

# **Simon Fraser Elementary**

Year 1 Initial Report

**School Active Travel Planning** 

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In 2018, Simon Fraser Elementary (Simon Fraser) 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, cycling, and rolling to school. The program's focus is to:

- Improve the safety and comfort of walking, cycling, and rolling 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. This document 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).

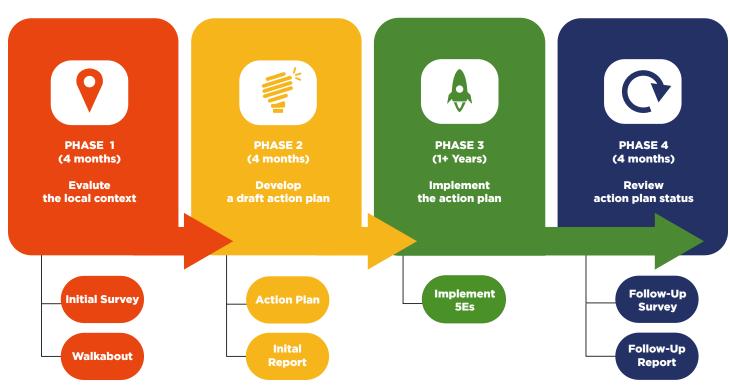


Figure 1. School Active Travel Planning Process

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. Please see Appendix A for each stakeholder's action item moving forward. Simon Fraser Elementary's current catchment areas is bordered by Main Street, 19th Avenue, Cambie Street, West 1st Avenue, and Athlete's Way (see Appendix B for map). In 2018, Fraser had approximately 327 enrolled students and 15 divisions. Students come from a variety of cultural backgrounds and socio-economic levels.

During phase 1 of the school program (September 2018, January 2019), City staff collected information from the Simon Fraser community to learn about the school. Figure 2 summarizes the public engagement and data collection conducted in this phase.





Take-home surveys, in class hands-up surveys, visits to the school site and meetings with parents and staff helped generate a better understanding of the transportation challenges and opportunities at Fraser

**Walking**: The neighbourhood around Simon Fraser is bordered by two local streets (W 15th Av and Columbia St) to the north and west, one arterial street (W 16th Av) to the south, and Mt Pleasant Park to the east. Students arrive at the school from every direction of the neighbourhood. Parents reported other barriers to walking including:

- Traffic failing to stop for pedestrians crossing W 16th Av at Manitoba St
- Parked cars blocking visibility
- Heavy traffic volumes along W 16th Av
- Cyclists speeds along Ontario St
- Vehicles turning left from Columbia St onto W 16th Av, even as the turn movement is banned

**Biking and Rolling (wheelchairs, skateboards and scooters)**: The closest bike routes around Simon Fraser are along Ontario St and Yukon St. The percentage of students that cycle or roll to or from school is about 3-4%. Many parents cited age and distance as a barrier for them to allow their child to cycle to school. Additional concerns included:

- Better bike routes with direct access to the school property
- Secure bike racks and scooter boxes
- Parents feeling uncomfortable allowing their child to cycle or roll to or from school alone

**Taking Transit**: The closest transit routes to the school are Main St, Cambie St, and W 16th Av. The closest station is Broadway City Hall. A low percentage of students (about 1%) take transit to or from school.

**Driving**: Pick up and drop off zones can be found along W 15 Av, Columbia St, W 16th Av. 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.

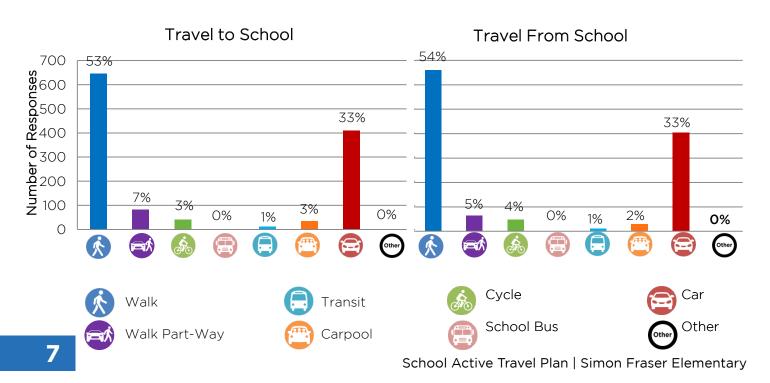
A school infrastructure map is included in the report to help students and families plan a comfortable and convenient route to school (see Appendix B).

