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**To:** "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

**CC:** "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"

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**Date:** 11/2/2018 12:59:42 PM

**Subject:** Memo - COV/VSB Active Transportation School Initiative - RTS 12556

**Attachments:** ENG - TPL - COV-VSB Active Transportation School Initiative - Oct. 2018.pdf

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Greetings Mayor and Council,

Please see attached a memo and accompanying appendix from Jerry Dobrovolny regarding the Active Transportation School Initiative RTS #12556. A short summary of the memo is as follows:

- This memo was drafted in response to the Council motion from April 18th, 2018 regarding "Increasing Cycling Education and Safety Training for Youth in Vancouver Schools".
- Building on our walking and cycling training and promotions in schools to date, staff are continuing to work in collaboration with VSB staff to develop a more comprehensive Active Transportation School Initiative that will work to support schools, teachers and PACs promoting walking and cycling.
- The City will hire a new full-time Active Transportation School Coordinator who will work with VSB to create the Active Transportation Initiative, which will expand our capacity to provide walking and cycling education to all students in the most cost effective way.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lon LaClaire, Director of Transportation, at 604.873.7336 or [lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca](mailto:lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca).

Best,  
Sadhu

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## MEMORANDUM

November 1, 2018

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager  
Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager  
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk  
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office  
Rena Kendall-Craden, Communications Director  
Kevin Quinlan, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Naveen Girm, Community Relations Director, Mayor's Office  
Lon LaClaire, Director of Transportation

FROM: Jerry Dobrovolny  
General Manager, Engineering Services

SUBJECT: RTS #12556 - COV/VSB Active Transportation School Initiative

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This memo was written in response to the motion passed by Council on April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 regarding "Increasing Cycling Education and Safety Training for Youth in Vancouver Schools" (item 16 in the Standing Committee of Council on Policy and Strategic Priorities minutes). Staff were directed "to explore working in co-partnership with Vancouver School Board staff on delivering an improved cycling skills training program in Vancouver schools...."

Providing consistent annual walking and cycling promotion and training to students meets the shared goals of the City of Vancouver (COV) and the Vancouver School Board (VSB) for sustainable travel. After years of continual improvement in the delivery of our promotion and training programs in schools, we want to ensure we are reaching all VSB students in the most cost effective way possible.

Thus, City staff propose to continue working in collaboration with VSB staff to develop a comprehensive Active Transportation (AT) School Initiative. The AT School Initiative would develop and oversee the delivery of an active transportation education, promotion and monitoring program throughout all Vancouver elementary and high schools.

### **Active Transportation School Initiative**

City staff are collaborating with the VSB Sustainability team to develop the AT School Initiative and identify strategies that will promote and encourage active travel for all children and youth in VSB schools. Considering student, parent, teacher and school needs, some of these strategies could include:

- Support for schools to promote third-party events, such as Bike to School Week;

- Research, outreach and support for Parent Advisory Committees interested in promotional events or active school travel initiatives like a Walking School Bus;
- Outreach and support for existing champions within schools to help them build up and extend existing programs;
- Development of active travel programs or activities that link to curriculum that can be used by teachers at both the elementary and secondary level; and
- Coordination and delivery of walking, cycling and rolling education within schools.

The AT School Coordinator will take the lead on this initiative, working closely with the VSB Sustainability Team to engage and integrate programming into Vancouver schools. They will also undertake monitoring and evaluation efforts in order to refine and report on the success of the initiative within Vancouver schools.

This structure would create a more efficient and consistent way to:

- Provide integrated and effective active transportation training and promotion throughout VSB schools at both the elementary and high school level;
- Monitor travel behaviour changes within schools;
- Embed active transportation promotion within school culture;
- Establish longer term working relationships with each school; and
- Provide one consistent champion and VSB point of contact for school-related initiatives.

After the initiative is underway, other collaborations could be explored with partners such as TransLink and Vancouver Coastal Health.

## Conclusion

The proposed Active Transportation School Initiative is an opportunity to further COV and VSB's shared goal of encouraging active travel in all VSB schools. The AT School Coordinator (within the City's Transportation Planning Team) will work closely with the VSB Sustainability Team and lead this effort to provide consistent training and to promote walking and cycling for children and youth in our schools.

Should you require further information, please contact Lon LaClaire, Director of Transportation, at 604.873.7336 or [lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca](mailto:lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca).

Sincerely,



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General Manager, Engineering Services  
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## **APPENDIX A**

### **Policy Background**

The City's Transportation 2040 plan recognizes the importance of AT promotion. This plan includes policies to:

- Promote walking and cycling as fun, practical, and healthy transportation choices, and as a normal part of everyday life;
- Support education and awareness programs to improve safety and reduce conflicts; and
- Support cycling skills training to improve safety and confidence - an action to support this policy is to advocate for making cycling skills training a core part of the school curriculum or making it widely available to youth through other means.

The Active Transportation Promotion and Enabling Plan (ATPEP) was developed to implement the policies identified in Transportation 2040. The strategies outlined in the ATPEP support the City's core business of developing and maintaining active transportation infrastructure with 'softer' methods such as promotion, advocacy, training, and pilot projects. These strategies include working with partners to promote active school travel in both elementary and secondary schools.

Further, the VSB's Environmental Sustainability Plan outlines goals to support active transportation through events, training and on-site infrastructure improvements. The Plan recognizes that for many local schools, particularly at the elementary level, the designated catchments are well suited to support walking and cycling to and from school.