



# Southlands Elementary

YEAR 1 INITIAL REPORT

SCHOOL ACTIVE TRAVEL PLAN

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Southlands Elementary was one of five schools participating in the City of Vancouver 2014/2015 School Active Travel Program Planning (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 (Southlands 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 provide 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 Transportation Patterns

- The majority of families drive to or from school (approx. 47%). Families that walk to or from school represent approximately 37%
- Of the families who drive to or from school, parents reported they would allow their child to walk or cycle more if they were not alone, older, or traffic was reduced

## Transportation Challenges

- The need for comfortable and safe walking infrastructure on the north side of SW Marine Drive at Camosun street
- Speeding concerns on Camosun Street in front of the school
- The lack of walking/cycling education and encouragement programs for students

## Key Actions

- Install speed humps on Camosun Street in front of the school between W 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue and W 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue

- Install curb and sidewalk on the north side of SW Marine Drive, west of the intersection with Camosun Street and east of the bus stop
- Increase pedestrian crossing times at SW Marine Drive and Crown Street signal
- Relocate and paint the bollards located on Camosun Street and SW Marine Drive at the entrance of Pacific Spirit Regional Park
- Provide bike education training for students through HUB cycling
- Develop best routes for walking and cycling to school map, and distribute to Southlands families

Figure ES1 - Proposed infrastructure improvements



Parents Comments

- “I applaud this effort. We walk to school every morning or child is walked to “school bus kids club”. Due to our work schedules one parent has to pick up child by car after school” - Parent of a 5 year-old
- “Walking to school is always enjoyed and we are all in better spirits when we do. Weather plays a big role in whether we drive or walk. Many complaints about the walk home (uphill), but when we do, they are still better off than when we drive - a good

cooling off, debriefing part of the day. We have noticed that the speeding along Camosun Street seems to have slowed down a bit and not as much traffic since the Southlands program started” - Parent of a 9 year-old

- “My child usually walks to school but is picked up in a car by a parent on their way home from work, which then goes to pick up another child immediately following. If we had extra resources and no time constraints related to picking up children at other destinations, our son would also walk home” - Parent of a 7 year-old

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