



Florence Nightingale Elementary

Year 1 Initial Report

School Active Travel Planning

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1 School Active Travel Planning

In 2017, Florence Nightingale Elementary School (Nightingale) began the City of Vancouver's School Active Travel Planning (SATP) program. This program is a partnership between the City and the Vancouver School Board.

The SATP program encourages and promotes walking and cycling to school. The program's focus is to:

- Improve the safety and comfort of walking and cycling infrastructure around schools
- Increase education and awareness around active travel

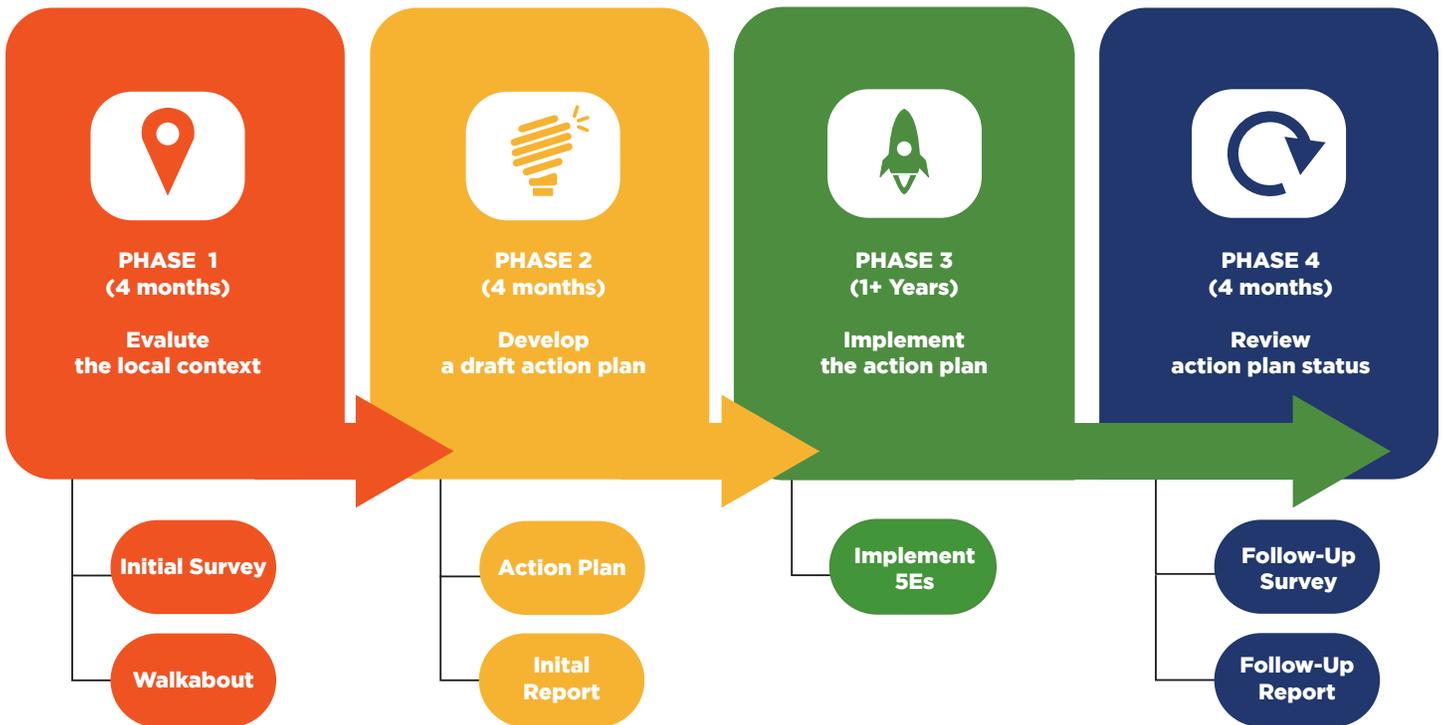
The program is supported by the City of Vancouver's long-range Transportation 2040 Plan which includes policies to support the encouragement, promotion and education of sustainable travel in school and to move towards zero traffic fatalities and serious injuries. Transportation 2040 also sets a target that at least two-thirds of all trips will be made by foot, bike, and transit.

The SATP program is a community-based model for implementing school travel planning. Known collectively as the 5E's, the program takes a comprehensive approach to support active and sustainable travel to and from school. The 5Es are:

- **Evaluation:** Collect information to understand context and monitor changes.
- **Engineering:** Improve infrastructure near the school.
- **Enforcement:** Increase compliance with traffic laws and parking regulations.
- **Education:** Change perceptions of active travel and support programs to improve safety and reduce conflicts between modes.
- **Encouragement:** Promote active travel as a fun, easy and exciting way to get to school.

The SATP process is defined by four phases of implementation over two to three years (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. School Active Travel Planning Process



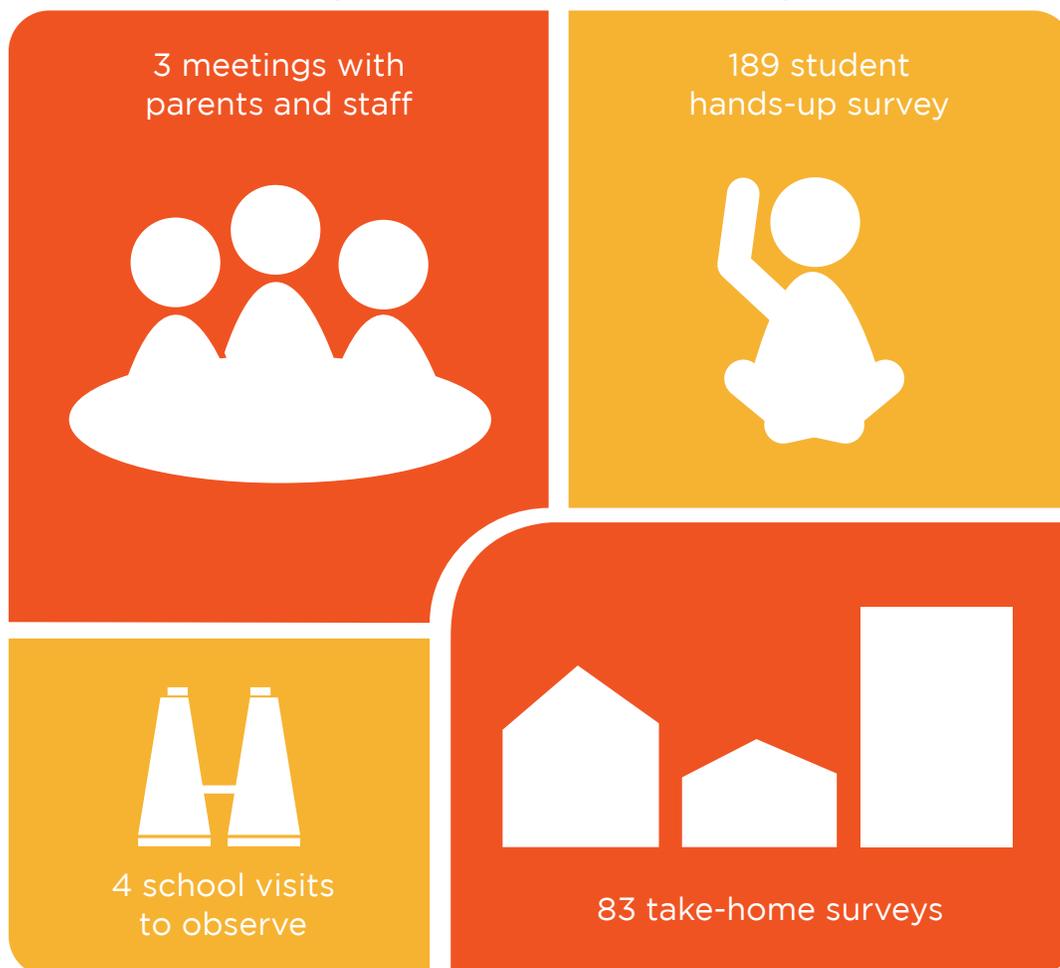
The City of Vancouver, the Vancouver School Board, the Principal and the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) are the key partners in this process. Other stakeholders may be involved in the program, such as the Vancouver Police Department (VPD), Insurance Corporation of B.C. (ICBC), Translink’s TravelSmart and other community organizers or agencies.

