

# SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN

Arbutus Global Middle School

*DRAFT*



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# Active School Travel Planning

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Arbutus Global Middle School 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 successfully 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
  - On-line parent survey
  - Neighbourhood walkabout
- Deliverable
  - School Travel Plan, including Action Plan and 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.

# École Intermédiaire ARBUTUS Global Middle School: School Profile



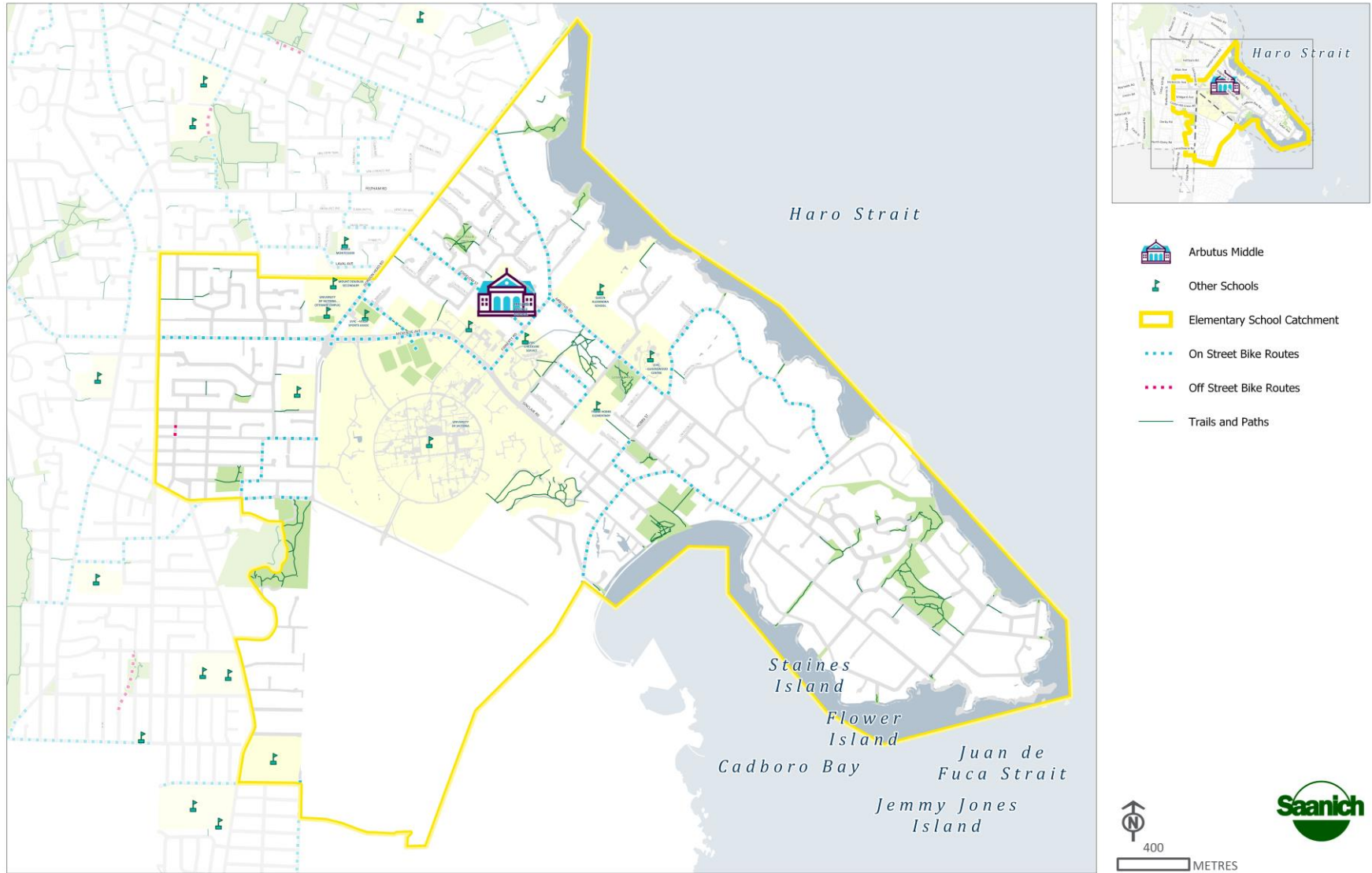
2306 Edgelow St

Saanich, BC

<b>School District</b>	Greater Victoria (SD 61)
<b>Grades</b>	6 – 8
<b>2018-19 Enrollment</b>	443 Students
<b>Feeder schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Frank Hobbs Elementary</li><li>• Campus View Elementary</li></ul>
<b>Programs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dual track French Immersion/English</li><li>• Provincial curriculum with a school-wide focus on global education, environmental awareness and social responsibility</li></ul>
<b>Active and Sustainable Transportation Programming</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Annual grade 7 multi-day bike ride to Sooke (May)</li><li>• Bike racks</li><li>• PAC has raised money to fund additional bike racks</li><li>• Classes walk throughout the neighbourhood for educational opportunities, including to Haro Woods, Gordon Head Rec Centre, University of Victoria, Montague Park and the beach.</li></ul>

**ACTIVE AND SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL 2018-19**  
Arbutus Global Middle School

**Figure 1: School Catchment**

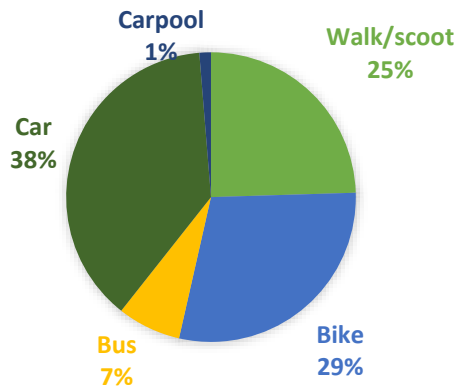


# School Travel Survey

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An on-line school travel survey was distributed to parents between October 15 – 26, 2018. From Arbutus Global, 155 families completed the survey representing approximately 38% of the school population.

**Of the survey respondents, Arbutus Global students usually get to school by...**



61% of students use active transportation to travel to school

39% of students are driven to school