During phase 1, of the program, an in-class hands-up survey and a take-home survey for parents were used to learn about families travel patterns. 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 (Student Trips)	15 out of 15 divisions participated (2, 441 Trips Recorded)				
Hands-Up Survey dates	October 15-18, 2018				
Take-Home Survey					
Approximate Response Rate (Students Enrolled)	36% (of 327 students)				
Number of Surveys	118 surveys				
Take-Home Survey Dates	October 15 - 26, 2018				

In the hands-up survey, an average of 54% of students reported walking to school and 33% reported being driven (see Figure 3). Students also carpooled (2% - 3%), cycled (3% - 4%), walked part-way (5% - 7%), and took transit (1%).





In the take-home survey, families reported on their travel patterns and barriers to active travel. The majority of parents reported that it was quicker and that they lived too far as reasons they drove (see Figure 4). Initiatives such as "Drive to Five" - driving five mins away and walking to school or then joining a walking school bus would encourage active travel.

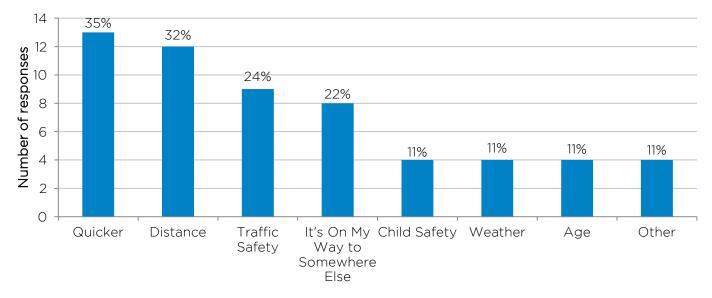
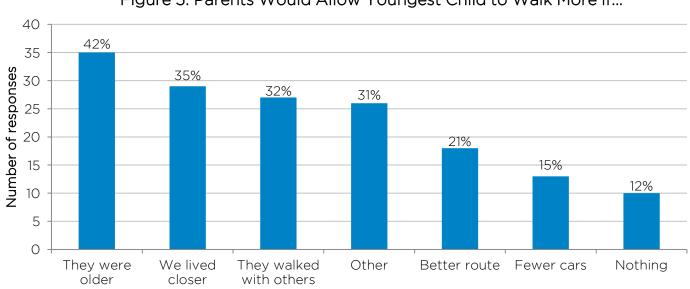


Figure 4. Reasons to Drive

Most parents expressed they would allow their child to walk more often to or from school if they were older or walked with others. 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.



# Figure 5. Parents Would Allow Youngest Child to Walk More if...

Additional survey results can be found in Appendix C.

School Active Travel Plan | Simon Fraser Elementary

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 Upgrades

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 continual educational resources to support school active travel such as:

- Partnering with award winning children's entertainers Will Stroet of Will's Jams and Charollette Diamond to inspire road behaviour through the following:
  - "Grandma On the Move" traffic safety song and music video
  - "Grandma On the Move" children activity book
  - School concert
- Collaborating with school adminstrators and the PAC to develop "active travel signage" designed by students to highlight their school as active travel zones
- Encourage school adminstrators to apply for the City of Vancouver's Walk +Bike + Roll mini grants to support active travel events such as "Bike to School Week" or "Walk to School Week"
- VPD pedestrian safety talks

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**

ltem	Details	Complete	Comments	
City of Vancouver				
School Active	Initial Report	Fall 2019		
Travel Planning Report	Follow-Up Report	Anticipated 2021		
Hands-Up and	Baseline Surveys	Fall 2018		
Take-Home School Travel Surveys	Follow-Up Surveys	Anticipated 2020-2021		
Infrastructure Man	Мар	Fall 2019	For distribution by school.	
Infrastructure Map	Map Update	Anticipated 2021		
Deuline Man	Мар	Fall 2019	For distribution by school.	
Parking Map	Map Update	Anticipated 2021		
Parking Changes	Install "3 min parking" zone on W 15th Ave	Anticipated Fall	Monitor and review as needed. Replacing. Parking changes	
Near School	Install "30 min parking" zone on Columbia St	2019	support safe pick-up and drop off behaviour.	

