

From: "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>

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

Date: 3/4/2025 9:32:22 PM

Subject: ENG - Memo - School Streets Program – 2025 Update

Attachments: ENG - Memo - School Streets Program – 2025 Update.pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached School Streets Program – 2025 Update memo from Lon LaClaire. A short summary of the memo is as follows:

- The Spring School Streets Program begins May 5 and will run for four to six weeks at five elementary schools (Gordon Elementary, Lord Selkirk Elementary, Lord Strathcona Elementary, L'Ecole Bilingue, and Edith Cavell Elementary).
- The program goal is to encourage more walking, biking, and rolling to and from school and to improve safety for students during arrival and dismissal time.
- 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).
- The City is also participating in the National Active School Streets Initiative (NASSI) over the next three years (2025-2027) to pilot year-round School Streets models at two local elementary schools beginning in September 2025.

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

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the x m k y m (Musqueam), S wxwú7mesh (Squamish), and s lilw ta (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

MEMORANDUM

March 4, 2025

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 Information 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 – 2025 Update

RTS #: N/A

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to update Council on the School Streets Program which is a part of the City's School Active Travel Program.

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, 12 schools in the city have participated in it. This popular program encourages more families to walk, bike, and roll to and from school while improving safety during arrival and dismissal time. 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.

2025 Spring School Streets Program

After applying to participate, five schools have been selected for the Spring School Streets Program from May 5 to June 13, 2025. There will be four returning schools (Gordon Elementary, Lord Selkirk Elementary, Lord Strathcona Elementary, and L'Ecole Bilingue) and one new school joining the program (Edith Cavell Elementary). Since 2022, staff have collaborated with the [Society for Children and Youth of BC](#) to offer Play Streets at select School Street locations. The program is designed to encourage safe, active outdoor play for children and families and to promote community connection.

Staff will also pilot a new School Streets model at Lord Strathcona Elementary this spring. A vendor will be responsible for hiring external paid staff to implement the day-to-day operation of the school street rather than volunteers. This model aims to improve accessibility for schools serving equity-seeking communities that may face challenges meeting the program's volunteer requirement.

National Active School Streets Initiative (NASSI)

The City is participating as a "Level-Up" community in the National Active School Streets Initiative (NASSI), led by Green Communities Canada and funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada. This Canada-wide project will implement 30 School Streets initiatives across six provinces. Over the next three years (2025-27), staff will work with two local schools to test year-round School Streets models, which will be evaluated by a research team led by Dr. Mariana Brussoni at the University of British Columbia. The grant, valued at \$100,000, will be distributed over the next three years.

Lord Selkirk Elementary has been confirmed as the first school to participate in the NASSI project and staff are coordinating to pilot a year-round paid staff model from September 2025 to June 2026. The selection process for the second school will occur in the fall of 2025, with program implementation planned for the following school year. Priority will be given to schools that serve equity-seeking communities.

Additional information about the NASSI project and the School Streets Program can be found on [Green Communities Canada](#) and [Vancouver's School Streets page](#).

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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