

SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN

Craigflower Elementary

AUGUST 2019



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Active School Travel Planning

Craigflower Elementary participated in the Active and Safe Routes to School 2018-19 program. The program was funded by the District of Saanich and delivered by the Capital Regional District.

The **Active and Safe Routes to School** program:

- Encourages and enables more students to walk, bike or roll to/from school for all or part of their trip,
- Involves students, parents, school and school district staff, municipal staff and community partners, and;
- Addresses health, physical activity and traffic safety issues.

Active School Travel Planning is a community-based planning process that has been used with success to date in communities across Canada to increase the number of families choosing active transportation modes to get to and from school. The year-long program involves a network of key stakeholders who work collaboratively to identify concerns, solutions and actions to increase walking and cycling to the school.

There are many **benefits for students and families** when they walk or wheel to school, including:



More physical activity, which improves physical and mental health



Less traffic congestion and more community connections



Students arrive at school alert and ready to learn



Fewer GHG emissions and better air quality around the school

Active School Travel Planning Process

The Active School Travel Planning process is a three phase process:

- Program launch
 - Meeting with the Principal and Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)
- Data collection
 - Parent travel survey
 - Neighbourhood walkabout
- Deliverables
 - School Travel Plan
 - Best Routes Map

This school travel plan can be used for ongoing implementation and monitoring, grant applications, consideration in future municipal master plans, budget and work plan processes, and stakeholder communication.

Craigflower Elementary: School Profile



2766 Admirals Rd

Saanich, BC

School District	Greater Victoria (SD 61)
Grades	K-5
2018-19 Enrollment	~140 students
Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong Start Centre • monthly community breakfast • Breakfast Club • volunteer reading • community support programs.
Active and Sustainable Transportation Programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike racks • Classes walk and run along Gorge Park • Esquimalt Nation school bus – 16 students/day

School Travel Survey

An on-line and paper school travel survey was distributed to parents between October 15 – November 16, 2018. From Craigflower, 22 families completed the survey representing approximately 16% of the school population. The response rate was not statistically representative, but still provided valuable information related to school travel behaviours at Craigflower Elementary.

Of the survey respondents, many Craigflower students usually get to school by walking all or part-way to school. As well, almost all parents would prefer their children to walk or bike to school.

Why do Craigflower students usually get driven to school?

- Convenience/Time pressures
- Traffic safety concerns

Craigflower parents say they would encourage their child to walk or bike to school if:

- Lower vehicle traffic volumes
- Lower vehicle traffic speeds
- Increased skills/capacity of my child to bike

Complete survey responses is provided in Appendix A

Transportation Challenges at Craigflower Elementary

Data collected from the survey, neighbourhood walkabout, and school meetings identified the following transportation challenges:

1. Admirals Road and Gorge Road West

- Drivers not stopping at crosswalk, especially when turning right from Gorge Road onto Admirals Road

2. Admirals Road

- High vehicle speeds with high volume of industrial traffic

3. School turnaround and parking lot (Dunkirk Lane)

- School has no drop-off loop and limited school parking
- Parents park on Dunkirk Lane for drop-off and pick-up
- Congestion is unsafe for students walking

4. Municipal boundaries

- School sits on the boundary of Saanich, View Royal and Esquimalt with some roads being the responsibility of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI)
- Difficult to coordinate road improvements along the full commuting route of students attending Craigflower Elementary

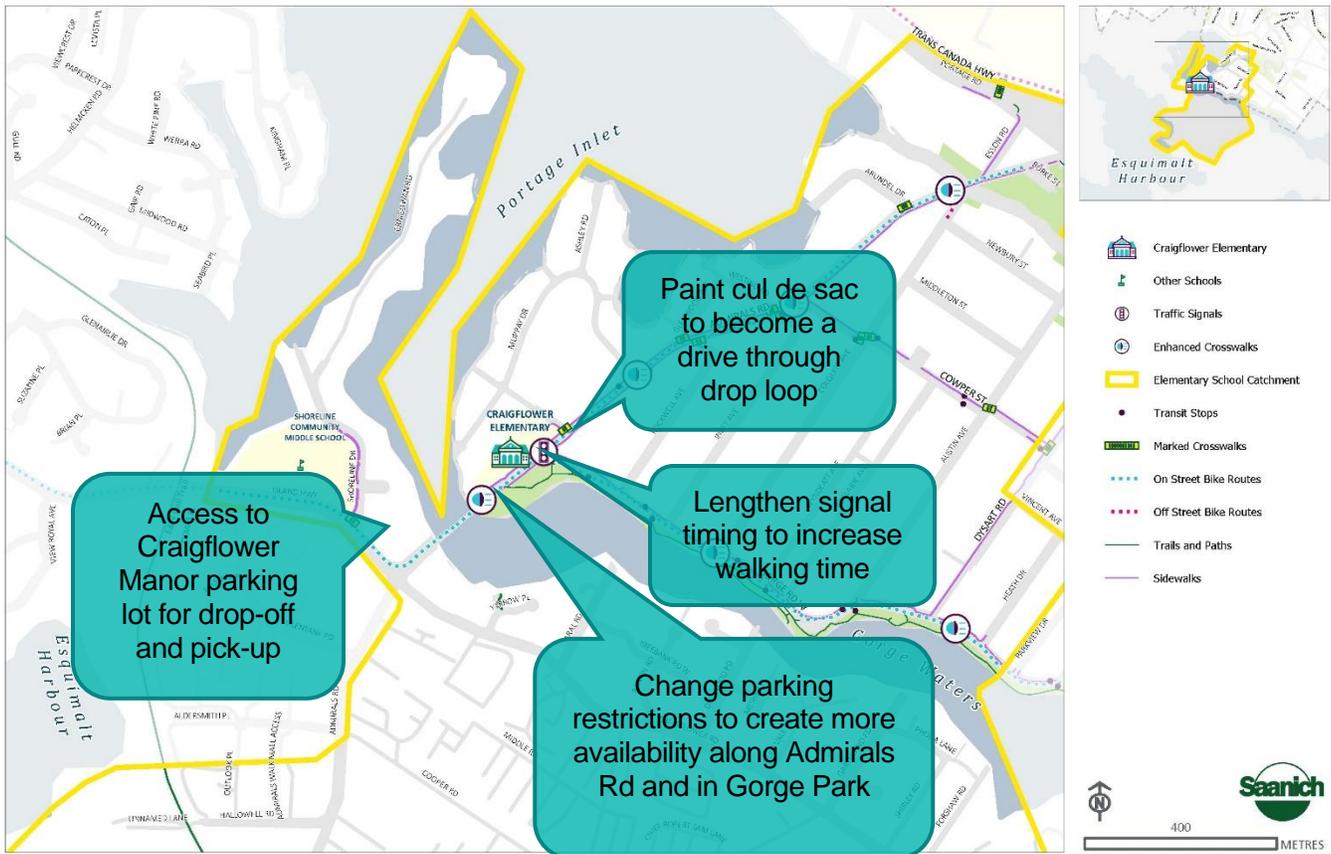
Action Plan

This Action Plan for Craigflower Elementary has been created through collaboration and consultation with the school administration, the PAC, school district staff, District of Saanich staff and other local stakeholders. This plan will guide the implementation of school travel improvements for the coming years.

The Action Plan identifies engineering interventions that will improve walking and biking safety and comfort for students and their families. These improvements focus on locations within approximately 1 km of the school that will provide the most value in terms of increasing walking and cycling to school. These actions have been committed to by the District of Saanich, School District 61 and other organizations, within the specific timeframes indicated in the Action Plan.

The map in Figure 2 highlights some of the key engineering improvements that will be implemented. The full Action Plan is provided in Appendix B.

Figure 2: Engineering Improvements to be Implemented



In addition to street improvements activities related to encouragement, education and enforcement are identified:

- Safe parking locations will be promoted with a parking map developed by this program to highlight all parking options available for parents' use (See Appendix E)
- Songhees First Nation through the Songhees Wheelness program and the CRD funded a bike skills course for the grade 4/5 students. Bikes and safety equipment was provided to students that do not have bicycles to ensure all students in grade 4/5 can participate
- ICBC, Songhees police liaison and Saanich Police will partner on the 'Think of Me' program to promote safe driving around the school.
- The Best Routes to School map features the best walking and cycling routes that connect all areas of the catchment to the school. Routes are selected based on information provided in the take-home survey results and during the neighbourhood walkabout, consultation with the PAC, and a review of existing infrastructure. The routes selected feature the current pedestrian and cycling infrastructure and the safest crossings. This map will be provided to current and future parents through a brochure, posted on the school website and mounted in a visible area in the school. See map in Appendix D.