Item	Details	Complete	Comments	
Ontario St & W 16th Ave. Countdown Timer	Install countdown timer	Anticipated 2019	To improved safety and pedestrian comfort.	
Manitoba St & W 16th Ave. RRFB	Install Retangular Rapid Flashing Beacon	Completed 2018	To improve safety, visibility, and pedestrian comfort.	
Manitoba St & W 15th Ave. Crossing	Install raised crossing on west leg with drop down ramps	Anticipated 2020-2021	To improve connectivity, safety, and pedestrian comfort.	
W 15th Ave. Signage	Install speed hump warning signs for west and east bound traffic	Summer 2019		
W 15th Av &	Repaint stop bars	Anticipated	To improve connectivity, cafety	
Columbia St. Crossing	Install marked zebra crossing with curb bluges	Anticipated 2020-2021	To improve connectivity, safety, and pedestrian comfort.	
3100 Block of Columbia St. Speed Humps	Columbia St. Install speed humps		To discourage speeding and improve safety	
W 16th Av. Signage Relocate playground ahead warning sign for eastbound traffic half a block before Mt Pleasant Park			To discourage speeding and improve safety	
Print Student- Designed Sign Weather-proof sign will promote Simon Fraser as an active travel school.		Anticipated 2019-2020	Design and installation to be lead by school staff.	

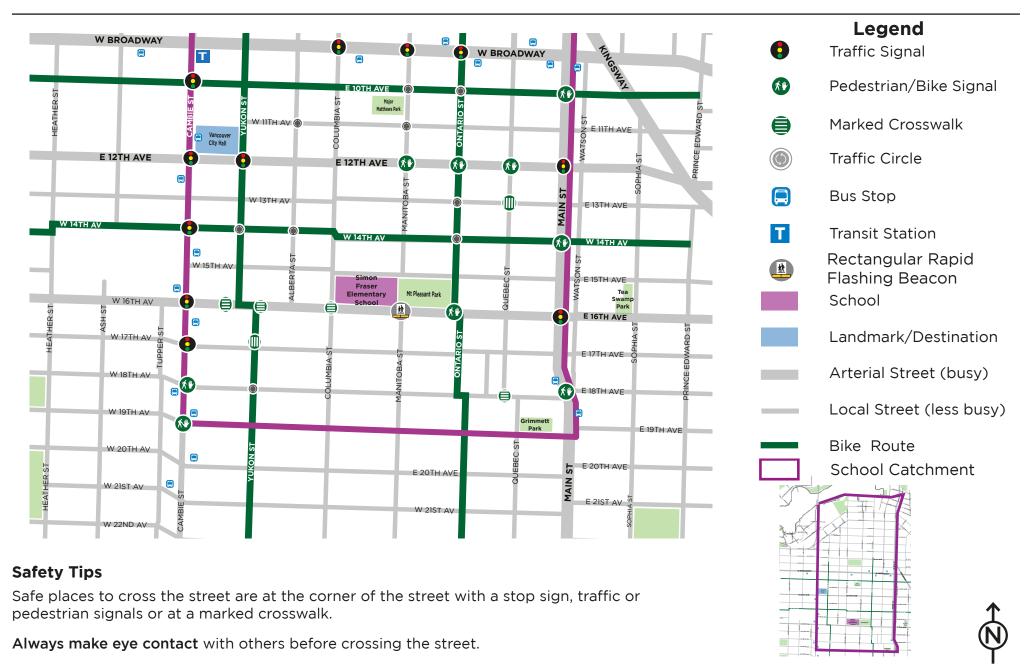
Item	Details	Complete	Comments
Traffic Safety	Commission JUNO-nominated children musician Will Stroet to write traffic safety song "Grandma on the Move" featuring Charlotte Diamond.	May 2010	
Campaign	Provide Children Activity Book (Online) - teaching road safety through a fun and child friendly experience	May 2019	
Enforcement. Parking Violations	Enforce any parking violations as requested by the school	Ongoing	To encourage safe pick up and drop off behaviours
Simon Fraser Elemer	ntary School		
Organize Student- Designed Sign	Students will create sign promoting Simon Fraser as an active travel school.	Anticipated 2019-2021	City to provide dimensions and print weather-proof sign.
Active Travel Speakers	School to invite speakers educating students about active travel.	Anticipated 2019-2021	Speakers include VPD and TravelSmart
Regular Travel EventConsider regular (weekly or monthly) active travel event or celebration		Ongoing	Examples include "Walking Wednesday" or "Fitness Friday"
Walking School Bus	Explore the feasbility of having a walking school bus	Ongoing	Walking school bus may include key intersection crossings or a walking route appropriate for student needs.

