 2021

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Paul Mochrie, Acting City Manager
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Maria Pontikis, Director, Civic Engagement and Communications
Rosemary Hagiwara, Acting City Clerk
Anita Zaenker, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Neil Monckton, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Alvin Singh, Communications Director, Mayor's Office
Paul Storer, Director of Transportation

FROM: Lon LaClaire
General Manager, Engineering Services

SUBJECT: School Streets Pilot (with Vancouver School Board) – Spring 2021

The purpose of this memo is to advise Council that the School Active Travel Planning Team will be partnering with the Vancouver School Board (VSB) to launch a 4-week "School Streets" Pilot beginning on April 12, 2021.

Background

In October 2019, Council passed a motion on "Improving Transportation Safety Around Vancouver Schools", which is a core objective of the School Active Travel Planning Program. Established in 2012, the School Active Travel Planning Program consults with school communities and other stakeholders to identify transportation-related challenges and opportunities, improve safety, and increase the number of children walking and cycling to school.

In November 2020, City Council approved the Climate Emergency Action Plan including direction to develop a Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Action Plan. The TDM Action Plan includes expanded School Active Travel Planning Program offerings proven to be effective in reducing vehicle trips such as School Streets and a Walking School Bus program.

School Streets

The City of Vancouver is partnering with the VSB to pilot School Streets at three local elementary schools from April 12, 2021 to May 7, 2021. A School Street is a car-free block adjacent to a school open to walking, biking, and rolling during pick-up/drop-off (30 to 45

minutes in duration depending on location). No motor vehicles are permitted to enter or exit the block when the School Street is in effect, except in an emergency. Parked vehicles may remain.

School Streets have been implemented in many other jurisdictions and have been shown to increase active travel, improve safety and air quality, reduce congestion and support physical distancing needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. The aim of the pilot is to better understand if School Streets can encourage active travel, decrease private vehicle use and create a safer environment for all at Vancouver schools. Participating Schools include:

Hastings Elementary

- Street closure to motor vehicles: Franklin Street between Penticton Street and Slocan Street
- Time in effect: 8:40am to 9:10am and 2:40pm to 3:10pm

Lord Roberts Elementary:

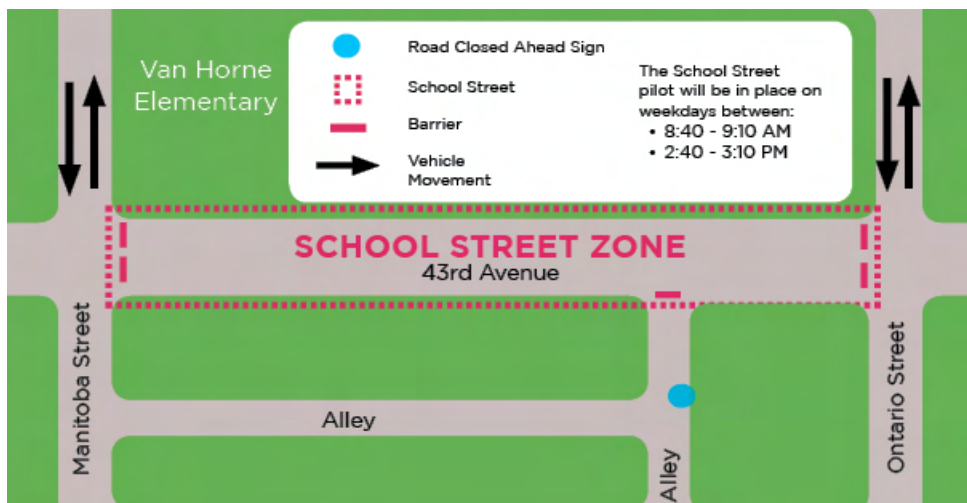
- Street closure to motor vehicles: Comox Street between Bidwell Street and Cardero Street
- Time in effect: 8:30am to 9:15am and 2:30pm to 3:15pm

Van Horne Elementary:

- Street closure to motor vehicles: 43rd Avenue between Manitoba Street and Ontario Street
- Time in effect: 8:40am to 9:10am and 2:40pm to 3:10pm

Barriers and signage at each end of the School Street will keep it safely closed to traffic. The barriers will be set up and maintained by school volunteers with guidance from the City.

Sample diagram:



All other blocks around the school apart from the School Street will remain accessible by motor vehicle. Some School Streets programs in other cities are able to provide exemptions for residents or people with accessibility needs to enter within the School Street road closure. For Vancouver's 4-week pilot, volunteers will not be allowed to control traffic and no exemptions will be made. In partnership with the participating schools, we chose streets without driveways to reduce impacts on residents. At Van Horne and Hastings schools the primary accessible entrance for parents or students with disabilities is not affected by the closure. At Lord Roberts school there is a designated drop-off and pick-up location for parents or students with disabilities in the staff parking lot off of Pendrell Street and additional temporary reserved parking for parents or students with disabilities will be located on Pendrell Street beside the parking lot entrance.

Participating schools have contacted parents directly with detailed information about the pilot. Notification letters to all residents within a 2-block radius of the participating schools will be delivered approximately three weeks prior to the pilot launch. This letter also includes information on how to provide feedback or ask questions. We will monitor changes and collect data and feedback in order to understand the impacts.

Next Steps

The pilot program will be announced by the City and the VSB on its opening day via media release on April 12th, 2021. A report summarizing all of the feedback and monitoring results will then be published on the website, expected to be in June 2021. Additional information can be found at: vancouver.ca/School-Streets

Please contact me directly if you have any further questions.



Lon LaClaire, M.Eng., P.Eng.
General Manager, Engineering Services
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Appendix A – Examples of School Streets From Other Jurisdictions

London, UK

Nearly 350 School Streets have been delivered across London since April 2020.

Highlights

- 81% of parents and carers supported the measures at their children's school
- 23 % reduction in Nitrogen dioxide air pollution beside schools
- 18% of parents reported driving less

Read about the study: <https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/school-streets-improve-air-quality>

Toronto, Canada

Toronto's first School Streets pop-up in October 2019 encouraged children to walk and ride their bikes to school and reduced vehicle travel.

Highlights

- 5.4% more students used active travel to get to school during the pop-up
- 20.5% fewer students used car travel

Read the summary report: <https://www.880cities.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/8-80-Streets-Mountview-Summary-Report.pdf>