2 School Profile

Nightingale's current catchment area is bordered by Broadway to the north, St. Catherines Street to the east, E 17th Avenue. to the south and Main Street to the west (see map in Appendix B). In 2017, Nightingale had 224 enrolled students including a small district program. Fifteen different languages are spoken by students at home and the most common are Tagalog, English, Chinese and Vietnamese.

During phase 1 (October 2017-January 2018), City staff collected information and engaged with parents and school staff to learn about the school. Figure 2 summarizes the public engagement and data collection conducted in this phase.

Figure 2. Evaluation Summary



Currently, Nightingale is able to accommodate students from other catchments that are at capacity. This may extend the distance families must travel, depending on their location relative to the school. In take-home surveys, several parents felt this impacted their mode choice. Take-home surveys, visits to the school site and meetings with parents and staff helped generate a better understanding of the transportation challenges and opportunities at Nightingale.

Walking: Nightingale is bordered by three local streets and one major arterial street; all of which have sidewalks on both sides of the street. Students arrive at the school from every direction of the neighbourhood. Many students cross at least one arterial or secondary arterial (high volume street) to get to school. Improving crossings near the school was identified as an important concern. Additional concerns include:

- Comfort and visibility for families crossing at E 12th Avenue and St. George Street (and other nearby arterials including Main Street and Kingsway)
- Vehicle speeds and U-turns on E 11th Avenue at the Guelph Street and St. George Street intersections

Biking and Rolling (wheelchairs, skateboards and scooters): Nightingale is located near two local street bike routes - E 10th Avenue and St. George Street. Students who bike to the school typically arrived via these local routes. The only access to the school for those biking or rolling is from the driveway off E 12th Avenue. Families biking had the following concerns:

- Comfort and visibility at the intersection of E 12th Avenue. and St. George Street.
- Conflicts with pedestrians and vehicles along the E 10th Avenue. bike route
- Limited access points to the school grounds for those traveling by bike, wheelchair, scooter, etc.
- Limited secure bike parking

Taking Transit: The closest transit routes to the school are along Broadway, Kingsway and Main Street. A small number of students take a school bus for the district program.

Driving: Guelph Street and E 11th Avenue. are the primary pick-up and drop-off locations for the school. People driving to and from the school are encouraged to travel in a counter-clockwise direction to use designated pick-up and drop-off areas. Observations found this behaviour was not consistent. People doing U-turns at intersections near the school (as noted in the walking section) also add unnecessary chances for conflict and injury.

A school infrastructure map is included in the report to help students and families plan a comfortable and convenient route to school (see Appendix B) .

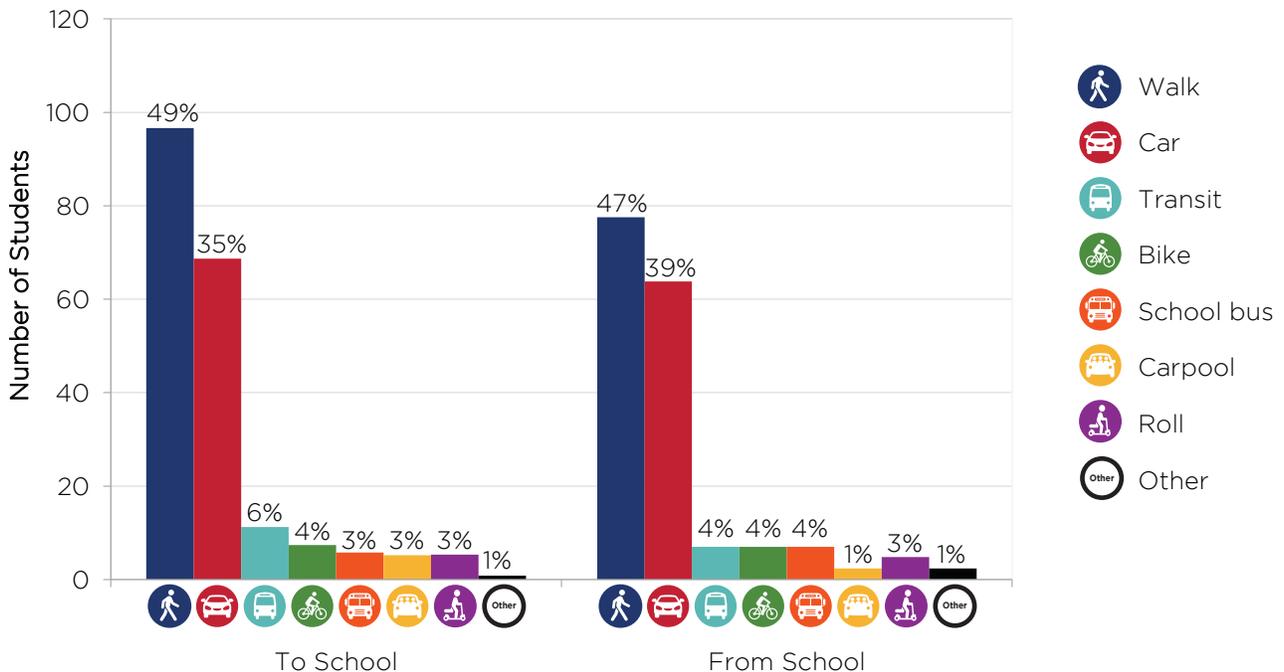
3 School Travel Patterns

During phase 1, an in-class hands-up survey and a take-home survey for parents were used to learn about how families travel to and from school. These surveys give every student and family a chance to provide feedback. The collection process is summarized in the table below and the survey questions can be found in Appendix C.

Hands-Up Survey	
Number of Divisions (Students Represented)	9 divisions (189 students)
Hands-Up Survey dates	October 2 - 6, 2017
Take-Home Survey	
Approximate Response Rate (Students Enrolled)	53% (of 224 students)
Number of Surveys (Students Represented)	83 surveys (118 students)
Take-Home Survey Dates	October 2 - 16, 2017

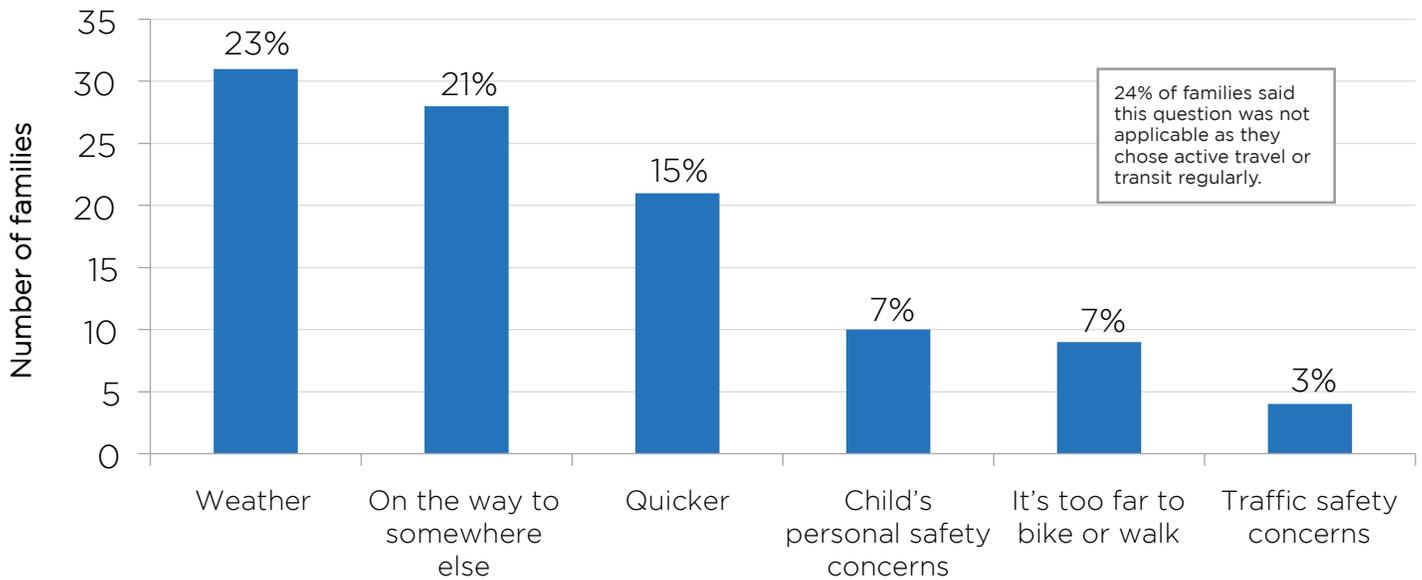
In the hands-up survey, 49% of students reported walking to school and 35% reported being driven (see Figure 3). Students also took transit (6%), biked (4%) or rolled (3%). Altogether, around 65% of families chose a sustainable mode to get to school.