Appendix A – Parent Survey – Results

An on-line and paper school travel survey was distributed to households of Craigflower students between October 15 – November 16, 2018. From Craigflower Elementary, 22 families completed the survey representing approximately 16% of the school population. The response rate was not statistically representative, but still provided valuable information on school travel at Craigflower Elementary. The results of the survey found that many children walk all or part-way to school and almost all parents would prefer their children to walk or bike to school.

Why do Craigflower students usually get driven to school?

- Convenience/Time pressures
- Traffic safety concerns

Craigflower parents say they would encourage their child to walk or bike to school if:

- Traffic volumes were lower
- Traffic speeds were lower
- Their children were more skilled or capable to travel by bike

Locations of concern (location and description of concern)

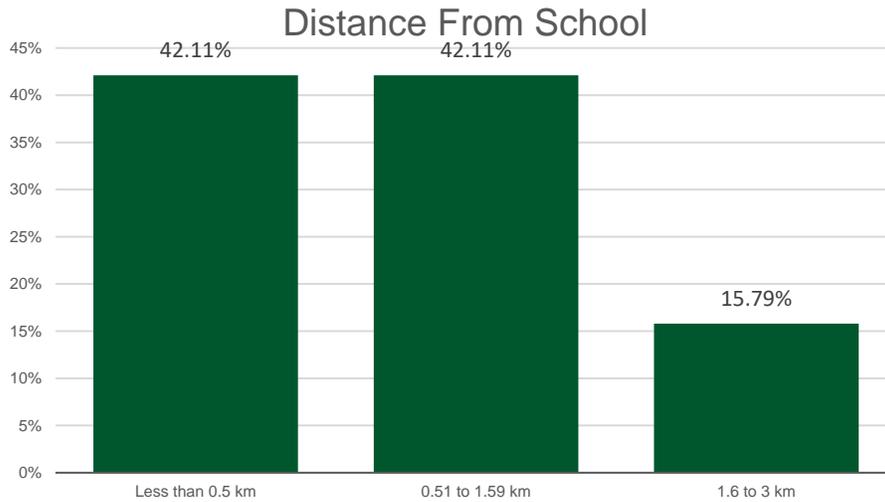
- **Admirals and Gorge Road West** – Drivers not stopping for the crosswalk (turning right from Gorge Road)
- **Admirals Rd** – Traffic speed in the school zone
- **Turnaround and parking** – School's lack of drop off loop is creating congestion and conflict that is impacting students walking into the school

Respondents also identified locations outside of Saanich which include Admirals Rd and Craigflower Road in View Royal which was noted for being very congested with traffic blocking crosswalks. Parents voiced strong appreciation for the crossing guards at this location.

Summary of comments:

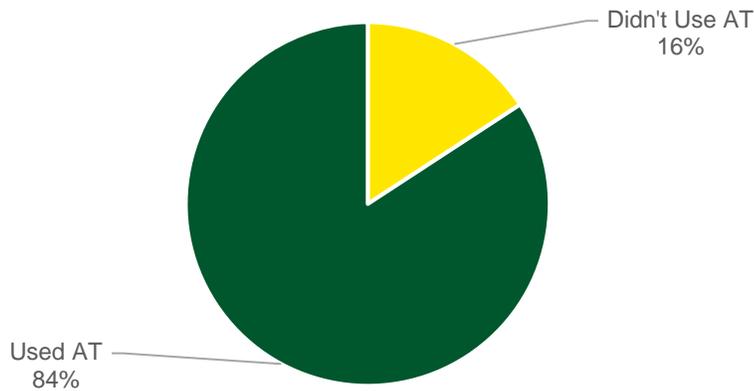
- Lack of available parking on Admirals Road and in Craigflower - Kosapsom Park; provide school zone parking for pick-up and drop-off (x3)
- School busing should be provided (x2)
- Concern about traffic speed on Admirals and busy intersections (x2)
- Enforce the 30km school zone (x2)
- Distance is too far to walk/bike (x2)
- Support for crossing guard at Admirals and Craigflower/Old Island Highway
- Infrastructure around the school is awful
- Child lacks skills to ride bike to school
- Support for affordable bike club/clinic, especially on Pro D and during school breaks
- Support for speed cameras or speed readers
- Craigflower bridge needs more protection from elements

