

From: **"Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>**
To: **"Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"**
Date: 3/2/2023 5:09:00 PM
Subject: School Streets Program Update
Attachments: ENG - Memo - School Streets Program Update.pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached Council memo from Lon LaClaire on School Streets Program Update. A short summary of the memo is as follows:

- The School Streets Program consists of setting up a car-free block beside a school open to walking, biking, and rolling during pick-up/drop-off times. The program will run again at up to 8 schools May 8 – June 2, 2023.
- The School Streets Program has encouraged more walking, biking and rolling to and from school and has reduced congestion and vehicle volumes around schools.
- Lord Roberts Elementary has been running their School Street for the entire school year since Sep 2021.
- Lord Roberts Elementary has expressed an interest in having a full-time School Street along the Comox Greenway. Staff will share more details about next steps in an upcoming West End Transportation and Public Space Program Memo in the coming weeks.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lon LaClaire at 604-873-7722 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 x̱m̱əθḵʷəy̱əm (Musqueam), Sḵw̱x̱w̱ú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

MEMORANDUM

March 2, 2023

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Paul Mochrie, City Manager
Armin Amrolia, Deputy City Manager
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
Maria Pontikis, Chief Communications Officer, CEC
Rosemary Hagiwara, Acting City Clerk
Teresa Jong, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Mellisa Morphy, Acting Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Trevor Ford, Director of Operations, Mayor's Office
Paul Storer, Director, Transportation

FROM: Lon LaClaire
General Manager, Engineering Services

SUBJECT: School Streets Program Update

RTS #: N/A

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to update Council on the School Streets Program led by the School Active Travel Program team within the Community Transportation Branch.

Background

School Active Travel Program

Established in 2012, our School Active Travel Program consults with school communities and key partners including the Vancouver School Board (VSB) to improve safety and increase the number of children walking, biking and rolling to school.

School Streets Program

The [School Streets Program](#) was first piloted in the City of Vancouver at three elementary schools in 2021 and expanded to five schools in 2022. This popular program has encouraged more walking, biking and rolling to and from school and has reduced congestion and vehicle volumes around schools.

The four-week program consists of setting up a car-free block beside a school open to walking, biking and rolling during pick-up/drop-off times (30 to 60 minutes, depending on location). Parent and community volunteers lead the day-to-day implementation of the School Streets. Lord Roberts Elementary is the only school to run School Streets for an entire year, on all school days, since September 2021.

All other blocks around each school (apart from the School Street) remain open to motor vehicle traffic. Additional accessible parking spaces are added to accommodate parents and students with accessibility needs who arrive by motor vehicle, if needed. To minimize the impact on residents, we prioritize streets without driveways and where residents can continue to access their homes through parallel alleyways.

School Streets Program Outcomes

During the first two years of the School Streets Program, the school communities reported an increased sense of safety, and families reported using more active modes to get to and from school. This also resulted in a reduction in motor vehicle traffic around the schools.

2021-22 highlights:

- 31% of families reported walking more
- 25% of families reported biking more
- 96% of students felt safer on the School Street compared to when there were cars
- 77% of parents said they wanted the School Streets Program to continue, 9% of parents said they were neutral about the program, and 14% of parents said they do not want the program to continue

2023 School Streets Program

After submitting expressions of interest, eight schools have been invited to participate in the School Streets Program from May 8 – June 2, 2023. There will be up to three returning schools (Hastings Elementary, Lord Roberts Elementary and Lord Nelson Elementary) and five new schools (Lord Strathcona Elementary, Lord Selkirk Elementary, Sir Winston Churchill Secondary, L'Ecole Bilingue and Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary).

Participating schools will contact parents directly with detailed information about the program. Notification letters will also be sent to all residents within a two-block radius approximately one month prior to the program launch. The program will continue to be evaluated through traffic counts, parent and staff surveys, student engagement and resident feedback. The cost is approximately \$5,000 per school each year for supplies, signage, notification letters and monitoring.

Comox Year-Round School Street

Lord Roberts Elementary first participated in the School Streets Pilot in the spring of 2021 before extending the program to the entire school year beginning in September 2021. Since that time, a car-free block has been created on school days on Comox Street between Bidwell Street and Cardero Street during pick-up and drop-off times. The school and parent community have

expressed an interest in having a full-time School Street along the Comox Greenway - in spring 2023 staff will engage with the Lord Roberts Elementary community and adjacent residents to explore the potential for this type of space. Staff will share more details about this project in an upcoming West End Transportation and Public Space Program Memo.

Additional information on the School Streets Program can be found at vancouver.ca/School-Streets.

Please contact me directly if you have any questions.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lon LaClaire'.

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

604.873.7336 | lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca