

From: **"Mochrie, Paul"**

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

Date: 2024-05-03 5:05:04 PM

Subject: Memo - School Street Program - 2024 Update

Attachments: ENG - Memo - School Street Program - 2024 Update.pdf

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Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached Memo from Lon LaClaire regarding **School Street Program – 2024 Update**. A short summary of the memo is as follows:

**School Streets Program – 2024 Update**

- The popular School Streets Program begins May 6 and will run for four to six weeks at four elementary schools.
- The program goal is to encourage more walking, biking, and rolling to and from school and has helped reduce congestion and vehicle volumes around schools.
- Led by parent and community volunteers, the 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 75 minutes).
- Lord Selkirk Elementary (May 6 - June 14), Lord Strathcona Elementary (May 21 - June 14), L'Ecole Bilingue (May 6 - May 31), and Gordon Elementary (May 6 - May 31) will be participating in the program this year.

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

Best,  
Paul

**Paul Mochrie** (he/him)  
City Manager  
City of Vancouver



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwəxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

## MEMORANDUM

May 3, 2024

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Paul Mochrie, City Manager  
Armin Amrolia, Deputy City Manager  
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager  
Sandra Singh, Deputy City Manager  
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk  
Maria Pontikis, Chief Communications Officer, CEC  
Teresa Jong, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office  
Mellisa Morphy, Director of Policy, Mayor's Office  
Trevor Ford, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office

FROM: Lon LaClaire  
General Manager, Engineering Services

SUBJECT: School Streets Program – 2024 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**

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 to date, a total of 11 schools in the city have participated in the program. 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-to-six-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 75 minutes). Parent and community volunteers lead the day-to-day implementation of the School Streets.

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**

The School Streets Program has been shown to improve safety around schools and encourage more students to use active transportation (walking, biking, and rolling) to and from school.

2022-23 program highlights include:

- 23% of elementary school families reported walking more.
- 33% of secondary students reported walking more.
- Almost 500 families and secondary students tried walking, biking, or rolling for the first time.
- 92% of elementary students reported the street felt safer.
- 74% of parents want the School Street to continue.

### **2024 School Streets Program**

After submitting expressions of interest, four schools have been invited to participate in the School Streets Program from May 6 – June 14, 2024. There will be three returning schools (Lord Selkirk Elementary, Lord Strathcona Elementary and L'Ecole Bilingue) and one new school joining the program (Gordon Elementary). Since 2022, we have also collaborated with the Society for Children and Youth of BC External to offer Play Streets at select School Street locations. Play Streets involve play activation through simple programming and resources. The program is designed to encourage safe active outdoor play for children and families, and to promote community connection.

Participating schools will contact parents directly with detailed information about the program. Notification letters have also been 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 for supplies, signage, notification letters and monitoring.

Additional information on the School Streets Program can be found at [vancouver.ca/School-Streets](https://vancouver.ca/School-Streets).

Please contact me directly if you have any questions with respect to this information.



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

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