1. How far away from the school do you live?

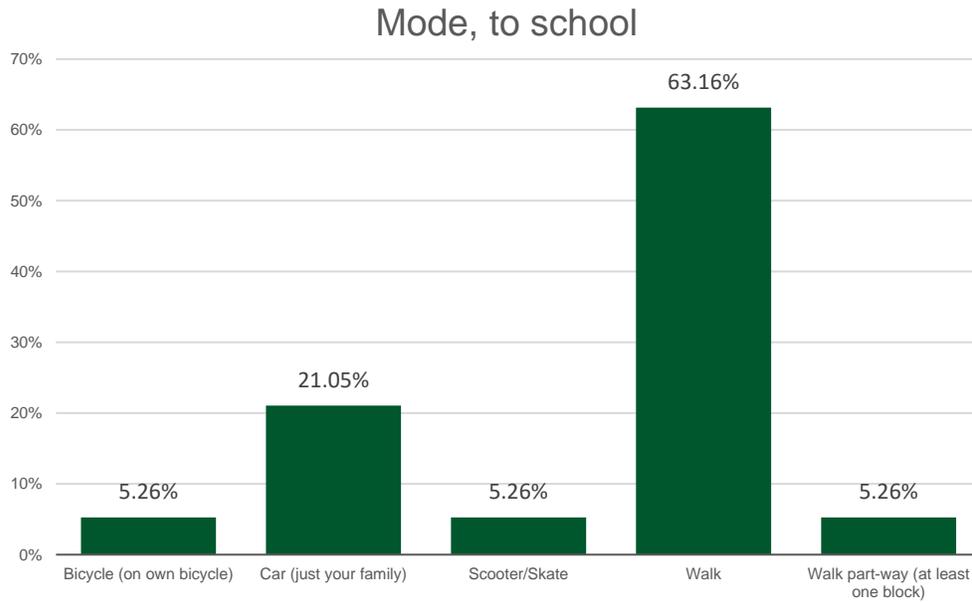


2. During the 2017/2018 school year, did your eldest child (at Craigflower Elementary) travel to/from school at least once by (check all that apply): walk, scooter/skate, walk part-way, bicycle, school bus, public transit, carpool.

