

From: "Amrolia, Armin" <Armin.Amrolia@vancouver.ca>

To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

Date: 8/29/2025 10:32:09 AM

Subject: Upcoming News Release: Slow down and watch for students walking, biking, and rolling back to school next week

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to inform you that the City will be issuing the below news release today, Friday, on August 29, reminding motorists to watch for students returning to school next week and to slow down on their commutes near schools. The release also includes a number of safety-focused programs to help support pedestrians and students throughout the school year as well information about construction-related traffic impacts to remind drivers to plan ahead.

Maria will reply to this email with the relevant Vancouver.ca link and social media links once they are live.

Best,
Armin

Armin Amrolia - Deputy City Manager (she/her)
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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

City of Vancouver
News release
August 29, 2025

Slow down and watch for students walking, biking, and rolling back to school next week

With school back in session next week, the City is reminding drivers to be careful and look out for children and other pedestrians walking, biking and rolling to and from school.

"Whether you're behind the wheel, on a bike, or walking, road safety is a shared responsibility. While it's important to exercise caution at all times of the year, the September return to school is a time to be extra vigilant," said Mayor Ken Sim. "Kids are excited to get back to class and see their

friends and teachers, and we want to make sure they get to school safely every day. Let's all do our part to keep school zones safe."

Pedestrian safety near schools

To help ensure areas around schools are a safe place to walk, bike and roll, drivers are reminded to:

- Budget extra time to safely travel during your commute.
- Follow all posted signs and adhere to 30 km/h and 40 km/h school slow zones.
- Respect the school's pick up and drop off designated areas and adhere to all no stopping signage.
- Consider parking a five-minute walk away and walking children to the school.
- Yield to pedestrians at intersections and remain stopped until pedestrians reach the other side of the curb.
- Respect all safety patrols around schools in Vancouver.
- Leave at least [one metre of space](#) when passing pedestrians, cyclists, and people using e-mobility devices.
- Yield to buses at bus stops who may be picking up or dropping off students. Under the BC Motor Vehicle Act, drivers must yield to TransLink vehicles when they give a signal or display the intention to re-enter the flow of traffic.

The City has a number of safety-focused programs to help support pedestrians and students throughout the school year, including:

School Slow Zones

To enhance safety for elementary students and encourage drivers to slow down around schools, [School Slow Zones](#) reduce vehicle speed limits to 40 km/h on arterial streets and 30 km/h on collector streets between 8 am and 5 pm on school days. Custom signs and road markings will be installed in early fall in 12 school zones covering 15 schools.

Walking School Bus

Designed to reduce congestion near schools, the [Walking School Bus program](#) is back for a fifth year. A Walking School Bus is a group of students who travel to and from school each day along a designated route, stopping along the way to pick up more students. Adult walk leaders accompany each group.

School Streets

The [School Streets](#) program keeps a block beside a school open for walking, biking, and rolling during designated hours on school days. During that time, motor vehicles are not permitted to drive along the block. School Streets are currently found at Lord Selkirk and General Gordon Elementary schools.

Walk Bike Roll Mini-Grant

The City offers Walk Bike Roll [mini-grants](#) of up to \$1,500 to elementary and secondary schools to encourage and promote students safely walking, biking or rolling to school. Applications open at the end of September.

Plan ahead for construction-related traffic impacts

Road work and construction continues throughout Vancouver during the back-to-school season with ongoing critical rehabilitation, renewal and development projects underway that will impact city streets. Here are some projects with significant traffic impacts underway this fall:

- [Drake St Upgrades](#): The final phase of work to install a new bike lane on Drake Street is now underway, with completion anticipated for spring 2026. Watch for intersection closures as work progresses from block to block between Granville Street and Pacific Boulevard, and at the Burrard Street intersection.
- [Granville Bridge south ramps rehabilitation project](#): Construction continues on the south end of the bridge, with phased ramp closures in place until summer 2026. This planned maintenance work on the ramps used to enter and exit the bridge on the south side includes concrete repairs, deck joint replacement, and bearing replacement work. Granville Connector [opened in July](#).
- [West 49th and Alberta sewer separation upgrades](#): W 49th Avenue and Ontario Street will remain closed until Winter 2025. Buses to Langara College remain operational with detours as necessary.
- Arbutus Ridge Water Main Replacement: Starting September, there will be single-lane traffic in each direction on Arbutus St from West 34th Avenue and West 35th Avenue with reduced speeds.
- [Metro Vancouver Columbia Street Sewer Repairs](#): Sewer repairs are ongoing until early 2026 with single-lane closures along West 2nd Avenue from Alberta Street to Columbia Street into September.
- [Broadway Subway](#): Construction continues on the Millennium Line SkyTrain extension, with some traffic pattern changes at the six station sites on Great Northern Way and Broadway.

To keep ahead of other traffic impacts happening across the city, visit vancouver.ca/roadahead for the latest updates on road closures and construction projects.

Resources

Drivers travelling in and around school zones or construction areas should plan ahead and expect delays.

- Use these [safety tips](#) when driving around school zones
- Take transit - [TransLink is boosting service](#) to 53 crowded routes which are used by more than 100,000 people every weekday.
- This includes the eight routes that provide bus service to post-secondary institutions like UBC and Langara College.
- Kids 12 and under [ride transit for free](#)
- Learn more [back-to-school transit tips](#)
- Follow all detours and abide by no parking signs in the area.
- Be considerate of local traffic and avoid short-cutting through residential streets that are not designed for high volumes of traffic.
- Allow for extra time to get to where you need to go and stay ahead of [road closures](#).
- Follow #VanTraffic or use our [traffic cameras](#) to check traffic conditions along your commute.
- Learn more about all of our [School Active Travel Programs](#) which encourages and promotes walking, biking, and rolling to school.

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