ltem	Details	Complete	Comments					
Simon Fraser Parent	Simon Fraser 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 2019 and ongoing	These annual events promote and encourage active travel.					
Walking School Bus	Explore the feasbility of having a walking school bus	Ongoing	Walking school bus may include key intersection crossings or a walking route appropriate for student needs.					
Vancouver School Bo	oard (VSB)							
ImproveThe VSB can support costs forInfrastructureinstallation of one additional bikeFor Bicycle andrack and one scooter parking box ifScooter Parkingdesired by the school		Timing dependant 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 De	partment (VPD)							
Pedestrian Safety Presentation			To encourage safe walking behaviour.					
Enforcement.Enforce any moving violations as requested by the school		Ongoing	To encourage safe pick up and drop off behaviours					
TravelSmart								
Present Transit 101 Present to grade 6 and 7 students on sustainable travel choices		Anticipated 2019-2020	To increase student's awareness of active travel options in Vancouver.					

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.

# Simon Fraser Elementary ~ Active Travel Infrastructure Map



Ó

100

200

300

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, it's 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.



September 2019

400m

# **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.



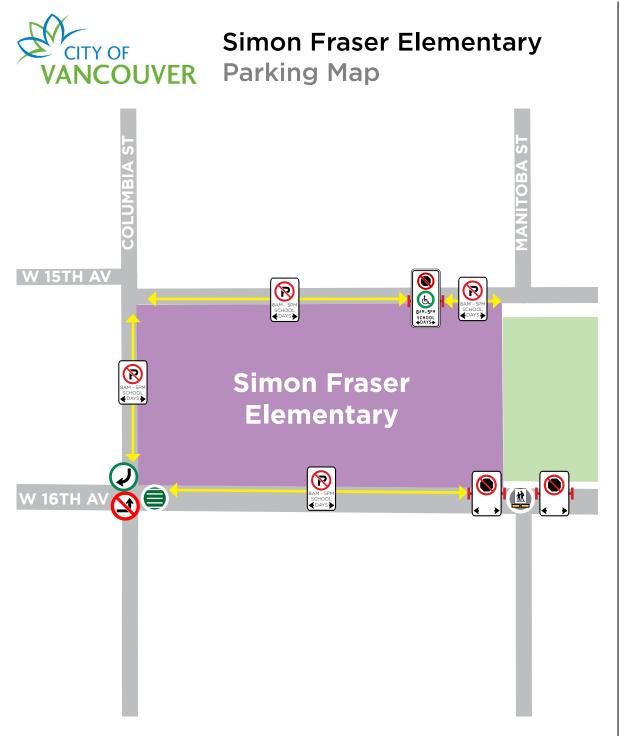
Health

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





Walk+Bike+Roll Getting Around the Vancouver Way



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### 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.



SCHOOL ◆DAYS→

### Accessible Parking (School Days)

Only vehicles displying a valid SPARC permit, HandyDarts, or hospital transportation vehicles may park within this zone.

### No Stopping (Anytime)

Vehicles cannot stop in a No Stopping zone for any reason, or any length of time. No Stopping signs without time limits are in effect at *all* times.

### → School Drop Off/Pick Up Zone

No Left Turns Left turns onto Columbia St are banned for eastbound traffic along W 16th Av. Rig Sou alo ma ont

**Right Turns Only** Southbound traffic along Columbia St may only turn right onto W 16th Av.

## **Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon**

High intensity amber flashing beacons installed at crosswalk, activated by a pedestrian pushbutton.