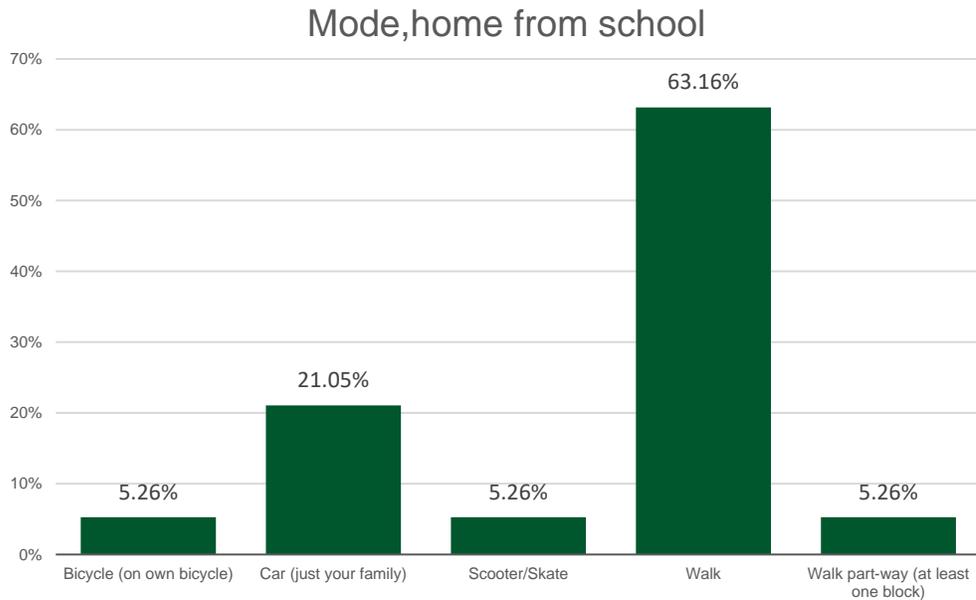
Percentage Using Active Transportation



3. How does your oldest child usually get to school throughout the year? (Choose one)



4. How does your oldest child usually get home from school throughout the year? (Choose one)



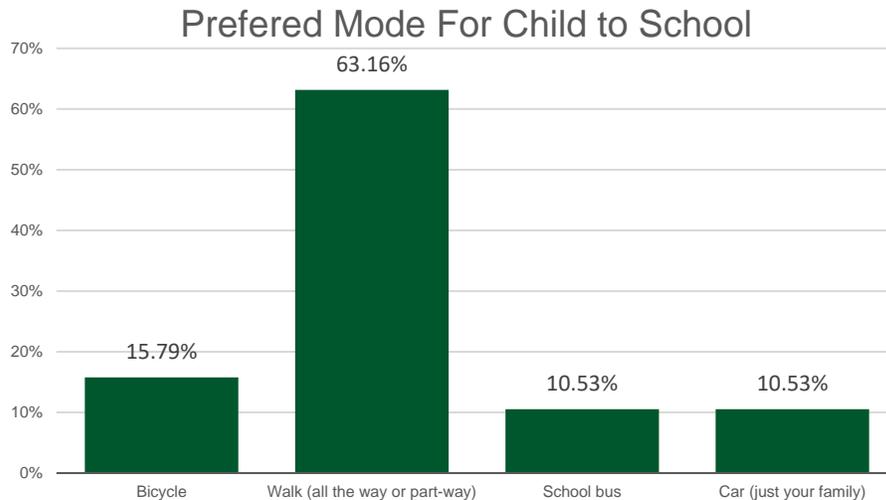
5. Is your eldest child accompanied TO school by an adult?

- 94% are accompanied by an adult

6. Is your eldest child accompanied home FROM school by an adult?

- 94% are accompanied by an adult

7. How would you prefer your eldest child travels to and from school?



8. What are the main reasons your eldest child is usually driven to/from school? (choose up to three)

- Convenience/Time pressures
- Traffic safety concerns

9. I would encourage my eldest child to walk to school if... (choose up to two)

- Lower vehicle volumes/speed
- Continuous sidewalks/trails

10. I would encourage my eldest child to cycle to school if... (choose up to two)

- Increased skills/capability of my child
- Lower vehicle volume/speed

11. I am willing to encourage my eldest child to walk or bike to/from school by (check all that apply):

- Practice walking or biking with my child to school on a weekend
- Identifying the most appropriate route
- Making sure my child has clothing to walk or ride in the rain

12. If/When you walk or cycle as a family, what motivates you?

- Not having to worry about parking
- Getting physical activity
- Spending time outside

13. Has your child participated a cycling education program?

- 100% said no

14. Does your child (ren) have a suitable bike?

- Yes 81%, No 19%

15. Does 1 or more parents have a suitable bike?

- Yes 87%, No 13%

Summary of comments:

- Appreciate the crossing guard at Old Island Highway
- Very limited parking
- Easier and faster to walk to/from school
- Live too far away
- High traffic on Admirals
- Busy intersections, not comfortable with my child crossing
- Request for 30km/hr in front of school
- Request for affordable bike club/clinic (x2)
- Speeding traffic (x3)
- Request for speed cameras
- Request for school parking
- Request for bus for students living farther away

