

SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN

Frank Hobbs Elementary

AUGUST 2019



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Active School Travel Planning

Frank Hobbs 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.

Frank Hobbs Elementary: School Profile

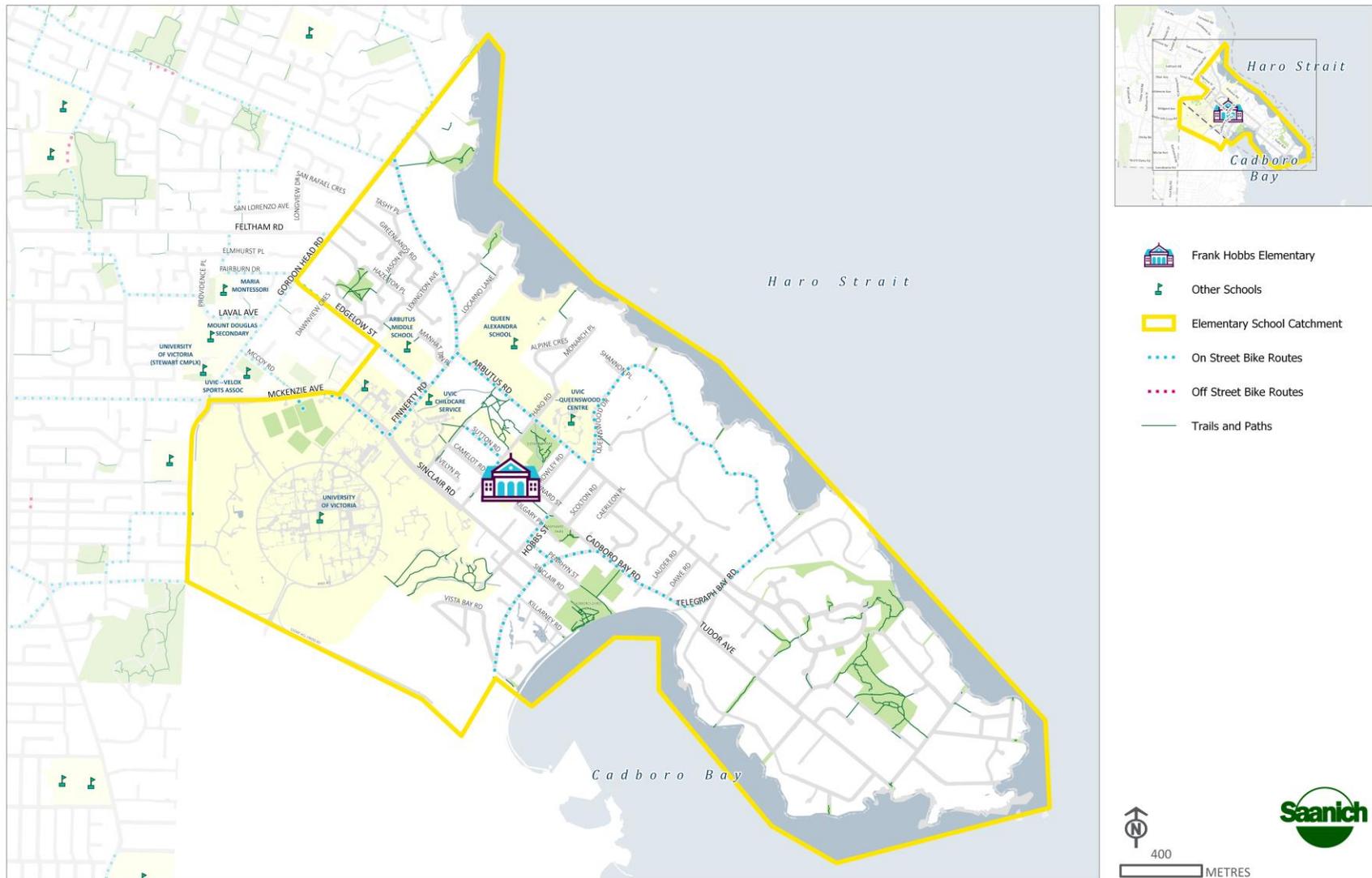


3875 Haro Rd

Saanich, BC

School District	Greater Victoria (SD 61)
Grades	K-5
2018-19 Enrollment	311 Students
Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before/After school care provided on-site with additional spaces opening in September 2019, adjacent to child care centre with new nature pre-school to open September 2019
Active and Sustainable Transportation Programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike racks, including covered and secure parking • Saanich Police Transportation Safety Presentation • Classes walk in the neighbourhood for educational opportunities, including to Haro Woods

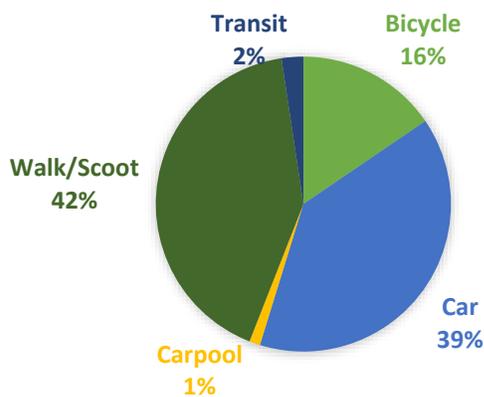
Figure 1: School Catchment



School Travel Survey

An on-line school travel survey was distributed to parents between November 5 - 23, 2018. From Frank Hobbs, 85 families completed the survey representing approximately 30% of the school population.

