

Cordova Bay Elementary: Active Transportation Challenges and Opportunities

Final – August 2018

Cordova Bay Elementary is participating in the District of Saanich's Active and Safe Routes to School 2017-18 program. During the initial portion of the program, transportation behaviour and attitude data was collected through a parent survey. A neighbourhood walkabout was then completed to gain more insight into active transportation safety concerns on surrounding streets and to brainstorm improvement strategies with school district and municipal staff, local law enforcement and health professionals. A consultation summary was released in December 2017 providing the results of the data collection process.

Based on the survey and walkabout data collected, this **Active Transportation Barriers and Opportunities** document informs active transportation street improvements. Priorities are based on safety, proximity to school and role in enabling active transportation.

This draft document is shared with the school PAC for feedback before being finalized. The document can be used for ongoing monitoring, grant applications, consideration in future budget and work plan processes and stakeholder communication.

Scope

The mandate of the Active and Safe Routes to School program is to encourage and enable active transportation to and from school. During the consultation process parents and stakeholders raised many concerns that are outside the scope of the program. With limited drop-off and pick-up times, most schools experience peak traffic congestion and vehicle parking challenges. All of the feedback has been passed on to the municipality and school district for consideration in their other infrastructure projects. This document only highlights the concerns that are causing safety or access issues for children walking or cycling to school.

Education and Enforcement

From the consultation there are a number of education and engagements issues that will be raised with the Saanich police. These issues include:

- Drivers not stopping at crosswalks and stop signs near school;
- Vehicle speed and volumes around schools, with many requests for speed reader boards;
- Parking- concerns about parking in no stopping/parking areas and on sidewalk/pathways; and
- Drivers driving through red lights.

Throughout the consultation process, the driving behaviour of other parents was identified as a concern.



General policy

There are general policy issues raised at many schools that can be dealt with systematically. These include:

- Crossing guards – request for crossing guards at additional locations;
- School zone – opinions on locations and request for additional markings/signs to provide clear identification of beginning and end of the zone;
- Bus stops – ensure the locations are agreed to and clearly defined (School district, BC Transit); opportunity for additional amenities based on number of students using the bus stops.

Infrastructure

The following section identifies infrastructure improvements categorized into:

- General improvements,
- Crosswalk requests,
- Sidewalk and bike lane requests, and
- Trail and pathways.

Infrastructure improvements are identified as the geographic location of concerns, challenges as identified during the consultation process, potential improvements based on active transportation best practices and engineering guidelines, and the organization's review and action. All infrastructure is the responsibility of the District of Saanich, unless otherwise noted.

The following infrastructure items have been assigned review/action completion timeframes. As noted, a number of items have been submitted to engineering@saanich.ca. This process will be assigned a call for service file number and assigned to a technical staff member for review and response. Technical staff in the transportation division of the engineering department will perform an investigation of the area with the concerns raised in mind. Once an analysis has been completed, a written response will be provided and included in annual updates to the school each September.

Please be advised that completion of the review does not necessarily warrant construction of the item. Participating municipalities and organizations have many competing infrastructure projects. Where noted, the below mentioned infrastructure improvements will be integrated into the appropriate priority lists and ranked utilizing technical criteria; this allows us to prioritize the areas with the most need throughout the District.

The times frames mentioned are approximate and may vary year to year, as priorities are guided by Council. Timeframes are grouped into the following:

- Immediate – Review and or action will be completed under 12 months
- Short – Review and/or action will be completed between 1 year and 5 years
- Medium – Review and/or action will be completed between 5 years and 10 years
- Long – Review and/or action will be completed after 10 years

For more information on the Active and Safe Routes to School program visit www.saanich.ca or contact your school.



General Infrastructure

Location	Challenge (consultation feedback)	Potential Improvement	Review/ Action	Timeframe
Lochside Dr	Trails need maintenance and parking restrictions because even if the trails were restored people would be parking on them	Identify trail alignment and strategy for restoration (edging, gravel), install no parking signs (inform stakeholders of impact to parking)	Trail maintenance and parking restrictions have been sent to engineering@saanich.ca for work order assignment.	Immediate
Walema/Jersey	Used by most kids but no infrastructure or sidewalks to connect to Walema Ave	Improve sightlines, tighten curve radii off Lochside	Prune vegetation at the intersection to improve sightlines	Short
Rambler behind the school	Cars park right to the fence so there is not safe path for children to walk from the cars to the school	Install dedicated pedestrian facilitates that provide safe active travel	This item has been added to the District sidewalk priority list and will be reviewed as budget and priorities permit. School has installed interim bumpers.	Med

In addition, concerns have been communicated to School District #63 regarding the drop-off area. Currently there is no pedestrian designated area when entering off the sidewalk north of the school. This situation could be improved by painting a pedestrian path from the sidewalk to the school yard, similar to the south entrance of the school. As well, people are parking in unusual places on the boulevard (both sides of the sidewalk). The boulevard is on school district property. School district staff are exploring options to discourage parking on the boulevard.

Crosswalk Requests

From the consultation process, new or improved crosswalks were requested for:

Location	Challenge (consultation feedback)	Review/ Action	Timeframe
Walema and Rambler	Request for crosswalk	Installation of crosswalk with improved pathway connection; vegetation maintenance and relocate stop sign	Immediate

Location	Challenge (consultation feedback)	Review/ Action	Timeframe
Walema and Cordova Bay	Lack of separation/ dedicated areas for pedestrians, which makes it difficult for driver's visibility. Especially important because the whole school crosses here to reach the beach access	Formalize pedestrian staging area	Short
	Request for enhancement (flashing lights)	Addition of flashing lights to the intersection will be considered as part of the Cordova Bay Local Area Plan process.	Medium
Cordova Bay Rd at Mattick's Woods	Request for crosswalk	This item has been reviewed for installation of a crosswalk utilizing Canada-wide standards and does not meet visibility requirements for a crosswalk installation.	N/A

Sidewalk and Bike Lane Requests

A lack of connected walking or biking facilities was identified as a barrier for walking or cycling to/from school. Specific requests were made for walking and biking facilities on:

Location	Challenge (consultation feedback)	Review/ Action	Timeframe
Walema	Maintenance of gravel pathway from Jersey to Rambler	This item has been sent to engineering@saanich.ca for work order assignment.	Immediate
Haliburton	Sidewalk and bike lanes	Haliburton from Pat Bay to Wesley sidewalks and bike lanes is anticipated completion 2019	Short
Fenn/Parker	Sidewalk, especially around 90 degree corner	This item has been added to the District sidewalk priority list and will be reviewed as budget and priorities permit.	Med
Cordova Bay Rd	Continuous sidewalks on both sides of the street	This item, along with general improvements, will be completed as part of action items developed from the Cordova Bay Local Area Plan.	Long