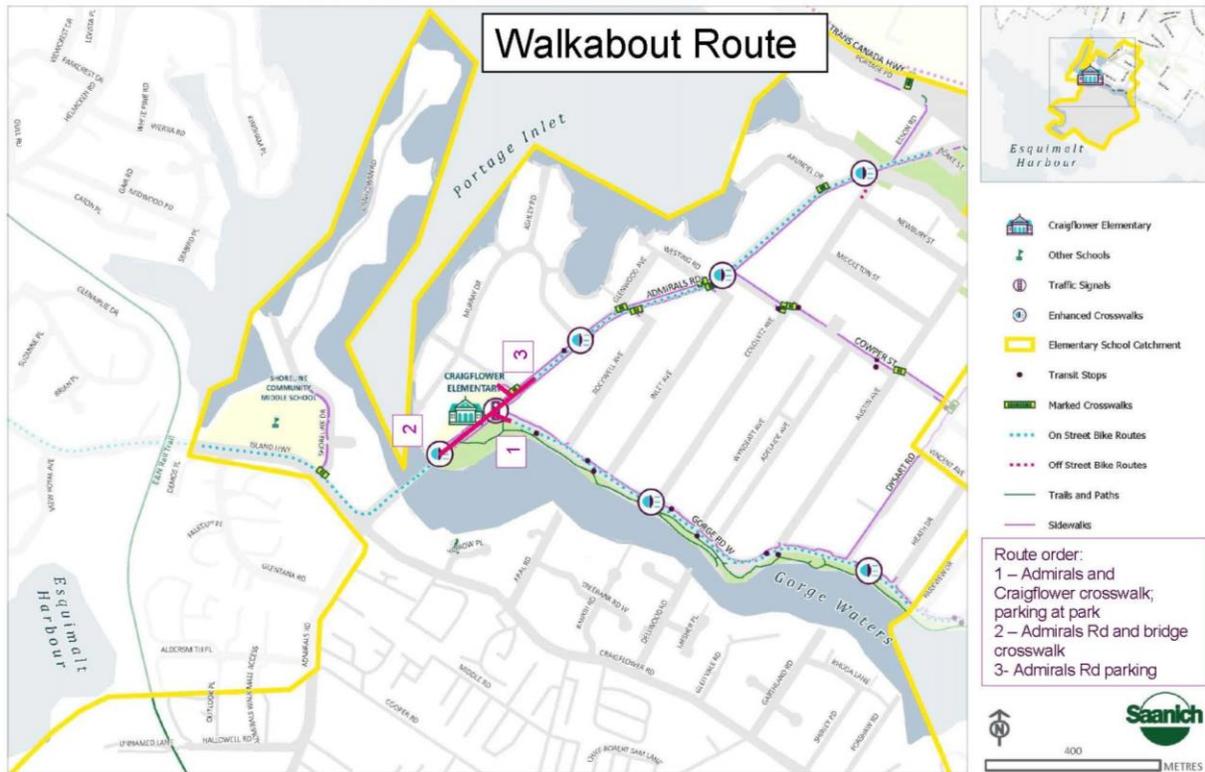


Appendix B – Walkabout Summary

Craigflower Walkabout

November 22, 2:30pm

Attendees: Saanich Engineering, Saanich Parks, Island Health, Craigflower Elementary school administrators, RCMP



Summary notes

School parking lot:

- Insufficient parking for school staff
- No drop-off loop for parents
- Students are walking through the parking lot
- Many conflicts that resulted with calls to the police
- Busy, congested, high amount of close calls in parking lot
- Esquimalt Nation bus will park in the cul de sac if parking lot is full
- No disabled parking spaces
- EAs get paid bell to bell so they are trying to enter/exit the parking lot at the busiest time
- Saanich bylaw said they would never tow from a school zone
- Staff told to park on Murray Drive if they can
- PAC is trying to get a parking lot/drop off zone built at school

- Principal tried barricading with cones last year- it just pushed everything into the cul-de-sac.
- Principal's request for a turnaround

Dunkirk Lane

- Parents park at the end of the cul de sac
- Neighbours are very frustrated with the situation
- Discussion on possibility of restricting access to Dunkirk Lane – not practicable
- Other side of Dunkirk (access from Murray Drive), no stopping signs have been installed but staff wanted them to say No Parking.