Of the survey respondents, Frank Hobbs students usually get to school by...



60% of students use active transportation to travel to school

40% of students are driven to school

The survey results indicate that Frank Hobbs has the potential for more active travel (walk, bike or bus):

- 92% of students have walked, biked or bused to school at least once in the last year.
- 89% of parents prefer that their eldest child use active transportation to school.

Survey respondents indicated that the top two reasons students are driven to school is:

- Convenience/Time pressures
- Traffic safety concerns

Frank Hobbs parents say the top reasons they would encourage their child to walk or bike to school is if there were:

- Continuous sidewalks/trails and bike facilities
- Additional marked pedestrian and cycling crossings
- Lower vehicle traffic volumes/speeds

Complete survey responses is provided in Appendix A

Transportation Challenges at Frank Hobbs

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

1. Pathway between school and Maynard Park

- Pathway is dark with overgrown vegetation; narrow pavement with cracking/heaving
- Gate to pathway is inaccessible for strollers and bike trailers
- Vehicle speeds on Hobbs Road
- Vehicles not stopping at Hobbs Road and Maynard Road crosswalk

2. Camelot Road

- Drivers dropping off students and u-turning with many students and families walking and biking
- No sidewalk
- Parking on both sides of the street

3. Haro Road and Camelot Road

- Congested intersection with cars parking in the intersection

4. Arbutus Road and Haro Road

- Vehicle volumes and speeds
- Inadequate separation between vehicles and pedestrians (currently an asphalt curb separated sidewalk)
- Vehicles not stopping at crosswalk

5. School Drop-off loop

- Narrow separated walkway parallel to the drop-off loop

Action Plan

An Action Plan for Frank Hobbs 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. These improvements focus on locations within an 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.

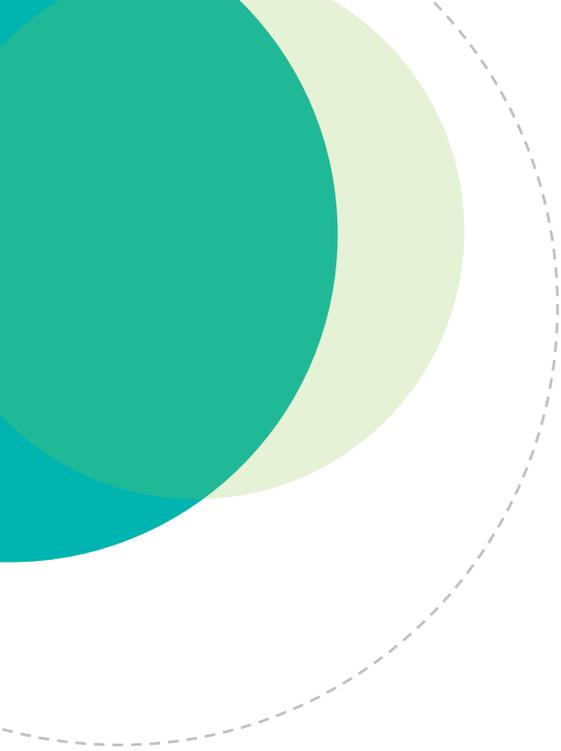
The map in Figure 2 highlights some of the key engineering improvements that will be implemented. The full Action Plan is provided in Appendix B.

Figure 2: Street Improvement Map



In addition to street improvements, complementary activities related to encouragement, education and enforcement are identified. In particular, parents have requested more school zone speed enforcement by Saanich Police.

