



Dr. George M. Weir Elementary

YEAR 2 FOLLOW-UP REPORT
SCHOOL ACTIVE TRAVEL PLANNING

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2012-13, Dr. George M. Weir Elementary School (Weir) participated in the City of Vancouver's School Active Travel Planning (SATP) program. This program is a partnership between the City and the Vancouver School Board and involves other local stakeholders including the Vancouver Police Department, Parking Enforcement, HUB, and HASTe. The SATP program directly supports the goals of the City of Vancouver's long-term transportation plan, Transportation 2040. The plan seeks a city-wide shift towards sustainable travel modes, with an overarching target of 2/3rd of all trips by 2040 to be made on foot, bike or transit. To support this, Transportation 2040 sets out a series of actions to achieve this target, including school-related actions:

1. Provide high quality walking and cycling routes to and from school
2. Educate and encourage active and safe travel to school

This report is the second document produced as part of the Dr. George M. Weir Elementary School Active Travel Planning (SATP) program. During Year 1 (2012-13), an initial report and an Action Plan (**Appendix A**) were developed to gather information and guide Weir's SATP process. During Year 2, the documents were updated to incorporate new information and to create this supplementary follow-up report.

School Travel Patterns

- Walking remained the most common mode share according to the in-class hands-up survey (46%) and family take-home survey (50%).
- In the survey, more parents reported walking part-way to the school, which eases traffic around the school and increases students' physical activity.

Transportation Challenges

The Year 1 travel plan identified the following transportation challenges in this area:

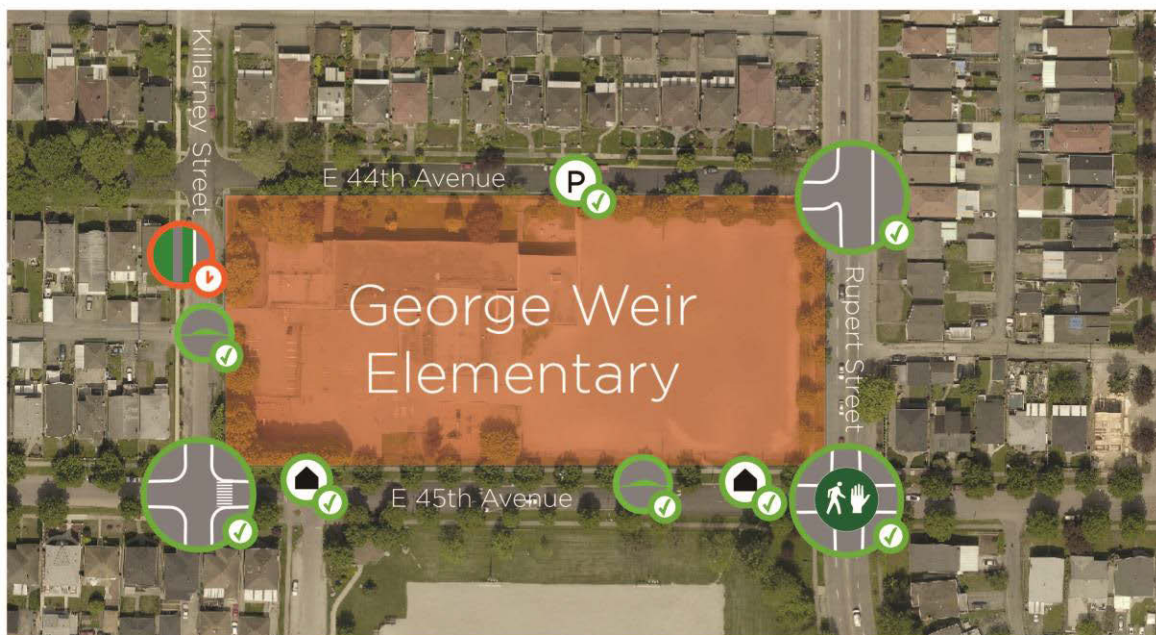
- Pedestrian and cycling intersection safety concerns on E 45th Avenue at Killarney Street and Rupert Street;
- Safety concerns at Killarney Street and E 45th Avenue related to vehicle speeds;
- Unsafe behavior in the school pick-up/drop-off zone (44th Avenue & Killarney); and
- Pedestrian visibility and comfort along Rupert Street and E 45th Avenue.

Key Action Items

To address the identified challenges and achieve the SATP goals, the City of Vancouver has completed or is planning the following infrastructure improvements around the school (to be complemented by ongoing education and monitoring programs) (see **Figure ES1**):

- On Killarney Street, install curb and gutter on east side to separate pedestrians and vehicles (Anticipated)
- On Killarney Street and E 45th Avenue, install speed humps for traffic calming (Complete)
- At E 44th Avenue and Rupert Street, install a curb bulge to increase pedestrian visibility (Complete)
- At E 45th Avenue and Killarney Street, painted zebra crossing to increase pedestrian visibility (Complete)
- At E 45th and Rupert Street, install countdown timer to improve pedestrian comfort (Complete)
- Modify parking signage on the north, south, east and west sides of the school to better mark the school zone and pick-up/drop-off zones (Complete)

Figure ES1 - Map of Infrastructure Improvements



Legend:

	Completed improvements		Intersection improvements		Pedestrian signal added
	Anticipated improvements		Signage improvements		Speed Humps

Parent Comments

- “The improvements are a great help to keep kids safe when they walk to school.”
- Parent
- “My son walks to and from the school every day. The thing that I always tell him is to walk at the same time as the other students so he feels safer than walking alone.”
- Parent of 11 year-old
- “He loves to walk to and from school.” - Parent of 9 year-old.
- “We live close to school so we walk in going to school. It’s good exercise to walk and more fun much more when snowing!” - Parent of 11 year-old