Admirals

- Parents jaywalking across Admirals from parking on south side of road
- Concern about vehicle speed – not mindful of the school zone
- Balls frequently go over the fence and kids chase after them into the street
- No good place for enforcement on this stretch
- 2 hr parking limits were installed with the construction

Admirals and Craigflower Bridge crosswalk

- No crossing guard
- Crosswalk is far away next to the bridge
- Flashing lights at the crosswalk are good and there are lots of parents around

Craigflower and Admirals (View Royal)

- Crossing guard in morning and afternoon; feels she is taking their life in their hands
- Very busy and congested
- Kids try to walk around cars

Busing

- Esquimalt Nation bus – used by 10-12 students per day
- School could benefit from busing to improve attendance rates

Craigflower Manor parking lot

- Could the school access that site to park?
- Amica is parking their bus there, but paying
- Discussion on opening and closing the gate
- Signage for pick-up and drop-off with enforcement
- Option will be explored further by the school

Biking

- 5 or 6 kids bike to school
- Lots of skaters and scooters. Scooters are stored in the Vice Principal's office for safety
- Bob at the Optimist Club fixes up bikes
- One student is going to start repairing bikes/scooters and skateboards
- Kids could use the E&N to bike to Shoreline but not to Craigflower

Walking routes

- Walk to the Nations, mostly Esquimalt along Admirals
- Nature walks – Gorge

Education and engagement

- Think of Me (Cole from RCMP) – will talk to ICBC; could focus on parking lot safety
- Drive to 5 – discussion of appropriate locations
 - Canadian Tire parking lot doesn't make sense for people coming from the west
 - Talk to PAC
 - Supervision from Craigflower Manor parking lot or other location?
 - Idea to use Rockwell as a loop
- Identify incentives for kids to motivate parents

Other information:

- Special event - monthly breakfast at the school with all families invited
- Question about whether the traffic will improve with the McKenzie interchange
- Wednesday run – kids run along the Gorge; crosswalk is manned during the run
- Future of the school- move to be beside Shoreline; school hasn't been seismically upgraded; Vic High is ahead in the queue
- Siblings are dropping off/picking up younger siblings
- Japanese pre-school is using Craigflower School. They are using the Craigflower School playground.
- Most important that kids are attending school



Appendix C – Action Plan

Engineering – Responsibility of District of Saanich unless otherwise noted.

Location	Consultation Feedback	Recommended Action	Details	Timeline
Dunkirk Lane	Congestion with vehicles parking in the cul-de-sac; conflict with neighbours	Improve clarity of the no stopping restrictions in the turn-around	Improve traffic flow and safety; communicate changes to parents	2019
Admirals Road and Gorge Road West intersection	Busy intersection with many turning vehicles	Extend the signal timing for pedestrians		Complete
Parking lot at Craigflower Manor	Insufficient parking at school leads to unsafe parking behavior and conflict between cars and students walking	Open access to parking lot during drop off and pick up times	Principal to develop arrangement with Highland Games Society; communicate changes to parents	2019
Parking on Admirals Road	Parking spots filled with long term parking; limited opportunity to drop off students safely	Change parking time limits to increase capacity for drop-offs	Inform parents of new time restriction before enforcing new rules	2019
Parking in Gorge Park	Parking spots filled with long term parking; limited opportunity to drop off students safely	Change parking time limits to increase capacity for drop-offs	Bylaw amendment required	2019 - Complete
School location	Current school location has a very limited parking lot and fronts a busy road	Re-location of school to Shoreline site	School District 61 responsibility; re-location will allow more students to access the school via the E&N Rail Trail	TBD

Education and encouragement

Activity	Details	Timeline
Bike skills course – Grade 4/5	Delivered by Nolan Riding with 2019 funding from CRD, CRD Traffic Safety Commission and Songhees Wheelness project	Completed (May/June 2019)
Think of Me	Potential focus on parking lot safety. Facilitator to work with school, Cole Bewer (RCMP) and ICBC	Fall 2019
Bike repair and donation	Optimist Club fixes and provides bikes to Craigflower students	As needed
Speed Enforcement	Admirals Road	Request sent to Saanich Police
Vehicle parking	Insufficient parking and no drop-off area, especially during school events. Coordination effort of additional parking (Craigflower Manor), drop-off loop creation (Dunkirk Lane), time restricted parking on Admirals Road and parent education. Facilitator to complete parking map for parents to provide information on the curbside rules around the school, including Drive to 5 locations, to improve safety for all road users.	Fall 2019
Drive to 5	CRD Toolkit and temporary signs provided to the school. Use for regular schedule and special events.	2019
Walk and Wheel to School Week	CRD program held annually in October	Annually
Action Plan Status Update	Update on infrastructure improvements completed by District of Saanich Engineering	Annually in September



Appendix D – Best Routes Map

Why Walk or Bike to School?



