



# Laura Secord Elementary

YEAR 1 INITIAL REPORT  
SCHOOL ACTIVE TRAVEL PLAN

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Laura Secord Elementary was one of four 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 (Laura Secord 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 in Fall 2017.

## **School Travel Patterns**

- The majority of families walk to or from school (approx. 57%). Many other families drive to or from school (approx. 30%)
- Of the families who drive to or from school, the parents would allow their child to walk or cycle if they were older, not alone, traffic was reduced, or safer routes were created

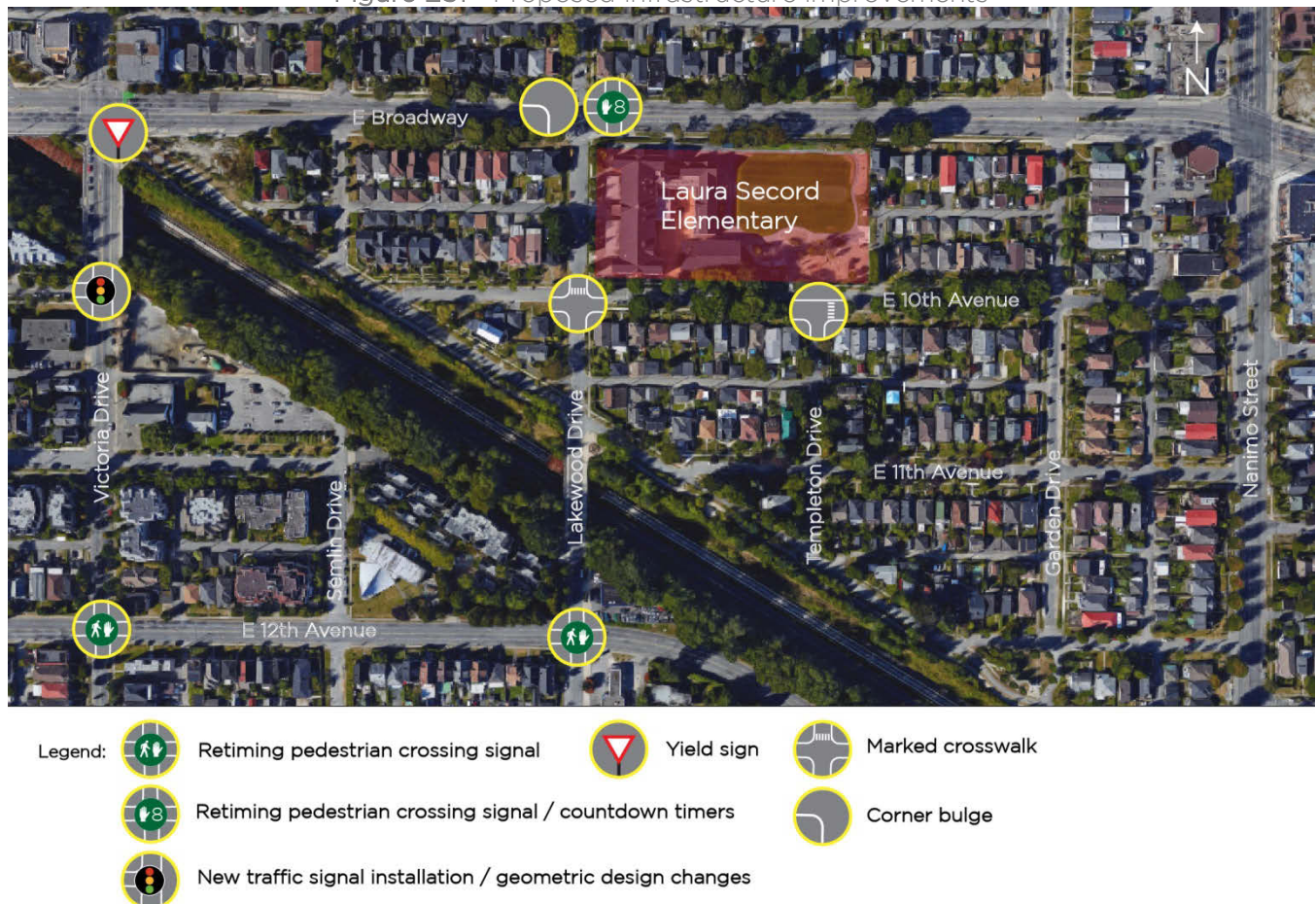
## **Transportation Challenges**

- The need for comfortable and safe crossing facilities around school intersections
- The need for better cycling and walking connections to the Central Valley Greenway at Lakewood Drive and at the intersection of E Broadway and Victoria Drive
- The lack of walking/cycling education and encouragement for students

## Key Action Items

- Install pedestrian countdown timers and a corner bulge on E Broadway & Lakewood Drive
- Install zebra-marked crosswalks at Lakewood Drive & E 10<sup>th</sup> Ave and at Templeton Street & E 10<sup>th</sup> Ave
- Install a “Turning Vehicles Yield to Bikes/Pedestrians” sign at Victoria Drive and E Broadway
- Increase pedestrian crossing times at signalized intersections, including E Broadway & Lakewood Drive, Lakewood & E 12th Avenue, Victoria Drive & 1st Avenue, and Victoria Drive & E 12th Avenue
- Install a new traffic signal at Victoria Drive and E 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue with corner bulges and refuge space for pedestrians/bicycles as part of the city’s 10<sup>th</sup> Ave Corridor Project
- Provide bike education training for students through HUB cycling
- Provide pedestrian safety presentations for students by the Vancouver Police Department
- Develop best routes for walking and cycling to school map and distribute to Laura Secord families

Figure ES1 - Proposed infrastructure improvements



## Parents Comments

- “Our son walks with a friend, who he talks to all the way to school. When they are older, they may walk to school together unaccompanied by adults” - Parent of a 8 and 6 year-old
- “My child also regularly bikes to and from school along the East 10th bike route depending on the weather. His journey on foot or bike is relatively safe except the block of E 10th by Safeway and the crosswalk/bike crossing at 10th Avenue & Victoria Drive” - Parent of a 6 year-old
- “My daughter cycles to school every day. Our concern mainly is crossing busy roads like Victoria Drive, Broadway and 12th Avenue. These streets have heavy traffic during school time” - Parent of a 6 year-old girl
- “She walks to and from school every day, and really enjoys the independence.” - Parent of a 12 year-old girl
- “We walk and bike fairly often when the weather is nice. When he is older he will be able to walk/bike alone. Walk/bike path along sky train line is great” Parent of a 5 year-old boy
- “They enjoy their independent walking on their own, but they feel unsafe when drivers don’t pay attention when they cross the busy street” - Parent of a 11 and 8 year-old