For the trip home, only 20% of students are picked up in a car with corresponding increase mode share of walking and bussing.

**The survey results indicate that Arbutus Global Middle School has the potential for more active travel (walk, bike or bus):**

- 90% of students have walked, biked or bused to school at least once in the last year.
- 90% of parents prefer that their eldest child use active transportation to school.

**Survey respondents indicated that students are driven to school due to:**

- Convenience/Time pressures
- Traffic safety concerns
- Distance from home
- Weather

**Arbutus Global parents would encourage their child to walk or bike to school if there were:**

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

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Complete survey responses are provided in Appendix A

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# Transportation Challenges at Arbutus Global

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

## 1. Edgelow Street and Dawnview Crescent

- No marked crosswalk
- Busy multi-modal intersection
- Low visibility of students crossing
- No bike facilities on Edgelow St

## 2. Edgelow Street and Finnerty Road

- Busy multi-modal intersection
- Drivers not stopping at crosswalk
- No bike facilities to turn left from Finnerty Road onto Edgelow Street

## 3. Gordon Head Road

### • Feltham Road

- High vehicle volumes and speeds
- Lack of crosswalk on north side of Gordon Head Road
- No flashing beacons
- Drivers not stopping at the crosswalk
- Drivers entering the bike lane while turning
- Low visibility of students crossing

### • Edgelow Street

- Pedestrian-controlled signal (half signal)
- One crosswalk across Gordon Head Rd
- Busy multi-modal intersection with high volume of turning movements
- Drivers are entering the bike lane

## 4. Lexington Avenue and pathway

- Conflicts between students cycling and walking and student drop-off on a busy local street
- Speed and volume of vehicles
- Low visibility of students exiting the path

## 5. Insufficient cycling and pedestrian infrastructure

- Request for improved walking/biking connection from Arbutus Global to Frank Hobbs and onwards to Cadboro Bay
- Request for covered bike parking