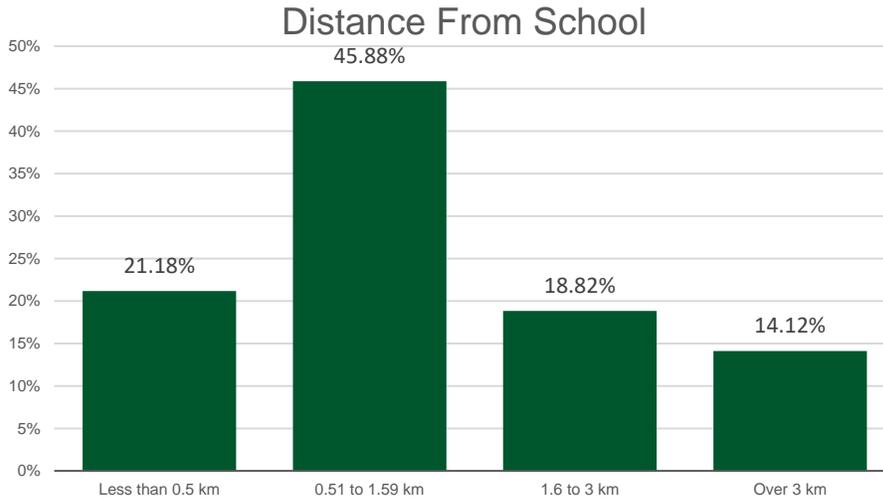
In May/June 2019 students took part in a bike repair workshop and bike skills courses. Arbutus Middle School Athletic Leadership students completed bike checks with support from Mac's Cycles on all students who brought their bikes to school on Wednesday, May 15. The CRD and CRD Traffic Safety Commission provided funding for 3-hour bike education courses for all grade 4/5 students. The courses were delivered by the Greater Victoria Bike to Work Week Society.



Appendix A – Parent Survey – Results

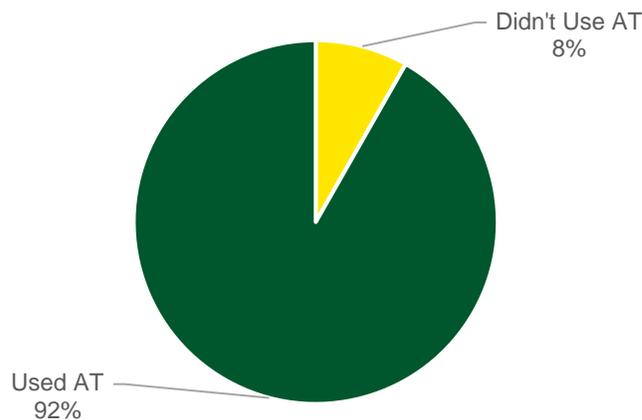
An on-line school travel survey was distributed to parents between November 5 - 23, 2018. From Frank Hobbs, 85 families completed the survey representing approximately 30% of the school population. The results of the survey are shown below.

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

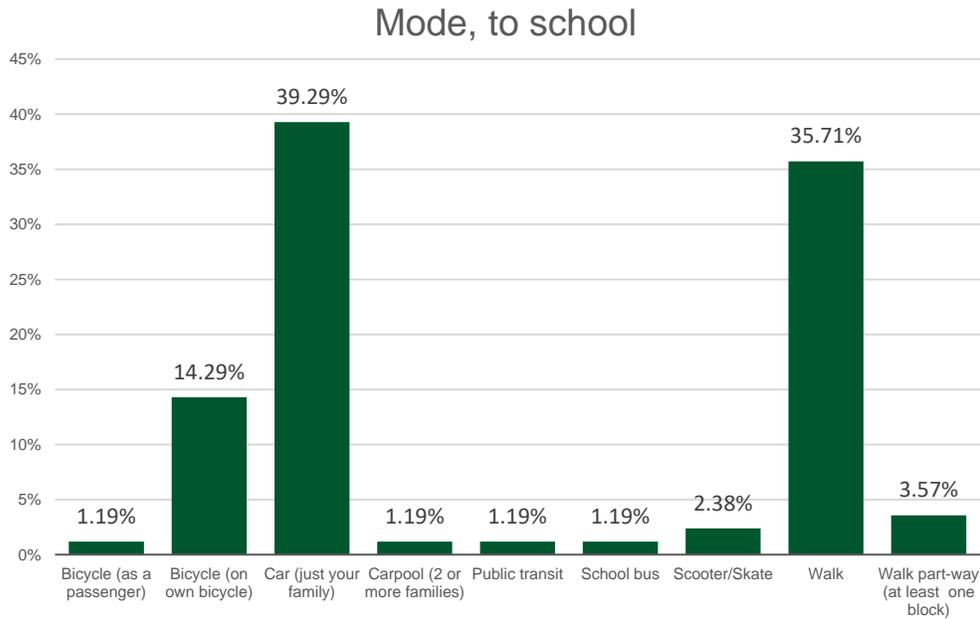


2. During the 2017/2018 school year, did your eldest child (at Frank Hobbs) travel to/from school at least once by (check all that apply): walk, scooter/skate, walk part-way, bicycle, school bus, public transit, carpool.

