



# Lord Roberts Elementary

YEAR 1 INITIAL REPORT

SCHOOL ACTIVE TRAVEL PLAN

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Lord Roberts Elementary was one of four schools participating in the City of Vancouver 2015/2016 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 (Lord Roberts 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. 70%). Families that drive to or from school are approximately 19%
- Of the families who drive to or from school, the parents would allow their child to walk or cycle if they were not alone, older, lived closer, safer routes were created or traffic around school was reduced

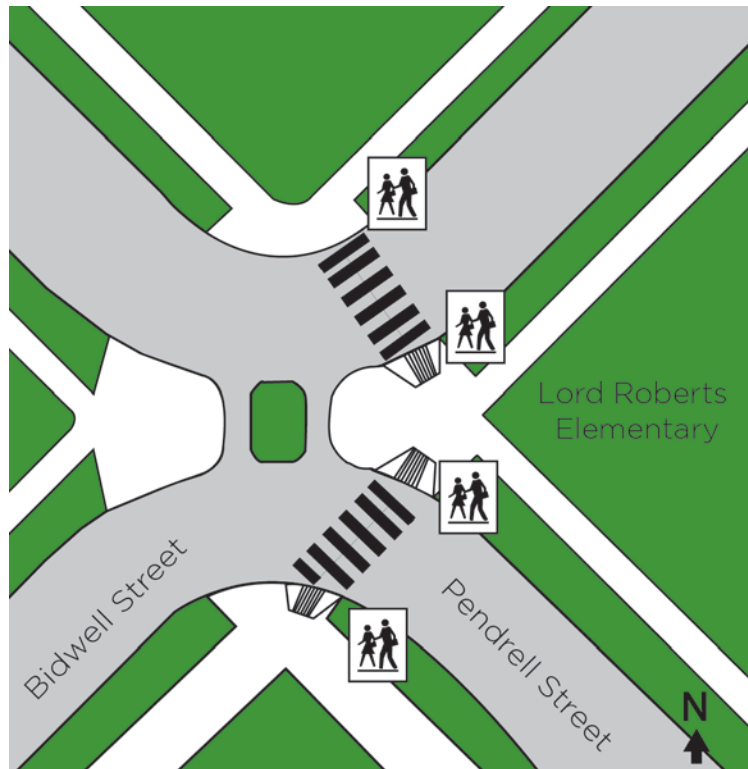
## **Transportation Challenges**

- Accessibility concerns at Bidwell Street and Pendrell Street, currently users with strollers or with mobility aids walk across the road, rather than using the existing sidewalk and curb ramps
- The need for comfortable and safe crossing facilities at Bidwell Street and Comox Street
- The lack of walking/cycling education and encouragement for students

## Key Actions

- Install zebra crosswalk at Bidwell Street and Comox Street
- Install zebra crosswalk at Bidwell Street and Pendrell Street to guide users with strollers or with mobility aids to cross where there are curb ramps present
- Provide bike education training for students through HUB cycling
- Provide Mobi Bike Share stations in close proximity of the school
- Provide pedestrian safety presentations for students by the Vancouver Police Department
- Develop best walking and cycling routes of school map and distribute to Lord Roberts families

Figure ES.1 - Proposed crosswalk design at Pendrell Street and Bidwell Street



## Parents Comments

- “My son feels safe walking to school and enjoy the independence, there are many families walking around 8:40 to 9AM to feel safe” – Parent of a 9 year-old boy
- “It builds my son’s responsibility to walk to school. He is learning to become independent” – Parent of a 11 year-old boy
- “My daughter goes to school with some friends who live on her way. She only needs to cross one busy intersection; the rest of her way is in quiet area” – Parent of a 12 year-old girl

- “We have created a walking school bus from our complex this year. It is working out really well” – Parent of a 8 and 13 year-old
- “My daughter has been walking to school by herself, since she was in Grade 6 and so far it has been no problem or she hasn’t told me any bad experience. I can say that it is safe in our neighbourhood” – Parent of a 12 year-old girl