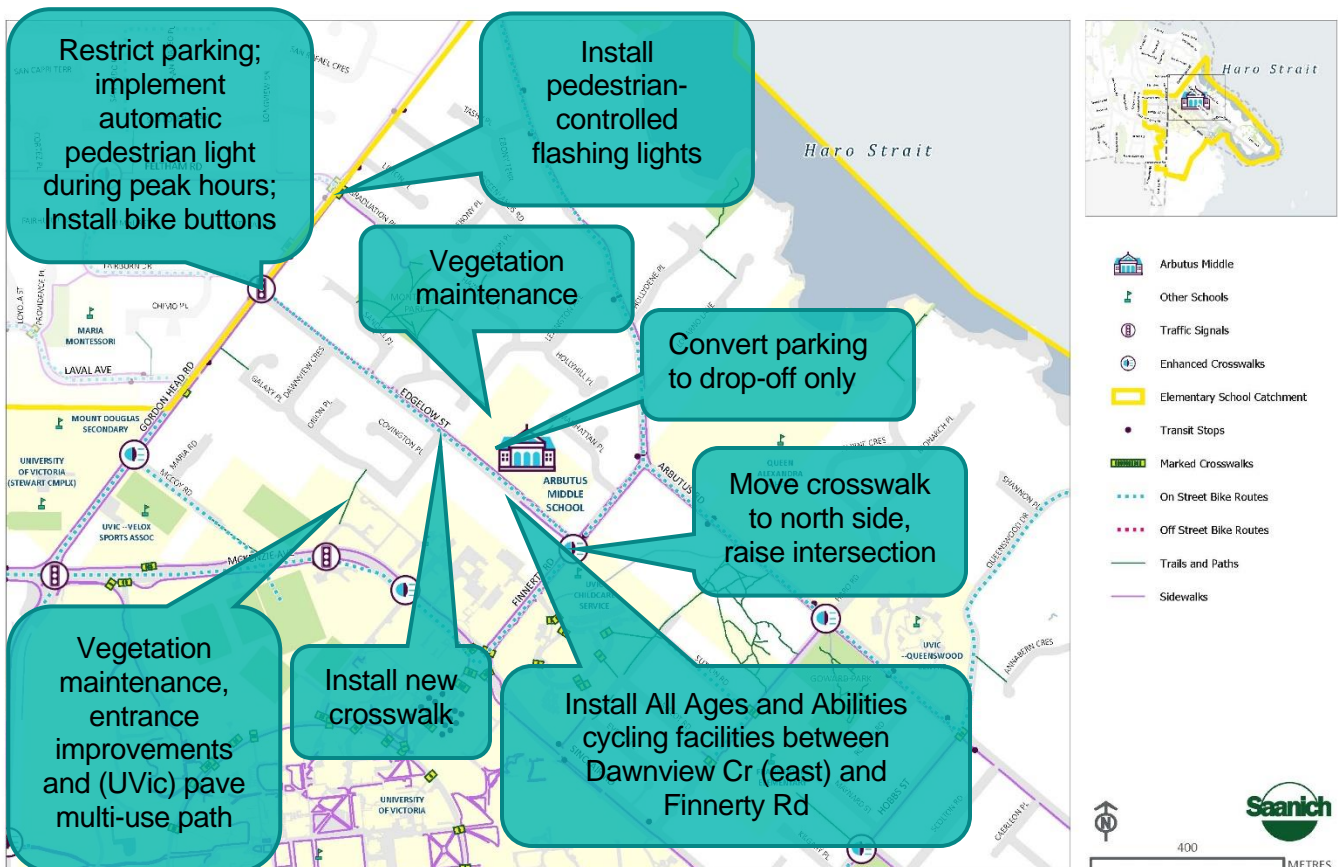
# Action Plan

An action plan for Arbutus Global Middle 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 1km 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 engineering improvements that will be implemented within the next 3 years. 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. The CRD and Bike to Work Week Society will provide funding for the bike education for the 2019 grade seven bike trip.