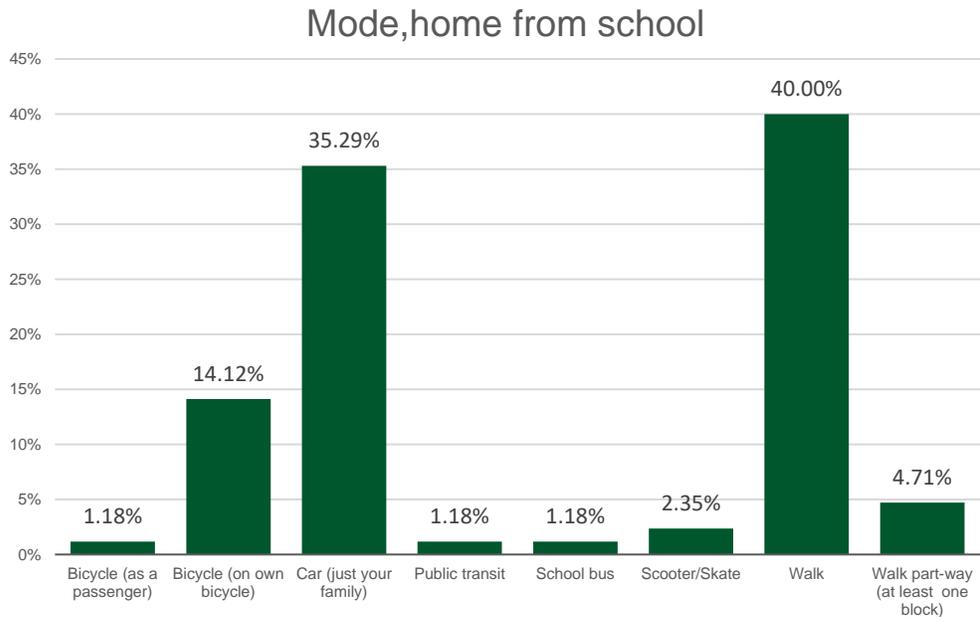
Percentage Using Active Transportation



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)



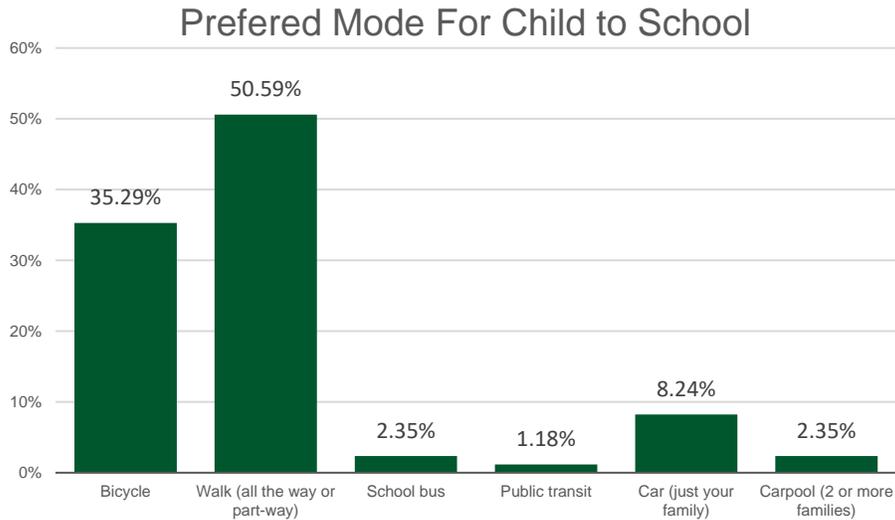
5. Is your eldest child accompanied TO school by an adult?

- 90% are accompanied to school by an adult

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

- 84% are accompanied home from school 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? (Most frequent responses; parents asked to choose up to three)

- Convenience/Time pressures
- Traffic safety concerns

9. I would encourage my eldest child to walk to school if... (Most frequent responses; parents asked to choose up to two)

- Continuous sidewalks/trails
- Lower vehicle speeds
- Additional marked crossings

10. I would encourage my eldest child to cycle to school if... (Most frequent responses; parents asked to choose up to two)

- Continuous bike facilities
- Additional crossings for bikes
- Lower vehicle speeds
- Increased skills/capability of my child

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

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

12. If/When you walk or cycle as a family, what motivates you? (Most frequent responses)

- Get physical activity
- Spend time outside
- Setting a good example

13. Has your child participated a cycling education program?

- Yes 40%, No 60%

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

- Yes 89%, No 11%

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

- Yes 87%, No 13%

Summary of comments on locations of concern:

