



Kerrisdale Elementary and Kerrisdale Annex

YEAR 1 INITIAL REPORT
SCHOOL ACTIVE TRAVEL PLAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Kerrisdale Elementary was one of five schools participating in the City of Vancouver 2014/2015 School Active Travel Program (SATP). This process seeks to improve the safety and comfort of walking and cycling to school, and to encourage more students and families to use active transportation modes to get to and from school. SATP directly supports the City of Vancouver Transportation 2040 policy and actions related to creating higher quality walking and cycling routes to schools.

The SATP process is community-based and involved members of the School Travel Planning Committee (Kerrisdale Principal and PAC) and the Municipal Steering Committee (including members from Vancouver School Board, City of Vancouver Engineering, City of Vancouver Parking Enforcement, Vancouver Police Department, and other advisory groups).

SATP Process

The School Travel Planning Committee, parents and students provided input into the SATP process through a site walkabout, take-home travel survey and in-class travel survey. From this information, transportation challenges and opportunities were identified. This report represents the initial year of the SATP program, and the action plan (**Appendix A**) is intended to guide all stakeholder actions until the follow-up report anticipated in Fall 2017.

School Travel Patterns

- The majority of families drive to or from school (approx. 46%). Many other families walk to or from school (approx. 41%)
- Of the families who drive to or from school, parents would allow their child to walk or cycle if they were older, not alone, and traffic was reduced

Transportation Challenges

- Pedestrian comfort and safety concerns at nearby school crosswalks
- Visibility concerns for the stop sign at Balaclava Street and W 43rd Avenue
- Concerns at nearby signalized intersections related to long crossing distances and not enough crossing time for pedestrians
- The lack of walking/cycling education and encouragement programs for students

Key Action Items

- Install flashing beacons at Blenheim Street and W 43rd Avenue to improve driver pedestrian visibility

- Upgrade the existing parallel lines to zebra markings at Blenheim Street and W 43rd Ave to improve visibility of the crosswalk
- Install curbs along Carnarvon Street on the school side between W 40th Avenue and W 41st Avenue
- “Stop sign ahead” sign to be added 30 m north of Balaclava Street and W 43rd Avenue for southbound vehicles to warn drivers of upcoming stop sign
- Increase pedestrian crossing times at signalized intersections, including W 41st Avenue and Carnarvon Street, W 41st Avenue and MacKenzie Street, W 41st Avenue and Larch Street and W 41st Avenue and Blenheim Street
- Develop best routes for walking and cycling to school map and distribute to Kerrisdale Elementary families

Figure ES1 - Proposed infrastructure upgrades



Legend:

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 Install flashing beacon to existing crosswalk
- 
 Install curbs
- 
 Install "Stop sign ahead" sign
- 
 Retiming pedestrian cross signal

Parents Comments

- "My children do walk and bike to school regularly. The only times they do not is when we are under severe time pressure or if it's particularly inclement weather. Our only issue is the high speed of traffic on Macdonald Street" - Parent of a 9 year-old boy
- "We probably walk, scooter or bike about 1/2 the time and drive the other 1/2. We have a part-time nanny who does not drive so walks rain or shine. When it is raining and parents are home, we usually drive. If nice out, we walk, bike or scooter. We drive more often when there are before or after school activities, differing start times or

large items to transport (e.g. musical instruments, projects)” - Parent of a 11 and 9 year-old

- “It is important for healthy mental and physical development of children to go walking to and from school as much as possible!” - Parent of a 9 year-old
- “We enjoy our walk to school as we meet loads of parents and other children along the way” - Parent of a 6 year-old
- “He likes to walk to and from his school with his friends! I think it is good for him physically and making good memories in his elementary years!” - Parent of a 12 year-old boy