### **Marked Crosswalk**

Crosswalks are vulnerable areas where students are crossing. Drivers should not stop or park on crosswalks. Clearance signs (no stopping) mark the areas near crosswalks where stopping is prohibited.

### **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 mintues away and walk to school. It is an active way to start and end the day.

Sept 2019

# <u>Walk+Bike+Roll Safety Tips</u>

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. Keep the area around your school a safe place to walk, cycle and roll by



# Drivers must yield to School Crosswalk

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



# School Zone

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



# **Speed Humps**

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

8 AM - 5 PM

km/h

m



# 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.



# No Parking (School days)

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



# down to 30 km/hr between zone, drivers need to slow 8 AM to 5 PM.

On local streets in the school

**School Zone Speed Limit** 

# **Bus Zone**

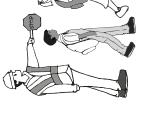
Only buses may park here.



# 3 Minute Parking (School days) and collect your child quickly pick-ups and drop-offs. Park These spots are for quick

to create a spot for another

vehicle.



# **Safety Patrols**

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

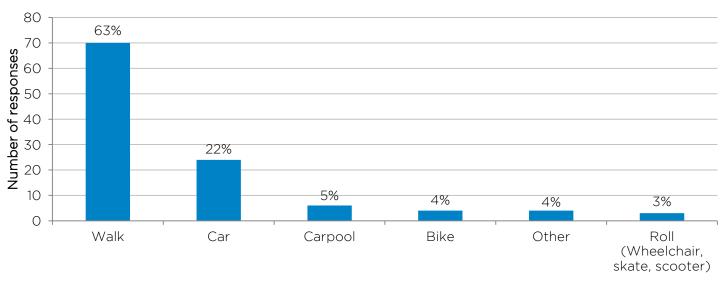
# Be mindful about how you travel on our city streets, sidewalks, paths and bike facilities. Learn more: vancouver.ca/streets-transportation/school-active-travel-planning.aspx





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

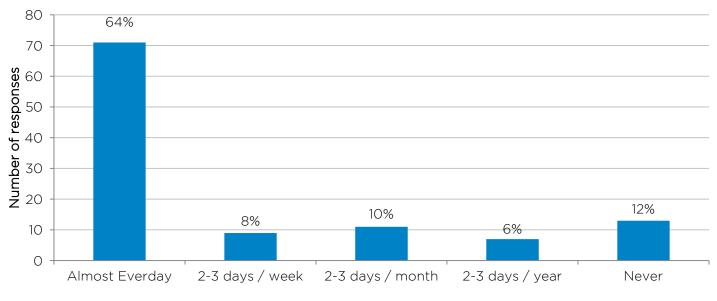
The results in the figures below are a continuation of those in Figure 3. The surveys asked parents how their youngest child travels to school and their relationship with active travel. Comparing the hands-up survey (Figure 3 on page 7) with the take-home survey (Figure 7 below), active travel mode share is greater in the take-home survey results. This may be related to the difference in wording in the survey 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.





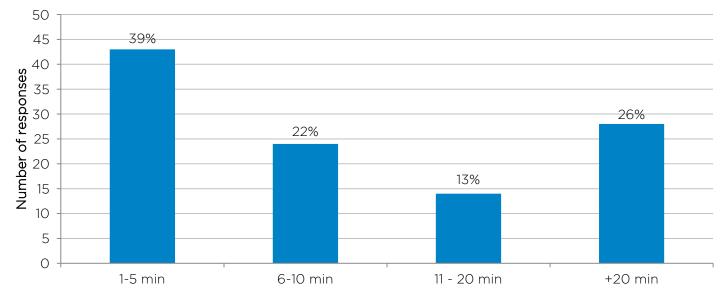
Families were also able to give details about how often their youngest child walks or bikes as well as how often these journeys take (Figure 8 to Figure 11). These results show the majority of students walk regularly ("almost everyday" and "2-3 days a week").

The majority of students do not cycle to or from school. Parents felt that they would allow their child to cycle more often to or from school if they were older, better cycling routes were available, and cycled with others (Figure 12). Participation in active travel events such as "Bike to School Week" may assist in promoting cycling as an active travel mode to or from school.