Figure 3. Hands-Up Survey Mode Share Results



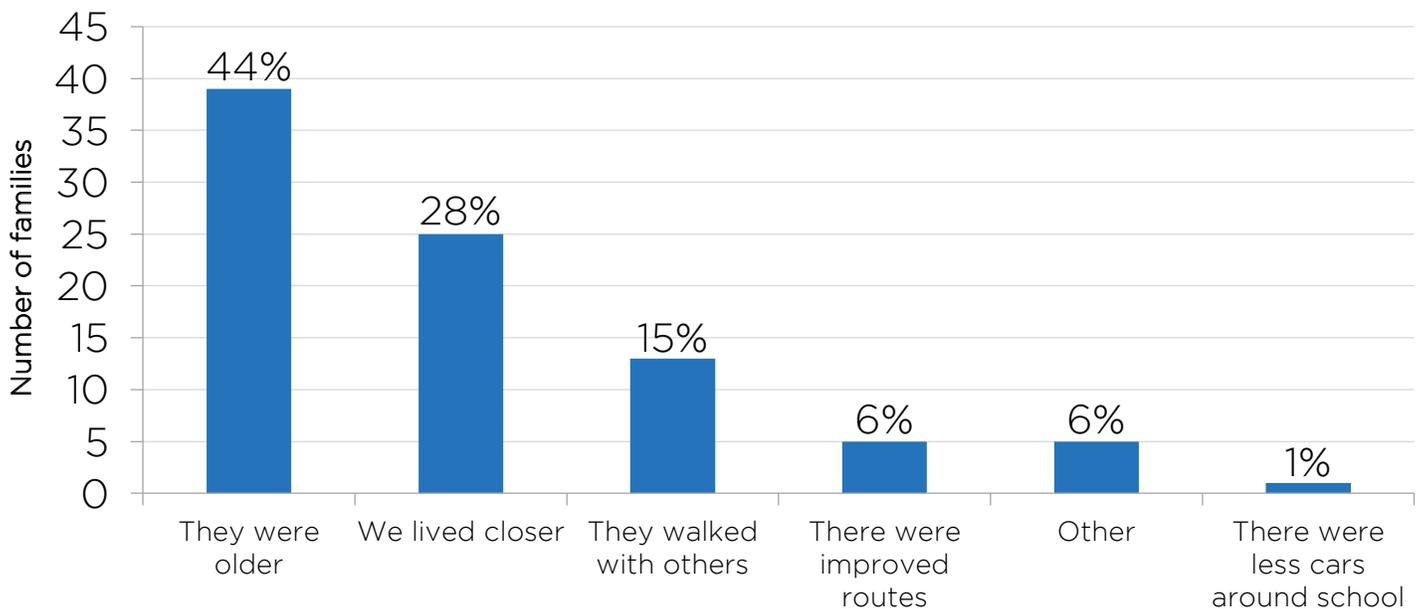
In the take-home survey, families reported on their travel patterns and barriers to active travel. The majority of parents reported that weather and convenience (“on the way to somewhere else” and “quicker”) were the primary reasons they drove (see Figure 4). Initiatives that target these issues, such as rainy day active travel promotion campaigns and group travel initiatives (like walking school buses) may be useful at the school.

Figure 4. Reasons for Driving



Group travel would likely help families who felt they would allow their youngest to walk if they were older or walked with others (see Figure 5). For families who want to live closer, biking may bridge the distance gap. walked regularly.

Figure 5. Parents Would Allow Youngest Child To Walk More if...

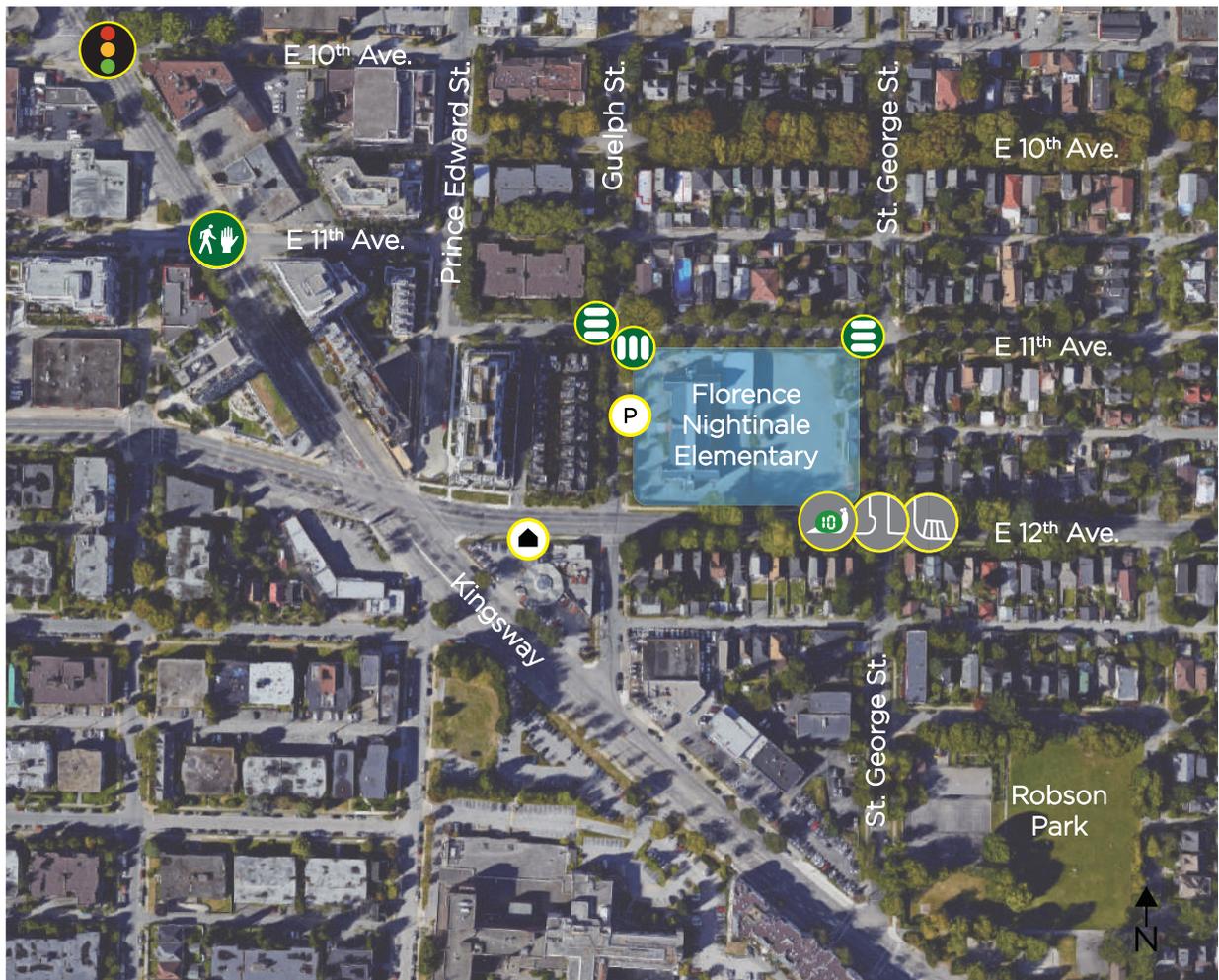


Additional survey results can be found in Appendix C.

4 Action Plan and Next Steps

An action plan for the school has been created through collaboration and consultation with the school administration, the PAC, VSB staff, City staff and other local stakeholders. This plan will guide the implementation of the 5Es in the coming years.. A summary of the infrastructure improvements can be found in the map below (Figure 6) and a detailed action plan and implementation can be found in Appendix A.

Figure 6. Proposed Infrastructure Improvements



Legend:

- | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---|------------------------|---|------------|---|------------------|
|  | Conversion to full signal |  | Increase crossing time |  | Curb ramps |  | Move school sign |
|  | Pedestrian-activated signal |  | Zebra crosswalk |  | Curb Bulge |  | Change parking |

These infrastructure improvements are targeted at areas where students are walking and biking. The improvements above:

- Create more comfortable facilities
- Increase the visibility of students using facilities
- Communicate clearly to students where they should cross

Beyond the scope of the action plan, the school community and City will continue to look for additional long-term opportunities:

- Improve visibility at St. George Street and E 12th Avenue
- Improve pedestrian comfort and access at Kingsway and E 12th Avenue
- Raise curb adjacent to the school on E 12th Avenue
- Provide improved walking and cycling connections at Main Street and E 11th Avenue

The City of Vancouver looks after action items related to evaluation and engineering. The City, the SATP partners and other organizations work together to provide the 3Es.

- **Enforcement:** VPD, ICBC and City of Vancouver Parking Enforcement
- **Education & Encouragement:** The school, PAC, VPD, ICBC, Translink, City of Vancouver and community organizations

Details of these actions are also provided in the Action Plan in Appendix A. Additional resources in the appendices include:

- **A transportation infrastructure map** for families planning their active travel routes to school (Appendix B).
- **A parking map** to promote safe pick-up and drop-off behaviour around the school (Appendix B).
- **Extended survey results** for use by the school community (Appendix C).

In phase 4, the City will lead another data collection process to measure the success of the initial action plan and as a check-in point to update the plan.

Appendices

Appendix A: Action Plan

Item	Details	Complete	Comments
City of Vancouver			
School Active Travel Planning Report	Initial Report	Summer 2018	
	Follow-Up Report	Anticipated 2020	
Hands-Up and Take-Home School Travel Surveys	Baseline Surveys	Fall 2017	
	Follow-Up Surveys	Anticipated 2019-2020	
Infrastructure Map	Map	Summer 2018	For distribution by school.
	Map Update	Anticipated 2020	
Parking Map	Map	Summer 2018	For distribution by school.
	Map Update	Anticipated 2020	
School Sign	Move school sign west on E 12 th Ave.	Anticipated Summer 2018	School sign moved to provide additional notice of school zone.
Print student-designed sign	Weather-proof sign will promote Nightingale as an active travel school.	Anticipated 2018-2019	Design and installation to be lead by school staff.
Guelph St. & E 11 th Ave. Improvements	Install zebra crosswalk markings on east and south legs of the diverted intersection	2019	Crosswalks improve pedestrian comfort and visibility.

Item	Details	Complete	Comments
St. George St. & E 11 th Ave. Improvements	Install zebra crosswalk markings on west leg	Anticipated 2019	Crosswalks improve pedestrian comfort and visibility.
	Install curb ramps on NW and SW corners	Anticipated 2019	Curb ramps improve accessibility and comfort.
	Repaint stop bar on south leg	May 2017	Done in anticipation of SATP process.
St. George St. & E 12 th Ave. Improvements	Improve geometric design for north leg of intersection and SE corner	Anticipated 2019-2020 (NE & SE improvements installed in 2018)	Shorten crossing distance and upgrade curb ramps. This will align cycling road space as well. Complete.
	Refresh crossing markings	Anticipated Summer 2018	Markings on arterials are refreshed regularly. Complete.
	Extend N-S crossing time	November 2017	Extended crossing time is in place 24 hours a day. Complete.
	Investigate pedestrian recall during pick-up and drop-off periods		A pedestrian recall activates the pedestrian-activated signal automatically on a regular cycle. Complete.
E 10 th Ave Corridor Improvements	Improve walking and cycling route between Main St. and Prince Edward St.	Anticipated 2018-2019	
Kingsway & E 10 th Ave. Signal	Upgrade to full signal with additional crossing markings	Anticipated 2018-2019	

Item	Details	Complete	Comments
Kingsway & E 11 th Ave. Signal	Install pedestrian-activated signal	Fall 2018	To improve connectivity and pedestrian comfort.
Kingsway & St. George St. Crossing	Investigated extending pedestrian crossing time from 1.2m/sec to 1.0/sec.	Jan 2018	Crossing time already at 1.0m/sec. Complete
Install Countdown Timers	Main St. and E 16 th Ave.	2018	Timers provide pedestrians with the amount of time left to complete their crossing. Complete.
	Fraser St. and E 10 th Ave.		
	Prince Albert St. and Broadway		
	St. Catherines St. and Broadway		
Parking Changes Near School	Install “No Stopping Anytime” signs in front of school for emergency vehicles	2019	Will improve visibility in front of school as well.
	Install “3 min parking” zone to either side of No Stopping zone for pick-up and drop-off		Monitor and review as needed. Replacing “No Parking” signs with “3 min parking” encourages safe pick-up behaviour.
Kingsway & E 12 th Ave Intersection	Look for opportunities to improve pedestrian connectivity.	Long-term	
Florence Nightingale Elementary School			
Organize Student-Designed Sign	Students will create sign promoting Nightingale as an active travel school.	Anticipated 2018-2019	City to provide dimensions and print weather-proof sign.
Active Travel Speakers	School to invite speakers educating students about active travel.	Anticipated 2018-2019	Speakers include VPD and TravelSmart

Item	Details	Complete	Comments
Regular Travel Event	Consider regular (weekly or monthly) active travel event or celebration	Ongoing	Examples include “Walking Wednesday” or “Fitness Friday”
Florence Nightingale Elementary Parent Advisory Council (PAC)			
Active Travel Weeks	Register for HUB’s Bike to School Week and Dash BC’s Walk and Wheel to School Week	Anticipated 2018 and ongoing	These annual events promote and encourage active travel.
Investigate Safety Patrollers	With VPD & BCAA, consider the feasibility of a safety patrol	Anticipated 2018-2019	To reduce conflicts between modes.
Vancouver School Board (VSB)			
Improve Infrastructure For Bicycle Parking	The VSB can support costs for installation of 2 additional bike racks if desired by the school	Timing depedant on school request	Principal to use the VSB maintenance system to log the request. Connect with Sustainability department to have the cost transfer arranged.
Vancouver Police Department (VPD)			
Pedestrian Safety Presentation	Present to students on walking safety	Anticipated 2018-2019	To encourage safe walking behaviour.
TravelSmart			
Present Transit 101	Present to grade 6 and 7 students on sustainable travel choices	Anticipated 2018-2019	To increase student’s awareness of active travel options in Vancouver.

Appendix B: Map Package

The following package is intended to provide all families at the school with the information to plan their route to school however they travel. Both maps can be sent home and posted within the school for review.

The infrastructure map (and accompanying back page) helps families make the best decision about their active travel route to school. The map of parking (and accompanying back page) near the school lays out the different types of parking available for parents.

Florence Nightingale Elementary ~ Active Travel & Infrastructure Map

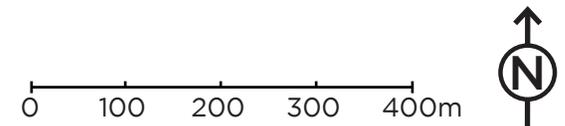


Safety Tips

Follow the rules of the road. Safe places to cross the street are at a stop sign, traffic or pedestrian signals or at a marked crosswalk.

Always make eye contact with others before crossing the street.

Traffic Circles - Cars or bikes should yield to the right and stop for people walking.



Disclaimer: This map is produced as a public resource for general information purposes only. The City, its employees, officers, directors and representatives do not guarantee the accuracy of the information contained therein nor warrant the safety of any route, highway, road, street, designated cycling route or other shown in the map information.

Active School Travel



Walking, cycling, and rolling benefits students, the community, and the environment.



Environment

Reduces car travel to school, in turn decreasing traffic congestion, greenhouse gas emissions, and air pollution.



Community

Creates opportunities to engage with neighbours and socialize on the way to and from school.



Student

Leads to healthier, happier and more alert learners through increased physical activity.



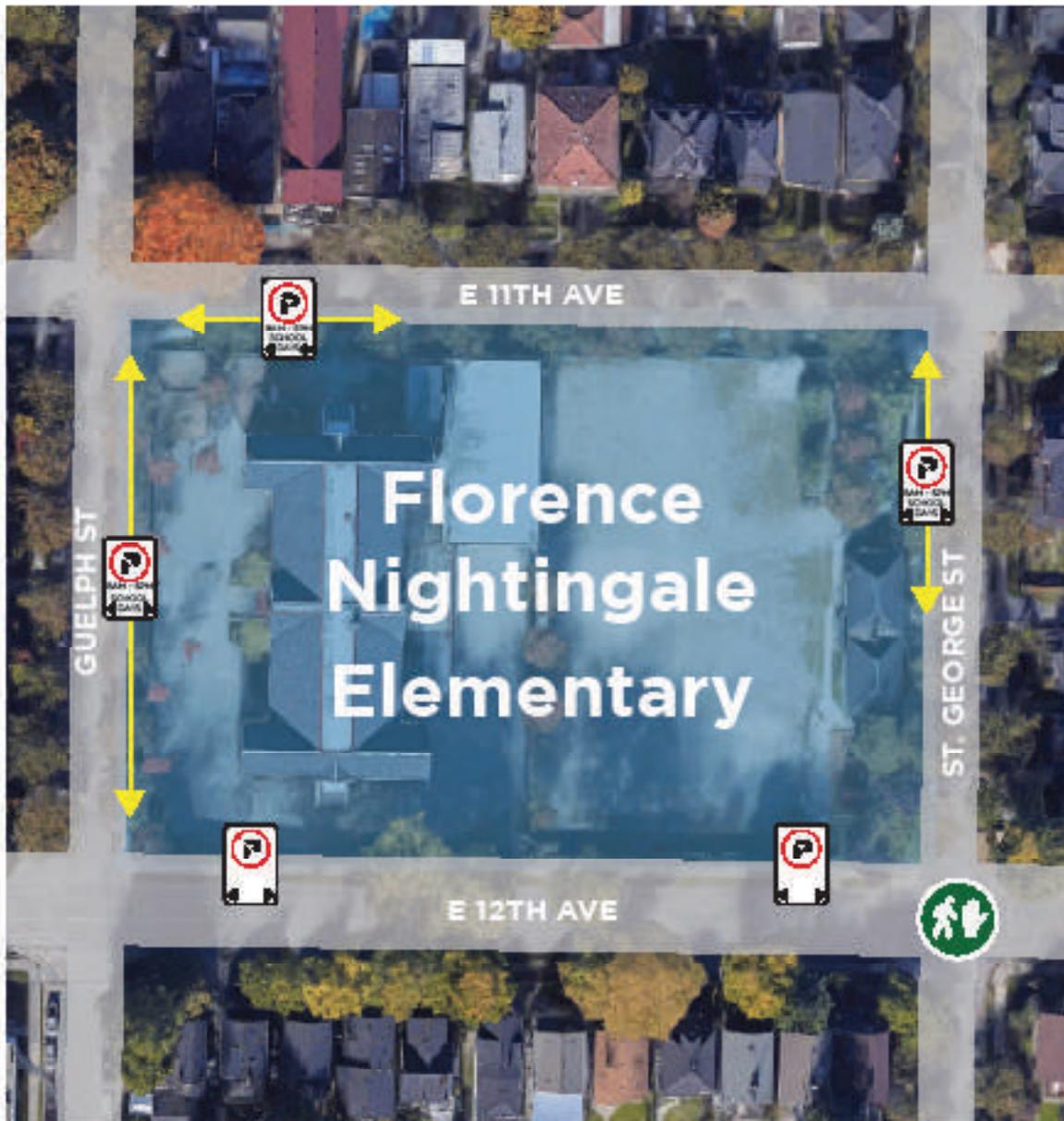
Health

Inspires active travel habits early in life that carry into adulthood.



Walk+Bike+Roll
Getting Around the
Vancouver Way

Florence Nightingale Elementary - Parking Map



LEGEND



No Parking (School Days)

Drivers may stop for no more than 5 mins to drop-off and pick-up. A legal parking spot should be found to wait longer or enter the school.



No Parking (Anytime)

Vehicles are not allowed to park here at anytime. This keeps sightlines clear and gives emergency vehicles somewhere to park.



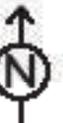
School Drop Off/Pick Up Zone



Pedestrian/Bike Signal

Support Active Transportation

Keep the area around your school a safe place to walk, cycle and roll by following the posted signs. If you are driving, consider the "Drive to Five" initiative. Park five minutes away and walk to school. It is an active way to start and end the day.



Walk+Bike+Roll Safety Tips

Keep the area around your school a safe place to walk, cycle and roll by following the posted signs. If you are driving, consider parking several blocks away and walking to the school. It's an active way to start and end the day.



School Crosswalk

Drivers must yield to pedestrians and remain stopped at every marked and unmarked intersection until they reach the other curb.



School Zone

This sign reminds drivers they are entering a school zone and they should be alert.



Speed Humps

Speed humps are installed to reduce the speed of traffic and calm the street. Slow down around the school.



School Zone Speed Limit

On local streets in the school zone, drivers need to slow down to 30 km/hr between 8 AM to 5 PM.



No Stopping (School days)

No vehicles are allowed here between 8 AM - 5 PM. This keeps sightlines clear and gives emergency vehicles somewhere to park.



Bus Zone

Only buses may park here.



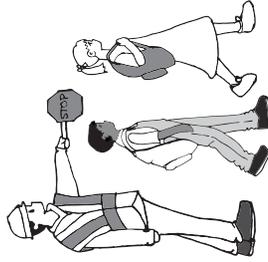
No Parking (School days)

Drivers may stop for no more than five minutes to drop-off and pick-up. A legal parking spot should be found to wait longer or enter the school.



3 Minute Parking (School days)

These spots are for quick pick-ups and drop-offs. Park and collect your child quickly to create a spot for another vehicle.



Safety Patrols

Patrols direct and help students at intersections near the school. Please respect all safety patrols around schools in Vancouver. Children are still learning the rules of the road and may not do as directed or expected. Be prepared to react.

Be mindful about how you travel on our city streets, sidewalks, paths and bike facilities.

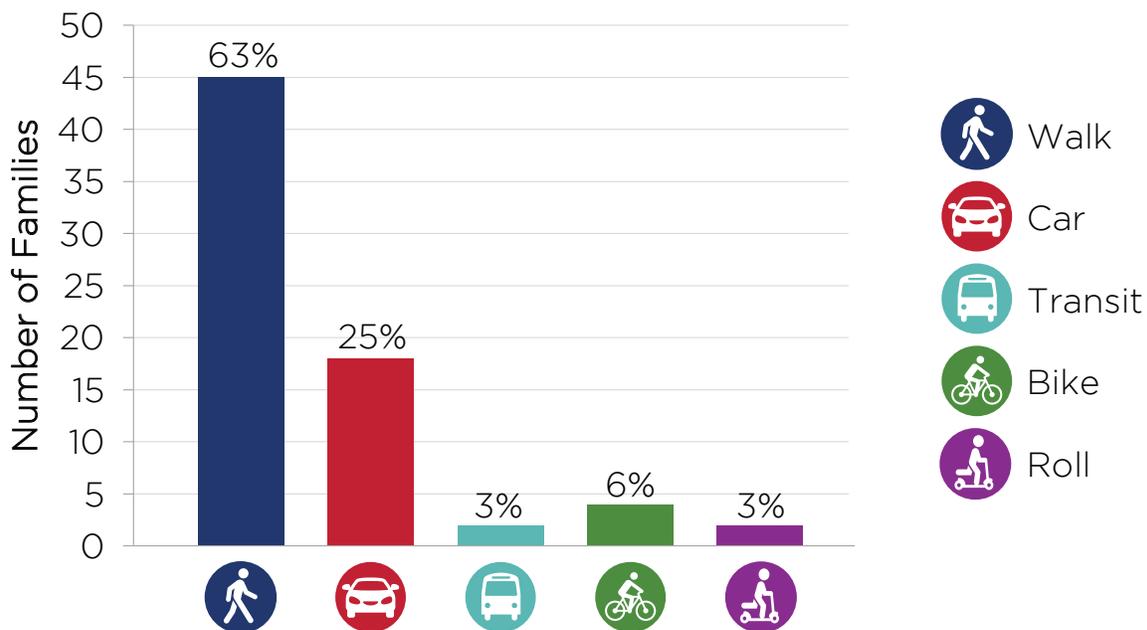
Learn more: vancouver.ca/streets-transportation/school-active-travel-planning.aspx

Appendix C: Surveys

Appendix C contains additional surveys results as well as the hands-up survey form distributed to classrooms and take-home survey distributed to families.

The results in the figures below are a continuation of those in Chapter 3. The surveys asked parents how their youngest child travels to school and their relationship with active travel. Comparing the hands-up survey (Figure 3 on page 7) with the take-home survey (Figure 7 below), active travel mode share is greater in the take-home survey results. This may be related to the difference in questions (“how did you travel to school” vs. “how does your youngest child *usually* travel to school”) however it is likely related to self selection for the survey. Families that choose active travel may be more likely to fill out a survey on active travel.

Figure 7. Take-Home Survey Mode Share Results



Families were also able to give details about how often their youngest child walks or bikes as well as how often these journeys take (Figure 8 to Figure 11). These results show the majority of students walking do so regularly (“almost everyday”) while the majority of students do not bike. However, there are a small percentage of students who walk (8%) and bike (18%) irregularly.

There may overlap in these numbers, but these are also groups who would benefit from encouragement and education initiatives to address their concerns (Figure 5 on page 8 and Figure 13 on page 24). They likely live within walking or biking distance and have the materials (bikes, helmets, comfortable shoes, etc.) to make the choice.

Figure 8. How Often Youngest Child Walks to School

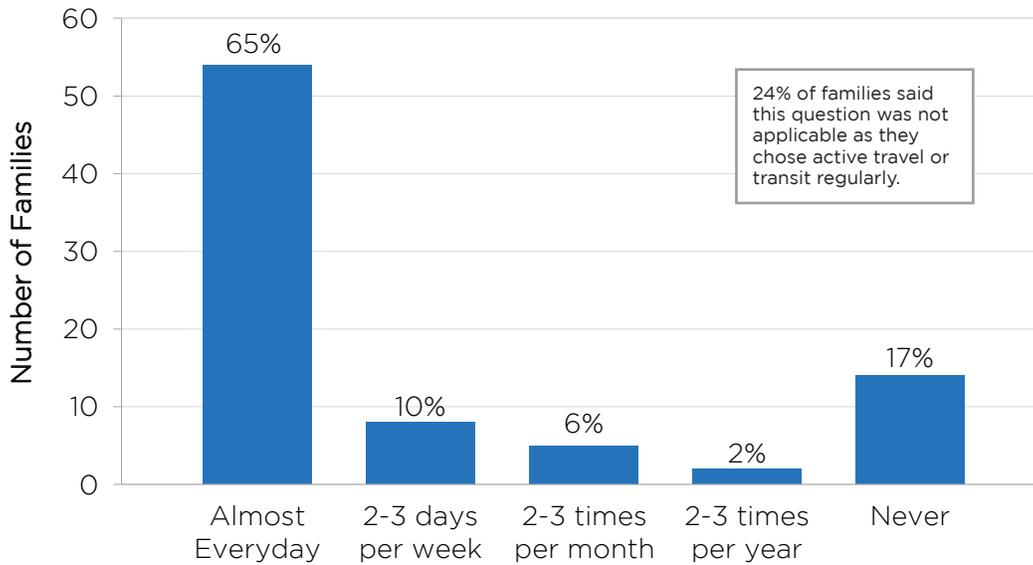
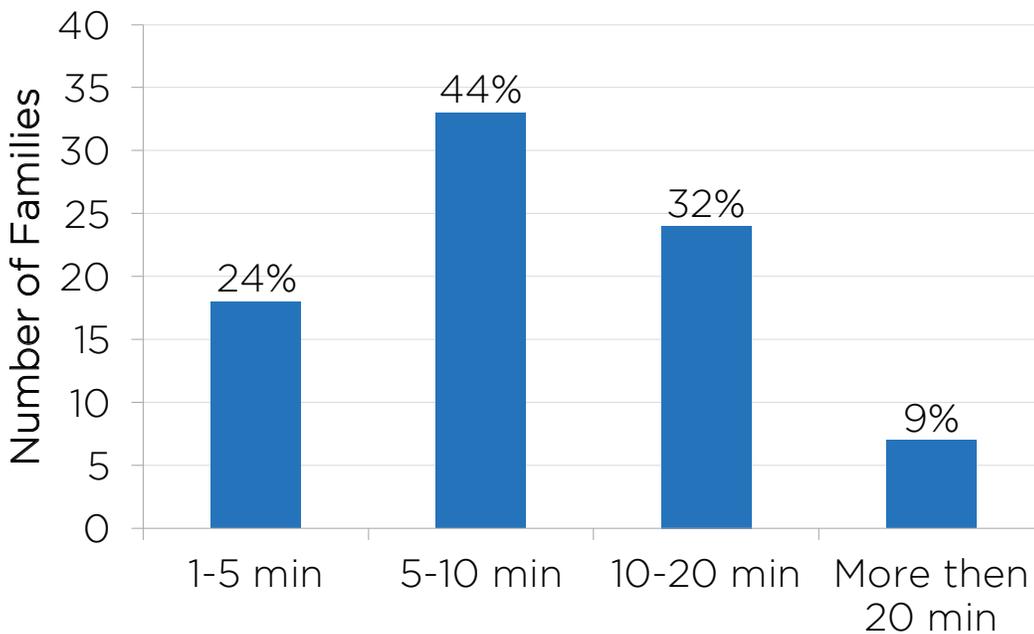


Figure 9. Length of Time for Youngest Child to Walk to School



Those who never walk or bike may also benefit from these initiatives, but may also benefit from initiatives encouraging multi-modal trips to school (or multi-modal commutes for parents) and dispelling myths on the time it takes to bike and walk.

At Nightgale, the majority of students represented in the survey (87%) travel with their parent or guardian (Figure 12). Initiatives should target messaging to these parents who filled out the survey and are likely to be the easiest to engage. There may be other adults (such as grandparents or before-school care staff) who may have other barriers but did not fill out the survey. Opportunities to identify these groups concerns may also increase active travel at Nightingale.

Figure 10. How Often Youngest Child Bikes to School

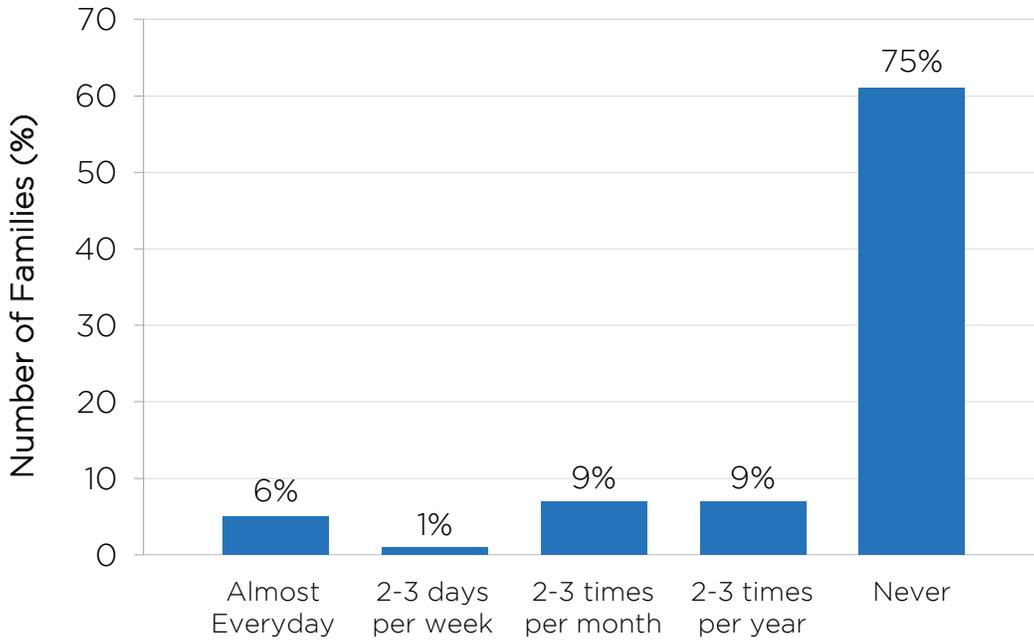


Figure 11. Length of Time for Youngest Child to Bike to School

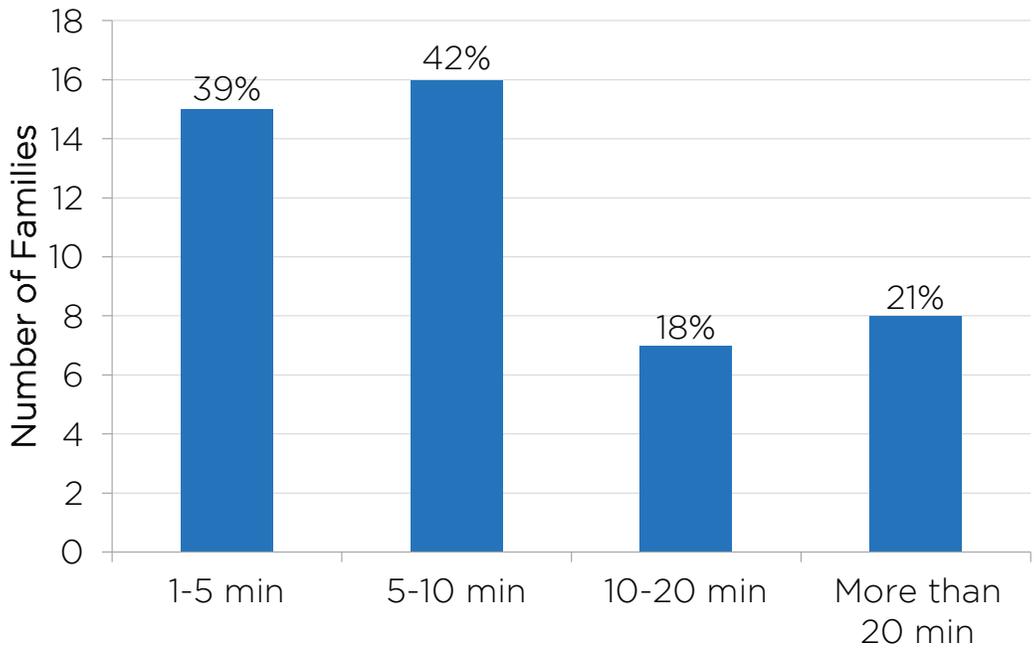


Figure 12. Who Youngest Student Travels to School With

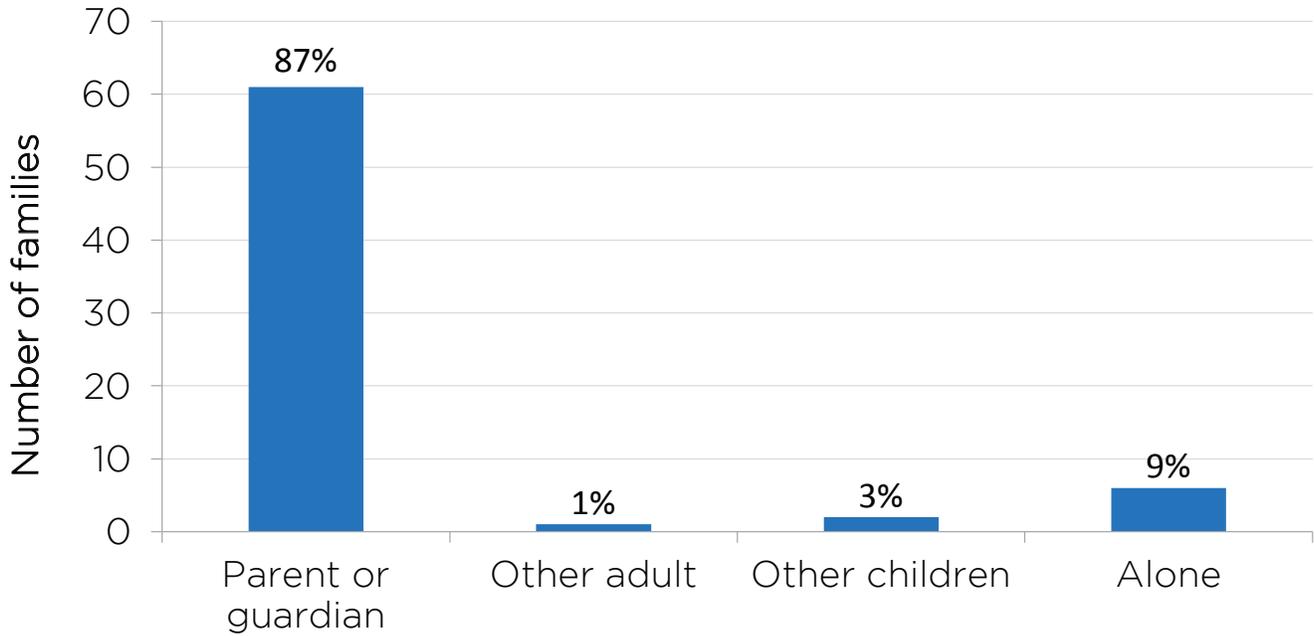
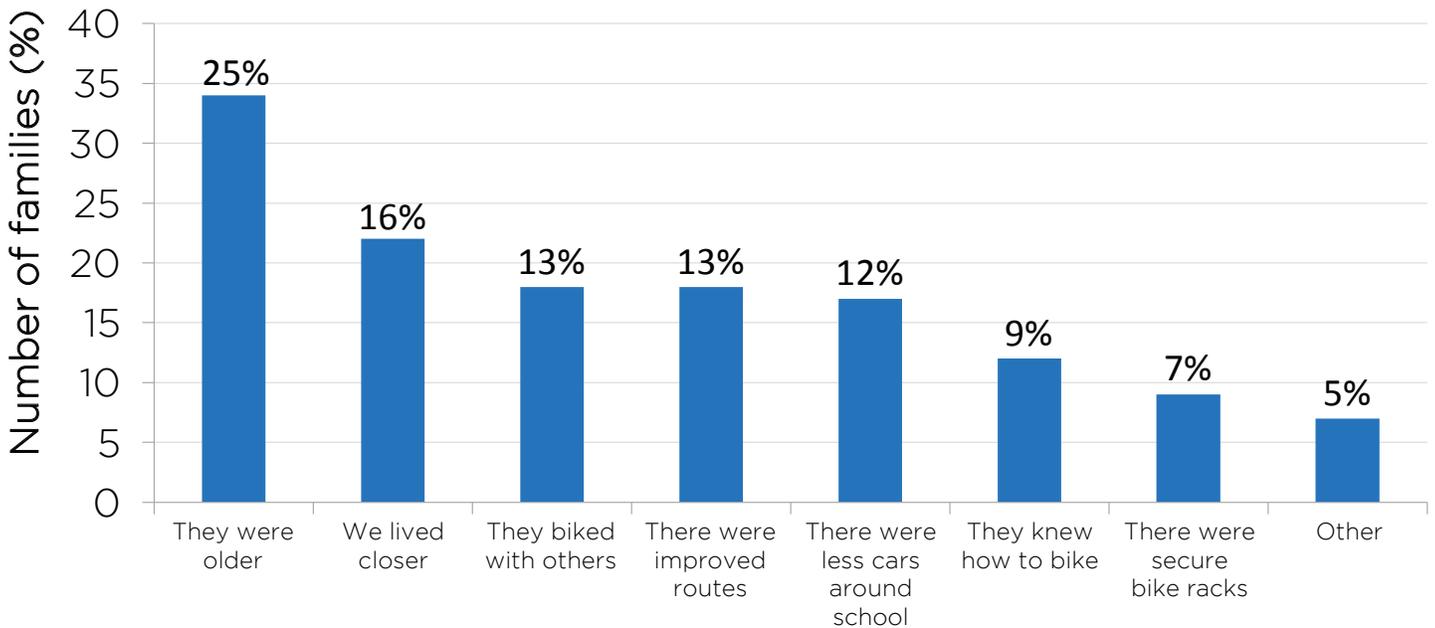


Figure 13. Parents would allow youngest child to bike more if...



Florence Nightingale Elementary School Classroom Transportation Survey



Please complete this survey by asking students to raise their hands for the week of:

Monday, October 2, 2017 to Friday, October 6, 2017

Teacher: _____ Grade _____ Division #: _____ # of Students: _____

“How did you travel to school this morning?”



	Walk	Bike	Roll	Transit	Car	Car-pool	School Bus	Other	Total
Mon									
Tues									
Wed									
Thurs									
Fri									
Total									

“How will you travel from school today?”



	Walk	Bike	Roll	Transit	Car	Car-pool	School Bus	Other	Total
Mon									
Tues									
Wed									
Thurs									
Fri									
Total									

Additional instructions:

- Ask students to report how they arrived and left the school grounds.
- The “Roll” category includes children who skateboard, scooter, rollerblade, etc.
- The “Carpool” category refers to a student who travels in a private vehicle with multiple children from different homes (i.e. not siblings).

If you or your students have any questions, please email: schoolactivetravel@vancouver.ca

Dear Florence Nightingale Parent:

Florence Nightingale is participating in the City of Vancouver's School Active Travel Planning program to encourage and promote walking and cycling to school. The program takes place over two years and includes several types of projects to address barriers to active travel:

- Gathering information from students and families about their travel choices
- Conducting a walkabout with City staff and the school community to identify school travel challenges and opportunities
- Consulting with stakeholders such as the Vancouver Police, Translink and HUB
- Creating a school travel action plan
- Upgrading transportation infrastructure near the school
- Promoting active travel education and awareness

Studies have shown that active travel has many benefits for students, the community, and the environment, including:

- Increasing physical activity among students, leading to healthier, happier, and more alert learners
- Creating opportunities to engage with neighbours and socialize on the way to school
- Reducing car travel to school, in turn decreasing traffic congestion, greenhouse gas emissions, and air pollution
- Inspiring active travel habits early in life to carry into adulthood

To learn more about the program, please visit

<http://vancouver.ca/streets-transportation/school-active-travel-planning.aspx>

Every family's feedback is important to the success of the program. Take 10 minutes to complete the attached survey and tell us about your family's travel choices. This information will help us create a school travel plan that considers the needs of the school's students and families.

Please return ONE survey per family with your youngest child by Monday, October 16, 2017.

If you have any questions about the survey or the School Active Travel Planning program, please contact our team at schoolactivetravel@vancouver.ca.

Thank you,

Liliana Quintero
Transportation Engineer
Engineering Services
City of Vancouver
schoolactivetravel@vancouver.ca



Florence Nightingale Elementary School Transportation Survey



This survey is part of the City of Vancouver's School Active Travel Planning program which seeks to improve the safety and comfort of walking and cycling to school. **Your input is vital** to the success of this program.

Div:

Please fill out **ONE survey per family** and return it with your youngest child by **Oct 16, 2017**

Tell us about your family...

1. How old are your children attending Florence Nightingale?

Child	Age
1	
2	
3	

2. What is your postal code?

Tell us about how your family travels...

3. How does your **youngest** child usually get **TO** school? (Choose one)

- Walk
- Bike
- Roll (e.g. skateboard, scooter)
- Bus or Skytrain
- Carpool (Your children & other children)
- Car (Your children only)
- Other:

4. How do you usually get to your daily activities?

- Walk
- Bike
- Roll (e.g. skateboard, scooter)
- Bus or Skytrain
- Carpool (Traveling with others to work)
- Car
- Other:

5. Who usually travels with your **youngest** child **TO** school?

- Parent/Guardian
- Other adult (e.g. grandparent, childcare worker)
- Other children (e.g. sibling, friends)
- Child travels alone

6. **If you usually drive your youngest child to school**, what are the **3 most** important reasons why?

- Weather
- It's on my way to somewhere else
- It's quicker
- I'm worried about traffic safety
- I'm worried about my child's personal safety (e.g. bullying, stranger danger)
- It's too far for my child to bike or walk
- Not applicable (We walk/bike/roll/transit regularly)
- Other:



7. How often does your **youngest** child walk **TO** school?

- Almost everyday
- 2-3 days per week
- 2-3 times per month
- 2-3 times per year
- Never

8. How long does it take your youngest child **to walk** to or from school?

- 1-5 minutes
- 6-10 minutes
- 11-20 minutes
- +20 minutes

9. I would allow my youngest child **to walk** to and from school more if:
(check the **3 most** important reasons)

- We lived closer
- They were older
- They walked with others
- There was an improved walking route (e.g. crosswalk improvements)
- There were less cars around the school during pick-up & drop-up
- Not applicable (we walk regularly)
- Other: _____

10. How often does your **youngest** child bike **TO** school?

- Almost everyday
- 2-3 days per week
- 2-3 times per month
- 2-3 times per year
- Never

11. How long does it take your youngest child **to bike** to or from school?

- 1-5 minutes
- 6-10 minutes
- 11-20 minutes
- +20 minutes

12. I would allow my youngest child **to bike** to and from school more if:
(check the **3 most** important reasons)

- We lived closer
- They were older
- They biked with others
- There was an improved biking route (e.g. bike lanes)
- There were less cars around the school during pick-up & drop-up
- There were secure bike racks
- They knew how to bike
- Not applicable (we bike regularly)
- Other: _____

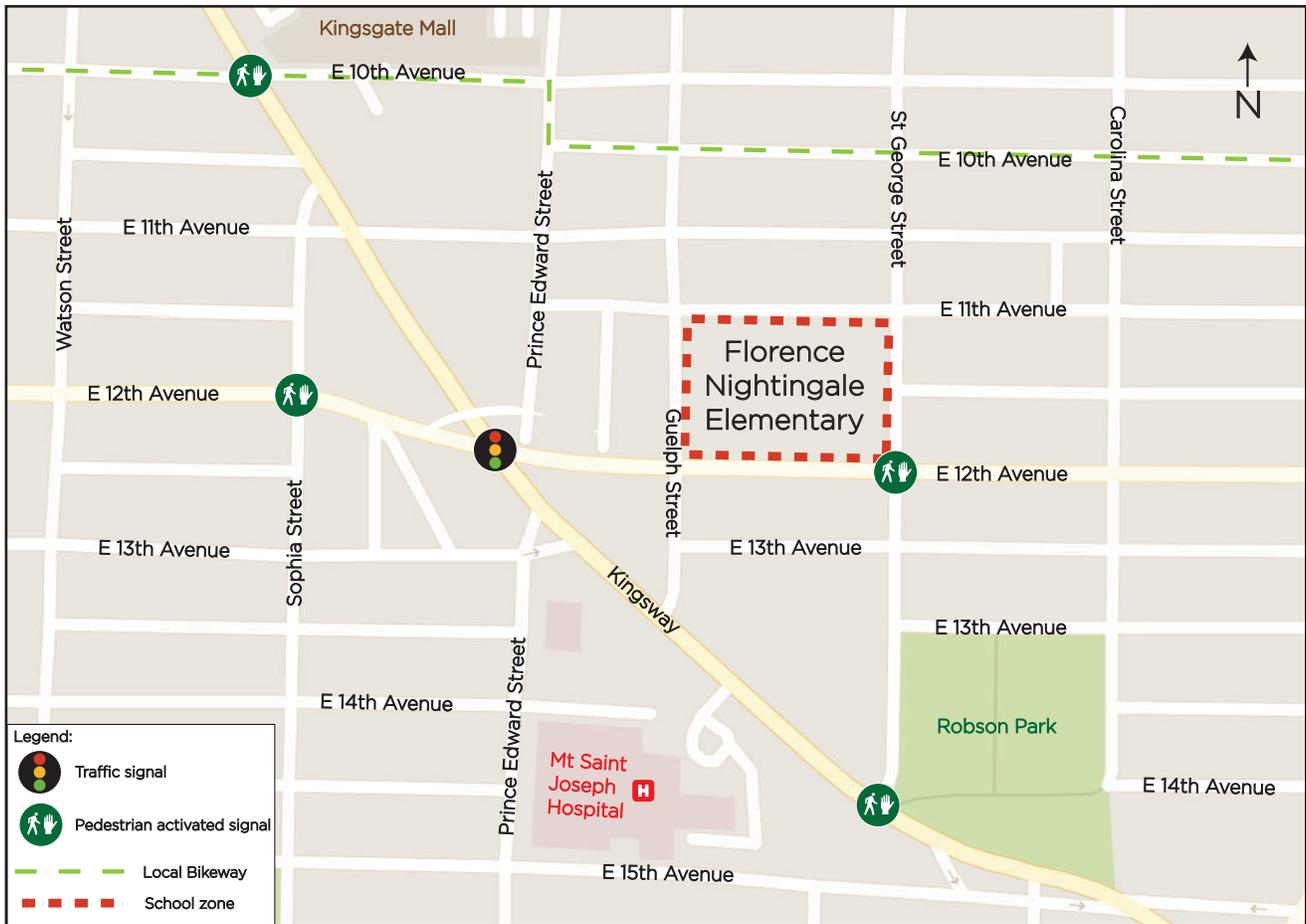
13. Do you have any other comments about your child's journey to school?

14. Please mark your usual walking or biking route to school on the map.

Circle whether this is a walking route or biking route



OR



15. If applicable, **circle and number up to two areas of concern** on the map. Describe these concerns below.

Concern	Description
1	
2	

More information about the City of Vancouver’s School Active Travel program is available at <http://vancouver.ca/streets-transportation/school-active-travel-planning.aspx>.

Your personal data and responses will remain confidential. Any personal information is collected in accordance to BC’s Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.