

From: ["Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca)

To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)

Date: 1/14/2022 4:37:14 PM

Subject: [Walking School Bus Program](#)

Attachments: [ENG - Memo to Mayor Council - Walking School Bus Program.pdf](#)

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Lon LaClaire regarding Walking School Bus Program. A short summary of the memo is as follows:

- The School Active Travel Planning Team has partnered with the Vancouver School Board, TransLink and DASH (Dedicated Action for School Health), to launch a Walking School Bus (WSB) Program at five elementary schools.
- A WSB is an organized group of children who walk to and from school along a predetermined route with the support of one or more adult leaders.
- The program aims to encourage physical activity, reduce congestion around schools, improve safety and air quality, and build a sense of community.
- The pilot had a soft launch in November 2021 and will run until the end of the school year (June 2022).

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

Best,
Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)
City Manager
City of Vancouver
paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

MEMORANDUM

January 14, 2022

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Paul Mochrie, City Manager
Armin Amrolia, Deputy City Manager
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Maria Pontikis, Chief Communications Officer, CEC
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, Transportation

FROM: Lon LaClaire
General Manager, Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Walking School Bus Program

RTS #: N/A

Background

Established in 2012, the School Active Travel Planning program consults with school communities and stakeholders to identify transportation-related challenges and opportunities, improve safety, and increase the number of children walking, cycling and rolling 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 an expanded School Active Travel Planning program, which includes a number of measures proven to be effective in reducing vehicle trips, including a Walking School Bus program.

Walking School Bus Program

A Walking School Bus is an organized group of children who walk to and from school together with the support of one or more adult leaders. The group walks along a predetermined route with planned stops along the way to pick up more children.

WSB programs are active in other provinces such as Quebec, Ontario and New Brunswick, and have been shown to encourage physical activity, reduce traffic congestion around schools, improve safety and air quality and build a sense of community.

TransLink is advancing the WSB concept regionally as part of their regional Youth Travel Strategy. The local partnership and WSB delivery model has been branded as 'Kid Commute: A Walking School Bus'. DASH, a non-profit organization focused on promoting healthy school communities, will be leading the pilot delivery in the City of Vancouver, which includes three different program models:

1. Volunteer Leader Model: The WSB leaders are volunteers from the school and local community, often including parents and caregivers.
2. Paid Leader Model: The WSB leader is fully trained and is financially compensated for their time leading a WSB.
3. Trainer Leader Model: A paid leader runs a WSB program at several schools throughout the school year. The paid leader spends eight consecutive weeks at each school, teaching students and adults about road safety and how to operate a WSB on their own. When the paid leader moves to the next school, it is intended that the school that has just completed the eight weeks of training will continue with the WSB program by following the volunteer leader model.

Participating schools include:

- Lord Selkirk Annex – Paid Leader Model (active)
- Trafalgar Elementary School – Volunteer Leader Model (active)
- Sir Guy Carleton/G T Cunningham Elementary School – Trainer Leader Model (active)
- Admiral Seymour Elementary – Trainer Leader Model (beginning February 2022)
- Lord Nelson Elementary – Trainer Leader Model (beginning April 2022)

The City of North Vancouver is also participating in 'Kid Commute: A Walking School Bus' and has five participating schools.

Next Steps

The pilot had a soft launch in November 2021 and will run until the end of the school year (June 2022). The pilot program will be announced by the City and the Vancouver School Board via media release on January 25th, 2022. DASH will be monitoring the program impacts and will provide a report to the City, anticipated by July 2022, which will inform future Walking School Bus program implementation at other schools across the City. Additional information can be found at vancouver.ca/walking-school-bus.

Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any further questions

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lon LaClaire', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Lon LaClaire, M.Eng., P.Eng.
General Manager, Engineering Services

604.873.7336 | lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca