

From: ["van Dyk, Donny"](#)

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

Date: 3/4/2026 1:29:55 PM

Subject: Memo - 2026 School Streets Program - Spring Update

Attachments: Memo - 2026 School Streets Program – Spring Update.pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Lon LaClaire regarding the **2026 School Streets Program - Spring Update**. A short summary of the memo is as follows:

- The Spring School Streets Program begins May 11, 2026, and will run for two to four weeks at five elementary schools (Gordon Elementary, L'École Bilingue, Lord Strathcona Elementary, Nootka Elementary, and Hastings 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, or paid leaders at select equity-seeking schools, 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 three years (2025-2027) to pilot year-round School Streets models at two local elementary schools; Lord Selkirk Elementary in 2025-2026, and Hastings Elementary in 2026-2027.

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

Thanks,

Donny

Donny van Dyk (he/him)
City Manager
City of Vancouver

MEMORANDUM

March 4, 2026

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Donny van Dyk, City Manager
Armin Amrolia, Deputy City Manager
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
Sandra Singh, Deputy City Manager
Chris Freek, Director of Civic Engagement & Communications
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk
Teresa Jong, Administrative 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: 2026 School Streets Program – Spring 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](#) works 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 Vancouver at three elementary schools in 2021, and to date, 13 schools have participated. This popular program encourages more families to walk, bike, and roll to and from school, which helps improve safety during arrival and dismissal time. 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). Parent and community volunteers lead the day-to-day implementation of the School Streets. At select equity-seeking

schools, paid leaders have been hired to lead the implementation. All other blocks around each school (apart from the School Street) remain open to vehicle traffic.

Additional accessible parking spaces are added to accommodate parents and students with accessibility needs who arrive by 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.

2026 Spring School Streets Program

After applying to the program, five schools have been selected to participate in the Spring School Streets Program, which will run between May 11 to June 12, 2026, for a two- to-four-week period. There will be three returning schools (Gordon Elementary, L'Ecole Bilingue, and Lord Strathcona Elementary), one new school (Nootka Elementary), and one returning school from 2022 (Hastings Elementary). Both Hastings Elementary and Lord Strathcona Elementary will operate with paid leaders under the management of the [Society for Children and Youth of BC](#) (SCY), rather than parent volunteers, to help improve accessibility for these equity-seeking school communities.

Since 2022, staff have also collaborated with SCY to offer Play Streets at the School Street locations one afternoon a week. The program is designed to encourage safe, active outdoor play for children and families and to promote community connection.

In addition to participating in the spring program, Gordon Elementary also continues to implement its School Streets every Tuesday for the duration of the 2025-2026 school year.

National Active School Streets Initiative (NASSI)

The City continues to participate 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 a three-year period (2025-27), staff will work with two local schools in equity-seeking communities to test a year-round School Streets paid staff model pilot. The pilot project is delivered by paid staff under the management of the Society for Children and Youth of BC and will be evaluated by a research team led by Dr. Mariana Brussoni at the University of British Columbia. The grant is valued at \$100,000.

Lord Selkirk Elementary is the first school to participate in the NASSI pilot which is running from September 2025 to June 2026. Hastings Elementary has been confirmed as the second school to participate. Staff plan to run the year-round paid staff model pilot for the 2026-2027 school year, following the school's participation in the spring 2026 program.

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.

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
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