- Gordon Head Road – crossings are unsafe, Vehicles not stopping at crosswalks
- Arbutus Road – Vehicle speed (x 6), lack of full sidewalk (x2), sidewalk too narrow, drivers not stopping at crosswalk (request for enforcement)
- Arbutus and Hobbs Street - Request for lit crosswalk
- Hobbs Street – Lack of full sidewalk, request for crossing guard
- Cadboro Bay Rd and Sinclair Road – Vehicles not stopping at crosswalk, busy, request for traffic light
- Camelot Road– parents using street to drop-off and pick-up with negative consequences, lack of sidewalk
- Finnerty Road and Edgelow Street– Vehicles not stopping at crosswalk
- Arbutus Road and Haro Road- vehicles not stopping at crosswalk (enforcement), trim overgrown vegetation, maintain the storm drain.
- Hobbs Street and Maynard Street – vehicle speeds (x2), vehicles not stopping at crosswalk, request for enforcement, request for crossing guard (x2)
- School – request for more parking
- Arbutus Road and Sherwood Road – Lack of crosswalk
- Sinclair Road– lack of sidewalk (x2), lack of crosswalks between Finnerty and Cadboro Bay Rd, lack of lighting
- Vehicle speed – Cadboro Bay Road, Hobbs Street, Arbutus Road,
- Pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure – build more (x4), better quality pathways and sidewalks (width for double stroller, letdowns)
- Distance is too far (x2)
- Request for safety programs including bike safety and crossing busy roads

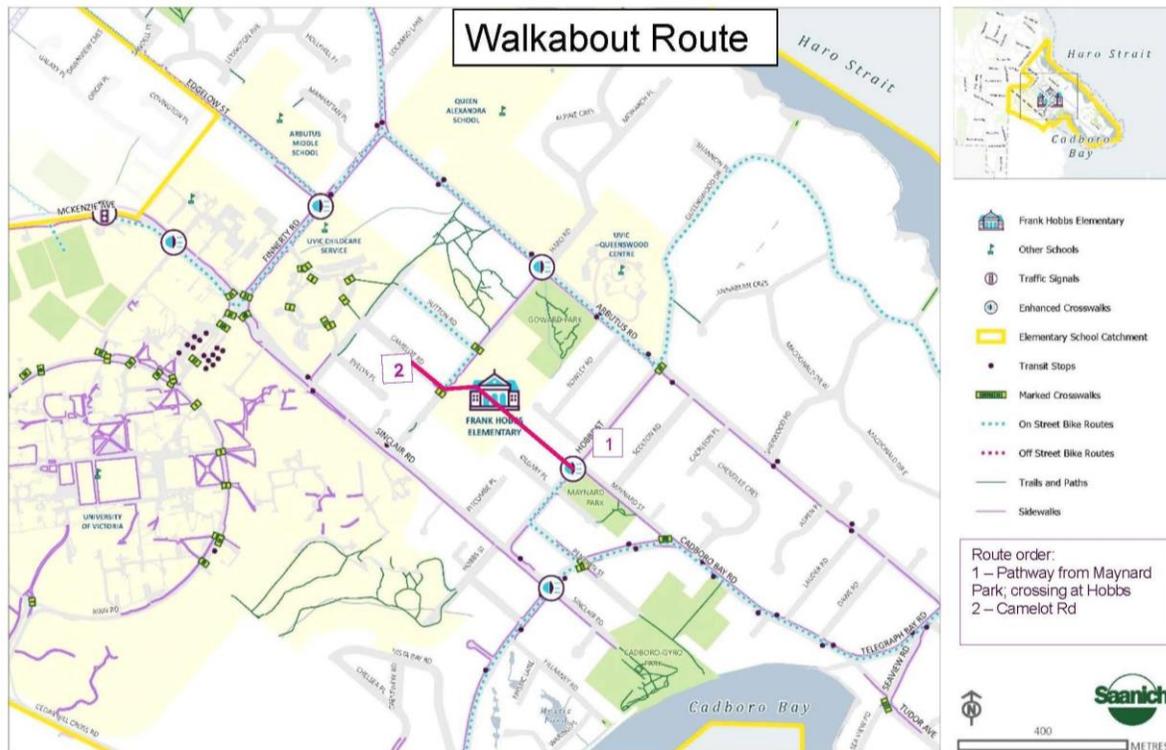


Appendix B – Walkabout Summary

Frank Hobbs Walkabout

February 19, 2019 7:30am

Attendees: Frank Hobbs administrators, Saanich Engineering, Saanich Parks, Saanich Police, Island Health, parents, PAC member, CRD Program Facilitator and notetaker



Pathway from school to Maynard Park; Maynard Street at Hobbs Street

Concerns

- Pathway is extremely dark/no lighting, lots of vegetation (parents did not support cutting back the vegetation a lot)
- Entrance to path from crosswalk with fences is awkward
 - Not “stroller” or bike trailer friendly
- Car speeding on Maynard Street
 - School Zone 8am – 5pm
 - Playground Zone in place dawn to dusk
 - Confusion about application of the playground zone; some parents asked for school zone to highlight the school location