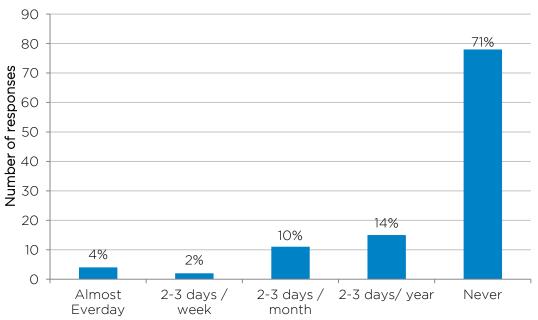


# Figure 8. Frequency of Walking Trips To / From School

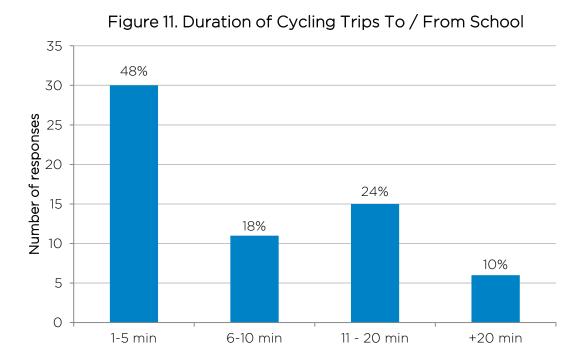
Figure 9. Duration of Walking Trips To / From School

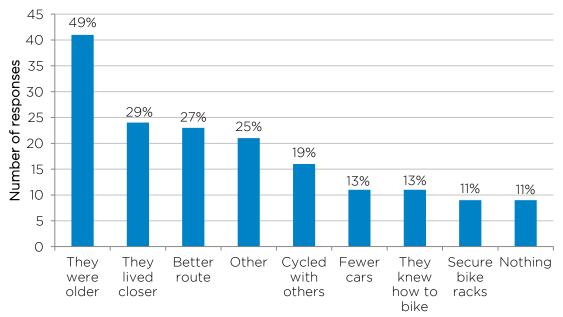


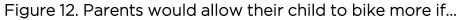
At Simon Fraser the majority of parents expressed interest in safety improvements to W 16th Av (Figure 13). This is largely due to the school community wanting more enforcement for the heavy traffic volumes especially during rush hours along W 16th Av. The City of Vancouver, school and VPD will work closely during the school year to monitor and enforce safe driving behaviours especially during pick up and drop off periods.











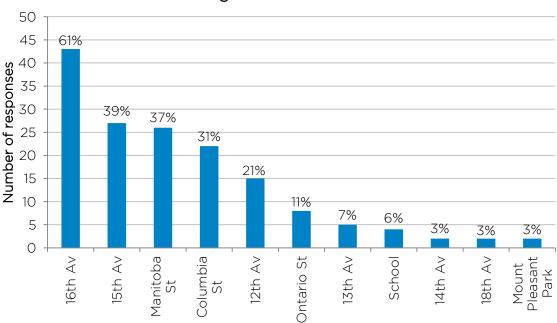


Figure 13. Areas of Concern

Simon Fraser Elementary School Classroom Transportation Survey



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

# Monday, Oct 15, 2017 to Thursday, Oct 18 2018

Teacher	:	Gra	ade:		Divisio	on #:	# of \$	Students:	
"How did you travel <u>to</u> school this morning?"									
	×	×	Ś					Other	
	Walk/ Scooter	Walk part-way¹	Bicycle	School Bus	Public Transit	Carpool <sup>2</sup>	Car <sup>3</sup>	Other	Total
Mon									
Tues									
Wed									
Thurs									

# "How will you travel *from* school today?"

	x A	Ŕ	Ś					Other	
	Walk/ Scooter	Walk part-way¹	Bicycle	School Bus	Public Transit	Carpool <sup>2</sup>	Car³	Other	Total
Mon									
Tues									
Wed									
Thurs									

- 1. Walked part-way = Walk at least one entire block
- 2. Carpool = 2 or more families together
- 3. Car = Just my family

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





This notice contains important information that may affect you. Please ask someone to translate it for you. ਇਸ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਵਿਚ ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਨ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਹੈ ਜੋ ਕਿ ਤੁਹਾਡੇ ਲਈ ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਹੋ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ। ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਦਾ ਉਲੱਬਾ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਆਖੋ।

此通告刊載有可能影響閣下的重要資 料。請找人為你翻譯。 Thông báo này có tin tức quan trọng có thể ảnh hưởng đến quý vị. Xin nhờ người phiên dịch hộ. Este aviso contiene información importante que puede afectarle personalmente. Pídale a alguien que se lo traduzca.

