

Strawberry Vale Elementary: Active Transportation Challenges and

Opportunities Final – August 2018

Strawberry Vale 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 currently or potentially 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 does not warrant construction of the following items and various items require review for warrant at the proposed locations utilizing Canada-wide standards. 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
Wilkinson/ Helmcken	Observed a school zone sign fallen over in the boulevard near trail to Mariposa	Put sign back	Complete	Immediate
Santa Anita/Santa Rosa	Request to review treatment options to 90 degree corner (blind corner) to improve safety of children walking and biking	Install 25m yellow centerline through 90 degree corner to establish laning	This item has been sent to engineering@saanich.ca for review	Immediate
Hastings	No street lights	Review lighting along corridor and consider addition of new lights on power poles	To be completed as part of the 2019 LED street light program; Additional lights will be installed because Hastings is a collector within the Urban Containment Boundary.	Immediate
Santa Anita/ Mariposa	Parking issues/car stopping confusion around the crosswalks	Consider parking restrictions	This item has been sent to engineering@saanich.ca for review	Short
Hastings/ Interurban/ Wilkinson	Pedestrian push button locations are confusing and not intuitively placed	Review push button placements and consider alternative location	To be completed as part of future improvement to the Hastings/Interurban/Wilkinson Intersection date of project TBD	Med
	No formalized staging areas for pedestrians to wait around the area	Review of pedestrian staging areas; identify most used corners for enlargement	To be completed as part of future improvement to the Hastings/Interurban/Wilkinson Intersection date of project TBD	Med

In addition, items will be raised with School District #61. Specifically, the school has no secure bike parking. Currently students are locking their bikes to handrails outside their classrooms. As well, there is a request to upgrade the gravel pedestrian connection at the drop-off exit to a fully accessible paved sidewalk.

Crosswalk Requests

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

Location	Challenge (consultation feedback)	Review/ Action	Timeframe
Hastings/Santa Anita/North Rd	Poor lighting at existing crosswalk and location of the bus stop	To be completed as part of the 2019 LED street light program; Bus stop to be re-located	Immediate
Helmcken and Lidgate	Currently no crosswalk up toward Lidgate Court from Helen Rd for connector trail near school; lots of kids living in the subdivision; suggestion to review pedestrian data, pedestrian staging area, advance flashers	This item has been added to the crosswalk priority list and will be reviewed as budget and priorities permit	Short
Hastings and Holland	Request for crosswalk with warning/flashing lights; school route to the park	This item has been added to the crosswalk priority list and will be reviewed as budget and priorities permit	Short

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
Hastings	Bike lanes and sidewalks on both sides	Identified as a cycling route in the District's Active Transportation Plan	Long

Trail and Pathways Requests

From the consultation, there were requests for maintenance for the following trails and pathways:

Location	Challenge (consultation feedback)	Review/ Action	Timeframe
Trail connecting Wilkinson to Mariposa	Great connection but slippery during the wet season	Opportunity for wayfinding; review maintenance schedule.	Medium
Panama Flats trail	Improve path (loose gravel; fix path) to avoid Interurban (connection for Colquitz/Strawberry Vale)	Path is in a low flood plain that routinely floods and causes issues. Maintenance as needed	Completed annually