- Very little pedestrian / car separation
- Drop off “zone” very limited, no pullout
 - Cars block crosswalk during drop off
- No sidewalk on north side of street to support drop off or pick-up
- Visibility of crosswalk is an issue

Improvements

- Drive to 5 Signage would be helpful
 - Signs are allowed to be erected for a limited timeframe to avoid sign clutter
 - Temporary CRD Drive to 5 signage encouraged
 - School special event advertisement of the Drive to 5 campaign could be undertaken by school
- St George’s church parking could be optional for drop off’s (Kate to contact/report back)
- Crosswalk has good placement
- Lighting could be added (LED rope lighting was discussed) to respond to a dark pathway
- Pathway vegetation management could be done by the School District or through Saanich Bylaw to adjacent land owners
- Add a parking map to parents to encourage walking and Drive to 5
- Encourage rotation of parent volunteers as a Walking School Bus
 - PAC sub-committee with kids involved

Haro Road at Camelot Road

Concerns

- Three Safety Patrols (Educational Assistants funded to be at crosswalk, drop off loop and playground). School is looking for possible funding for a 4th for this crossing at Camelot Rd. If no funding, possible to reallocate from playground supervision to this crosswalk
- Missing crosswalk pavement markings
- Fire lane could be reallocated to pedestrians during drop off times
 - Does provide a safety benefit with a pylon barrier between pedestrians and cars
- No yellow marking on curbs allow cars to “legally” park around the curbing and inhibit visibility to both pedestrians and cars
- No accessible drop off area
- Limited staff parking
 - Staff sometimes need to park in daycare area

- Parking along Haro Road is used by UVic students and staff for free parking as no time limits are imposed
- Intersection is regularly blocked during drop off/pick up
- Creates a visibility challenge for pedestrians during drop off times

Improvements

- Add parking restriction at intersection
- Implement more time limited parking along Haro Road
- Widen pedestrian walkway into school (along fire lane)

Camelot Road to trail entrance/UVic Family housing

Concerns

- Camelot is not safely walkable, given no sidewalks, cars parked both sides
- Pedestrians walk with no sidewalks, use road centre
 - Cars on both sides of roadway with no break
- Cars park on this roadway from UVic Family Housing

Improvements

- Discussion from Saanich Engineering for using Camelot as a trail connection roadway
- Install sidewalk on one side of the street

Haro Road at Arbutus Road

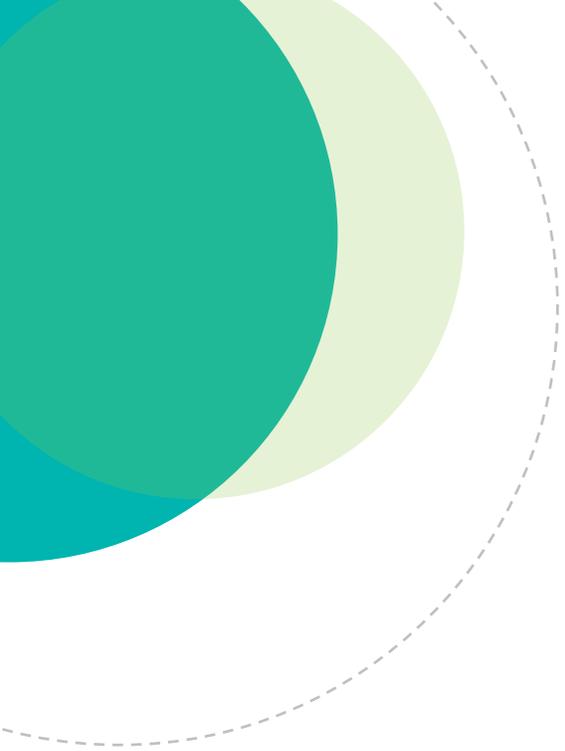
- Traffic speeds are an issue at this location (along Arbutus Road)
- It is challenging for students crossing Arbutus due to speeds at this location
 - Poor compliance for speed limit along that corridor
 - Discussion from Saanich Engineering on speed limit change to 30 or 40 km along that corridor would not be supported with the current Local Government Act
 - The elderly is of concern as well around the park area

Other discussion

- Ten Mile Point – safe crossing of Cadboro Bay Road (near Telegraph Bay Road) to walk to Frank Hobbs
- Police Liaison Officer – request speed enforcement for area around school
- Education – Bike Skills for Grade 5's, joint maintenance workshop with Arbutus Global Middle School students
- Walking School Bus – include possible Bike Train as well

Next Steps

- Action Plan for infrastructure upgrades will be developed
 - Will be sent to the PAC for comment
- School Travel Plan will be developed by the end of the school year
- Parents with speed/driving complaints can contact Saanich Police. Street infrastructure and maintenance requests can be sent to Saanich Engineering at engineering@saanich.ca. Parks infrastructure and maintenance can be sent to parks@saanich.ca



Appendix C – Action Plan

Engineering – Responsibility of District of Saanich unless otherwise noted.