Ce document contient des renseignements importants qui pourraient vous concerner. Veuillez demander à quelqu'un de vous le traduire.

Dear Simon Fraser Elementary Parent:

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

- Gathering information from students and families about their travel choices.
- Creating a school travel action plan.
- Upgrading transportation infrastructure near the school.

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, reducing car travel to school, in turn decreasing traffic congestion, greenhouse gas emissions, and air pollution and inspiring active travel habits early in life to carry into adulthood.

To learn more about the program, please visit vancouver.ca/school-active-travel.

Your feedback is important to the success of the program. Please take 10 minutes to complete the survey found here:

survey.vancouver.ca/s3/School-Active-Travel-Simon-Fraser.

Please complete ONE survey per family by Friday, October 26, 2018.

If you have any questions about the survey or the School Active Travel Program, please contact our team at <u>schoolactivetravel@vancouver.ca</u>.

Thank you,

Liliana Quintero Transportation Engineer Engineering Services City of Vancouver <u>schoolactivetravel@vancouver.ca</u>



# School Active Transportation Planning 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, cycling, and rolling 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 26, 2018.

Tell us about your family...

1. How old are your children attending Simon Fraser School?

Child	Age	Child	Age
1		4	
2		5	
3		6	

- 2. What is your postal code?
- 3. Do you live in the school's catchment?
  - Yes
  - No

# Tell us about how your family travels...

- How does your **youngest** child usually get <u>TO</u> school? (Select one)
  - Walk
  - Bike
  - Roll (e.g. wheelchair, skateboard, scooter)
  - Bus or Skytrain
  - Carpool (Your children travelling with other children)
  - Car (Your children only)
  - Other:

- If you usually drive your youngest child <u>TO</u> school, what are the most important reasons why? (Select top three)
  - I'm worried about traffic safety (e.g. traffic volume, speed of vehicles)
  - I'm worried about my child's safety (e.g. being alone, getting lost)
  - It's too far for my child to walk, bike, or roll
  - □ It's quicker for me to drive them
  - It's on my way to somewhere else
  - □ Weather
  - My child is too young to travel to school by walking, cycling, or rolling
  - **D** Other:



Tell us about walking and biking to school...



- How often does your youngest child walk <u>TO</u> school?
  - Almost everyday
  - 2-3 days per week
  - 2-3 times per month
  - 2-3 times per year
  - Never
- How long does it take your youngest child <u>TO</u> walk to or from school?
  - 1-5 minutes
  - **G** 6-10 minutes
  - 11-20 minutes
  - +20 minutes
- 8. I would allow my **youngest** child **to walk** to and from school more if (Select top three)
  - We lived closer
  - □ They were older
  - □ They walk with others
  - There was a better walking route
  - There were fewer cars around the school during pick-up & drop-off
  - Nothing I can think of would make a difference
  - Other



- How often does your youngest child bike <u>TO</u> school?
  - Almost everyday
  - 2-3 days per week
  - 2-3 times per month
  - 2-3 times per year
  - Never
- 10. How long does it take your **youngest** child **TO bike** to or from school?
  - 1-5 minutes
  - **G** 6-10 minutes
  - 11-20 minutes
  - +20 minutes
- I would allow my **youngest** child **to bike** to and from school more if (Select top three)
  - We lived closer
  - □ They were older
  - They cycle with others
  - □ There was a better biking route
  - There were fewer cars around the school during pick-up & drop-off
  - There were secure bike racks
  - They knew how to bike
  - Nothing I can think of would make a difference
  - Other





Here is a map of your child's school and surrounding area



12. Please tell us about one or two areas, if any, you are concerned about near the school.

Location	Concern
1	
2	

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



Thank you for completing this survey!

More information about the City of Vancouver's School Active Travel Program is available on our website at vancouver.ca/school-active-travel.

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.



