

Walk Bike Roll Mini Grants Featured Projects

The City of Vancouver distributes annual Walk Bike Roll Mini Grants to Vancouver public elementary and secondary schools through the School Active Travel Program in partnership with the Vancouver School Board. Grants support projects and activities that encourage and promote students walking, biking, or rolling to school.

This guide highlights examples of successful school grant projects to help inspire active travel champions. Schools are encouraged to get creative with their projects! For more information about grant guidelines please visit www.vancouver.ca/WBR-mini-grants.

Walk Bike and Roll Events

Many schools host one-time active travel events to spark excitement and raise awareness about the benefits of walking, biking, and rolling to school. Often these events coincide with broader campaigns such as [Bike to School Week](#) (often end of May/ early June), Earth Day (April 22), or International Walk to School month (October).

Projects:

Britannia Elementary – Bike to School Week

Britannia Elementary hosted a variety of activities during Bike to School Week, including:

- Bicycle, scooter, and helmet decorating workshops.
- A walk, bike, and roll rodeo before school to give kids a chance to ride or skip around the school together on their bikes, scooters, or skateboards.
- Free workshops on “road and pedestrian safety” hosted by Grandview Woodland Community Policing Centre.
- Purchasing bike locks for families and a bike pump to be stored in the school’s front office.
- Bike tune-up workshops hosted by Our Community Bikes.
- Pizza parties for the top three classrooms with the most active trips tracked for the week.



To promote the event, the school made Walk Bike Roll buttons as well as reusable vinyl banners. They also distributed flyers with the events for the week.

Emily Carr Elementary – Bike, Scooter, and Wheelchair Decorating Party

As a celebration during Bike to School week, Emily Carr Elementary held a bike, scooter, and wheelchair decorating party. The school used the grant funds to provide students the materials and tools for decorating, along with snacks for visitors. Determined to not miss out on the fun, some families went home to retrieve their bikes to decorate. After the event, the kids were so proud of how their bikes and scooters looked.

The project brought together families from across the catchment and grade levels. Families shared safe bike routes and favourite neighbourhood places to ride to. Kids even asked if they “could do it again next year, or maybe next month, or maybe every week.”

Eric Hamber Secondary – Fall Go By Bike Week

This project encouraged students to log their trips for Go By Bike Week by serving riders snacks as a reward and incentive. Eric Hamber Secondary also used this opportunity to promote proper bike-locking techniques, inform students about visibility, road safety, and the services of the Hamber Bike Club.

Students who logged trips were offered bike safety and maintenance equipment, including their choice of a bike light, patch kit, or tire levers. Those who logged the most trips and distances chose from prizes of a bike pump, transit passes and their Community Bikes t-shirts.

Ongoing Active Travel Programs

Some schools that are ready to take their grant to the next level run an ongoing active travel program at their school. These programs happen on a weekly or monthly basis (depending on school capacity) and support students to continue walking, biking and rolling to and from school year-round. Some examples of ongoing programs include Walking School Bus, Bike Bus, Walk and Wheel Wednesdays, and Freedom Fridays.

Projects:

Gordon Elementary – Bike Bus

Gordon Elementary launched a weekly Bike Bus in spring 2023 that runs every Friday. Two different routes were mapped to maximize the number of families who could participate.

They hosted seven special rides where volunteers greeted students with either hot chocolate or lemonade depending on the weather. (The hot chocolate inspired more kids to ride to school during the cold winter months.)

This year they also introduced a punch card so students could track every ride. For every fourth ride, they received a small prize (spoke decorations, reflectors, bike bells, or water bottles).

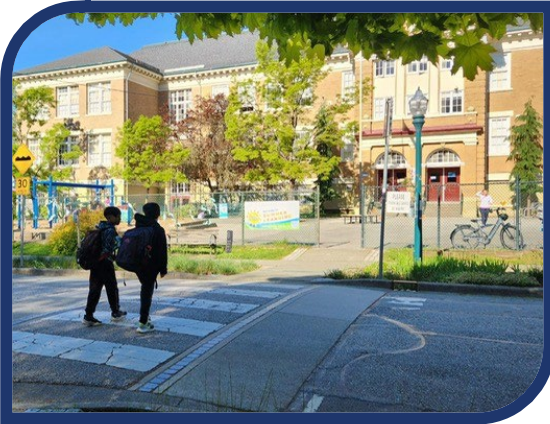
They also partnered with West Point Cycles to offer free tune ups on two occasions after school.



Sir James Douglas Elementary – Walk to School Wednesday

Sir James Douglas Elementary’s project was a school-wide campaign to promote walking to school, with a special focus on Wednesdays. The Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) was enthusiastic and supported the initiative. Families living outside the catchment area were encouraged to be dropped off a block or two away and walk the rest of the way.

School staff noticed that even on rainy days students walked to school, especially on Wednesdays. The campaign led into the spring Bike, Walk, and Scoot to School Week, during which the school handed out walking safety whistles as prizes for the walk-a-thon.



Van Horne Elementary – Walking Buddies

Van Horne Elementary used its grant funds to support the Grade 7 "Walking School Bus" project. For two weeks in April, Grade 7 students were encouraged to walk, bike, or roll to school with another Van Horne student, while their teachers tracked their participation.

The prize was based on the participation rate achieved by all students - in this case funds were used to hire their grad party DJ.

Educational Programs

Some school projects support active travel education by teaching students valuable skills such as road safety, bike maintenance or riding/scooting skills. Sometimes guest speakers or local experts are invited to lead workshops, while other schools integrate training into existing lessons and school clubs.

Projects:

Lord Byng Secondary – Bike Mechanics Club

On a weekly basis, a number of students joined forces to repair 20 bikes donated by the local family community and the Vancouver Police Department. Once restored, the bikes were used by the grade 8 classes for rides focused on place-based learning in the neighbourhood. Five of the bikes were donated to Our Community Bikes for their Pedals for the People program.

Lord Byng used its grant for parts and tools. The project was instrumental at encouraging more students to learn how to repair and maintain bikes, increasing the school's capacity to use bikes during classes.



More than 300 students have used these bikes to learn outside the classroom, connect with nature, and appreciate bikes as zero-emission vehicles that boost physical and mental health.

Point Grey Secondary – Bike Maintenance Education and Repair Station

Point Grey Secondary launched a bike maintenance and repair station, which is now a permanent feature at the school and includes a bike stand with a bike pump, tools, books, chain lube.

Point Grey also offers education on how to use its equipment. They promoted active travel for the month of May with some trivia questions and prizes. Snacks, drinks, reflectors, maps and bike-related items were on offer as prizes.

Cunningham Elementary – Bike Kitchen

Cunningham Elementary worked with Our Community Bikes to provide the Bike Kitchen, which offered students and families basic bike repairs and lessons on how to maintain them.

The community building event provided wonderful opportunities for families to socialize while waiting for their tune-ups. The school continued the Bike Kitchen every Wednesday starting in September after school and will add interactive grade 7 repair classes during school hours for students to work on their own bikes. Cunningham Elementary also encourages students to participate in the Our Community Bikes Youth Bike Club.

Tecumseh Annex – Scooter Education

Tecumseh Annex used the Walk Bike Roll grant to raise awareness of the fun and positive impact of walking or rolling to school. They purchased 10 scooters and hosted scooter skills sessions. The program was well-received by the children and helped build their confidence to ride or scoot to school on their own. The physical education teacher supported the project by handling class and gym prep and educating students about the event. She plans to continue talking to students on how to lead a healthy lifestyle.