Location	Consultation Feedback	Recommended Action	Details	Timeline
Hobbs Road	Vehicle speeds	Review playground zone sign placement; request police speed monitoring	Refer to national guidelines	2019
	Cars stopping and dropping off students on west side of road; lack of space and visibility	Review parking restrictions and expand based on impact on visibility	Assess visibility of crosswalk	2019
	Narrow sidewalk on east side and no sidewalk on west side of street	Install sidewalk on both sides of the street	Included in the District's Active Transportation Plan	Long term
Maynard Park	Muddy trail between crosswalk and sidewalk	Pave park pathway (corner triangle)		2020
	Drive to 5 location	Promote as Drive to 5 location; place temporary signs during special events	CRD to provide toolkit and signs, and include location on Best Routes maps	2019
Haro Road	Lack of sidewalk along the extent of the east side	Change parking to parallel only and provide a pedestrian path to prioritize connection to the child care centre		2020
	Issue with number of long term parking spots	Review neighbourhood parking supply and implement time limited parking where appropriate		2020
	Lack of turnaround at end of road	Create a turnaround area for parents		Long term

ACTIVE AND SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL 2018-19

Frank Hobbs Elementary

Location	Consultation Feedback	Recommended Action	Details	Timeline
Arbutus Road	Vehicle speeds	Monitor; Evaluate whether a park zone is appropriate in front of Haro Woods	Warrant complete – Playground signs to be installed	Complete (2019)
	Uncomfortable to walk and bike with vehicle speeds	Installation of improved sidewalks and bike lanes	New sidewalk and bike lanes will be installed between Finnerty Road and Haro Road as part of the CRD tank project	2020
Arbutus Road and Hobbs Street	Concerns regarding safety at crosswalk	Review crosswalk treatment.		2019
Arbutus Road and Haro Road	Concerns regarding safety at crosswalk	Review crosswalk treatment and location		2019
Sinclair Road and Haro Road	Lack of crosswalk to connect to UVic	Evaluate installation of a crosswalk	Explore as part of Sinclair Road redesign	2021
Sinclair Road and Hobbs Street	Lack of crosswalk, wide curb radius encourages faster vehicle speeds turning onto Hobbs Street	Evaluate installation of a crosswalk and tightening curb radius	Explore as part of Sinclair Road redesign	2021
Camelot Road	Lack of sidewalk; busy with students walking/biking to/from school and University housing	Prioritize pedestrians/cyclists	Explore opportunities to improve shared space for vehicle traffic, parking and people walking and on bikes.	2020
Access to 10 Mile Pt area	Request for safe crossing of Cadboro Bay Rd (near Telegraph Bay Rd)	Improved pedestrian connection		2022

Engineering - Responsibility of Greater Victoria School District

Location	Consultation Feedback	Recommended Action	Details	Timeline
School turnaround, Frank Hobbs Elementary	Narrow sidewalk; parents with strollers are walking in the fire lane	Move concrete wheel stops to increase width of the sidewalk	Review impact on fire lane	2019
Pathway between school and Hobbs Rd	Overgrown vegetation	Limited vegetation management		Annually
	Narrow width of pavements with root heaving	Re-pave and widen pathway	Complete as part of the pathway revitalization in conjunction with school boiler replacement	2020
	Dark outside of school hours	Add pedestrian-scale lighting (for example, string lighting)	Complete as part of the pathway revitalization Electricity to be extended in conjunction with school boiler replacement	2020
	Gate is inaccessible for larger strollers and bike trailers, and is unattractive	Widen space between gates; replace with welcoming gate that highlights it is part of Frank Hobbs school (i.e. pencils, trees, pokadots...) Alternative – remove gate and add 1 or 2 bollards	Complete as part of the pathway revitalization New design should still slow down students before they enter the roadway	2020
	Opportunity for art or nature education	Explore art opportunities; paint fence; add educational material to name and explain trees, etc	Complete as part of the pathway revitalization Partnership opportunity between PAC, school district and arts groups.	2020
Paved paths on school property	Numerous pathways on the property, are narrow and indirect	Create a pathway plan for a multi-use path across school yard	Ongoing opportunity for discussion between school, school district and municipality	TBD

Education and encouragement

Activity	Details	Timeline
Drive to 5	CRD Toolkit and temporary signs provided to the school. Use for regular schedule and special events. St. George's Church is open to providing parking if school is interested.	Completed
Repair workshop	Joint activity with Arbutus Global Middle School Athletic Leadership students did the ABC check of approximately 20 bikes with support of Mac's Cycles	Completed (May 2019)
Bike skills course – Grade 4/5 students	Delivered by Greater Victoria Bike to Work Society with 2019 funding from CRD/CRD Traffic Safety Commission	Completed (May/June 2019)
Crosswalk patrol at Haro Road and Camelot Road	Currently there is no crossing guard at this location. Education Assistants (EA) are placed at the lower Haro Road crosswalk, drop-off loop and playground.	As budget permits
Parking map	To provide information on the curbside rules around the school, including Drive to 5 locations, to improve safety for all road users. To be completed once District of Saanich's neighbourhood parking study is complete.	To be determined
Walking school bus	PAC to consider facilitation	For discussion with 2019-2020 PAC
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.