Benefits For Students

Being active builds healthy bones and minds. Walking or biking to school is not only a great way to be healthy and keep moving but has also shown to increase alertness and grades at school.



Family and Friend Time

Time spent walking together allows families and friends to connect without stressful distractions. It is a time to unwind, play or share stories about each other's day.



Community Livability

Know your community. Walking and cycling is a great way to meet your neighbours. People feel safer when they know other people in their community.



Care For Our Earth

Transportation is the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) in Saanich. Vehicle emissions also contribute to poor air quality. Every vehicle trip replaced by walking reduces our contribution to climate change and is better for our environment.



Weather

Worried about getting wet in the rain or your child getting cold? Dressing your child(ren) with rainboots, umbrellas and jackets for the walk to school also means they are prepared for the weather at outdoor recess. School recess is rain or shine, and proper outdoor wear keeps students active outdoors all day long.



Best Routes to School Map

This is a product of the 2017-18 Active and Safe Routes to School program. The program is funded by the District of Saanich and delivered by the Capital Regional District.

The Active and Safe Routes to School program is designed to encourage and enable students and families to walk, bike and roll to and from school. Visit www.saanich.ca for more information.

Craigflower Elementary School

Best Routes to School Map 2019

The map inside shows the most popular walking and riding routes that have sidewalks, bike lanes and the safer crossing points. The routes are based on information from parents, your school community and the District of Saanich's engineering department. Use this map to find your way to school by following the route closest to your house. Then, find your neighbours and friends to walk and cycle together.





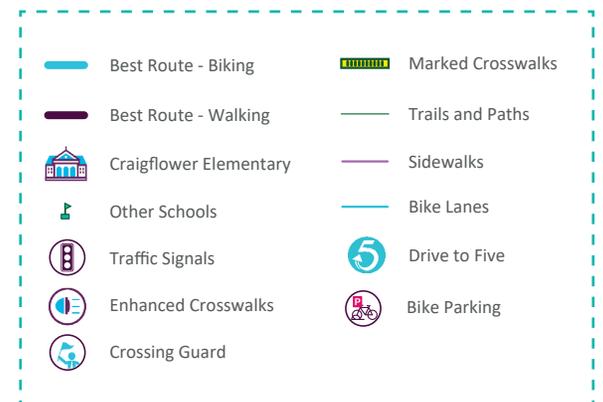
Walk Safe

Teaching children how to safely walk takes practice. Talk to your child about:

- **Sidewalk/no sidewalk.** Use the sidewalk if it is available. If there isn't a sidewalk, walk facing oncoming traffic so you can see approaching vehicles and make eye contact with drivers.
- **Crossing the street:** Where possible, cross at intersections with a pedestrian crossing light or marked crosswalk. Stop at the curb. Look left and right for oncoming vehicles, and over your shoulder for vehicles that might be turning. When the intersection is clear, start crossing and look for approaching vehicles.

5 Driving?

Consider 'Drive to Five' where you park within a 5-minute safe and comfortable walk to school. Walk with your children or have them walk with friends. When driving to school be respectful of others, stay focused and avoid distractions. Slow down in school zones and expect other kids and families to be walking or biking. Follow parking and stopping rules; they are in place for everyone's safety.





Appendix E – Parking Map

Craigflower Elementary School Parking Map



-  Drive to Five
-  Traffic Signals
-  Enhanced Crosswalks
-  Crossing Guard
-  No Parking/Resident Only
-  No Stopping
-  Trails and Paths
-  Sidewalks
-  Unrestricted Parking
-  Time Restricted Parking

Parking at Craigflower Manor is open from 8am-4pm and special events