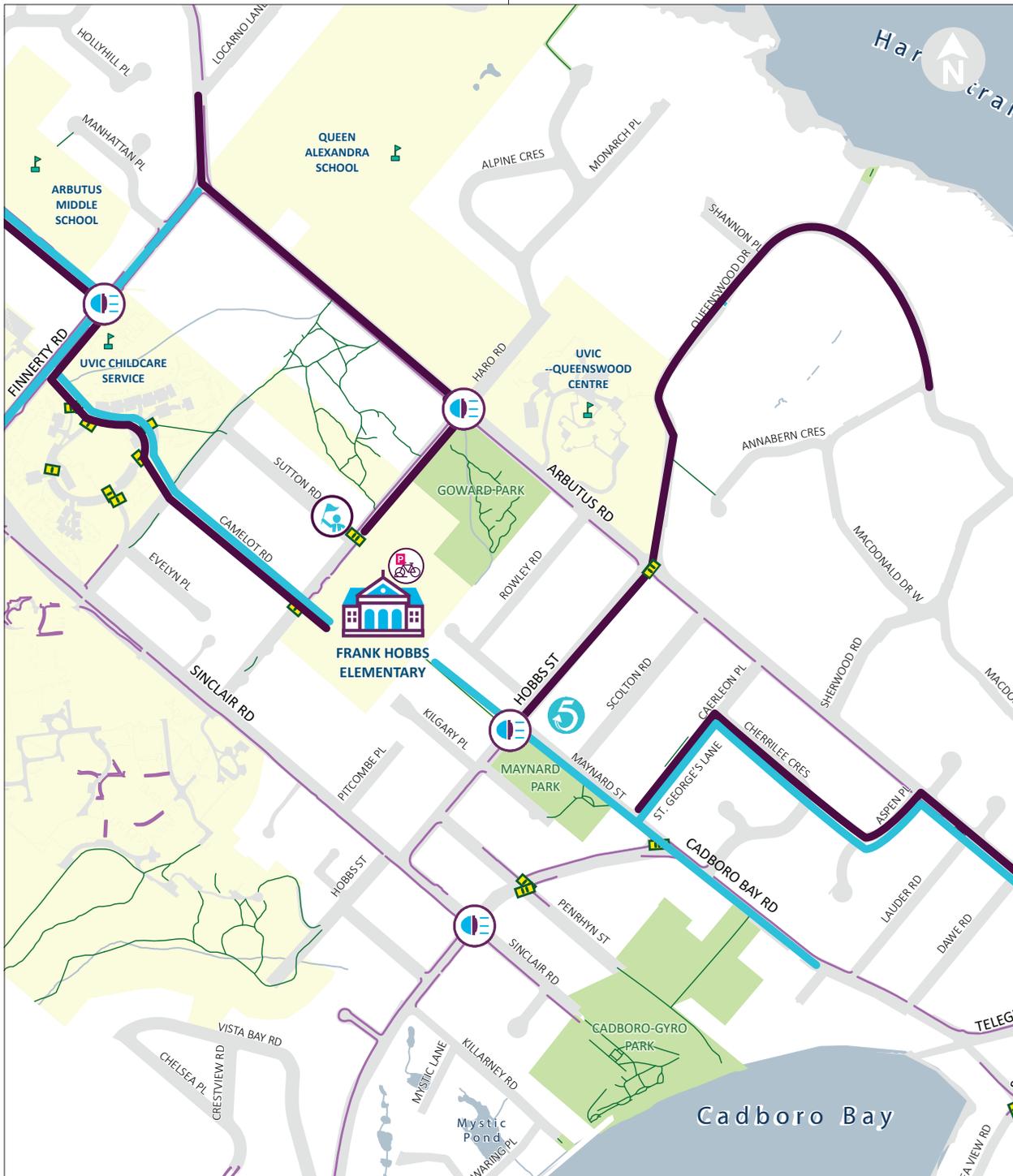
The Active and Safe Routes to School program is designed to encourage and enable students and families to walk, bike and roll to and from school. Visit www.saanich.ca for more information.

Frank Hobbs 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.