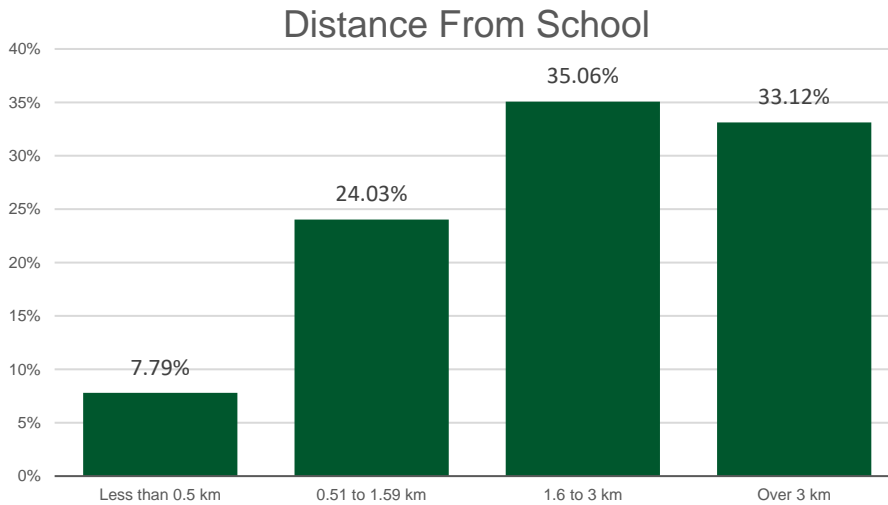




# **Appendix A – Parent Survey – Results**

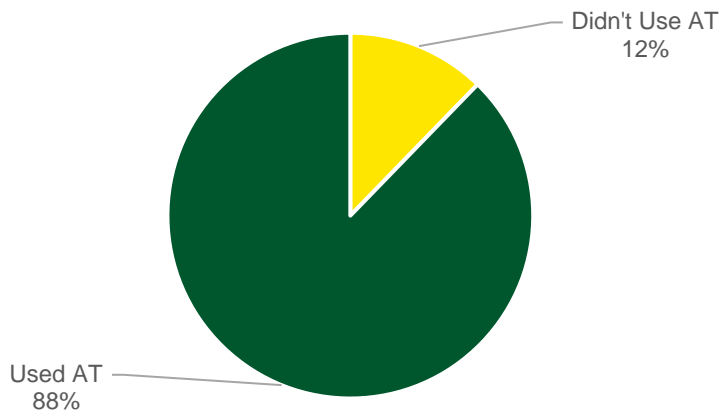
An on-line school travel survey was distributed to parents between October 15 – 26, 2018. From Arbutus Middle, 155 families completed the survey representing approximately 38% of the school population. The results of the survey are shown below.

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

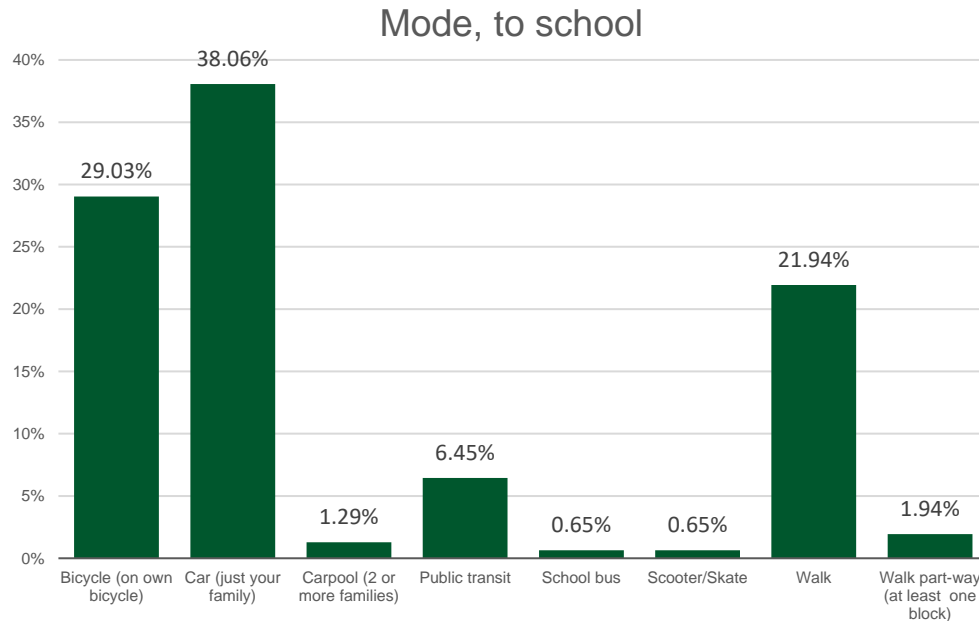


2. During the 2017/2018 school year, did your eldest child (at Arbutus Global) travel to/from school at least once by (check all that apply): walk, scooter/skate, walk part-way, bicycle, school bus, public transit, carpool.

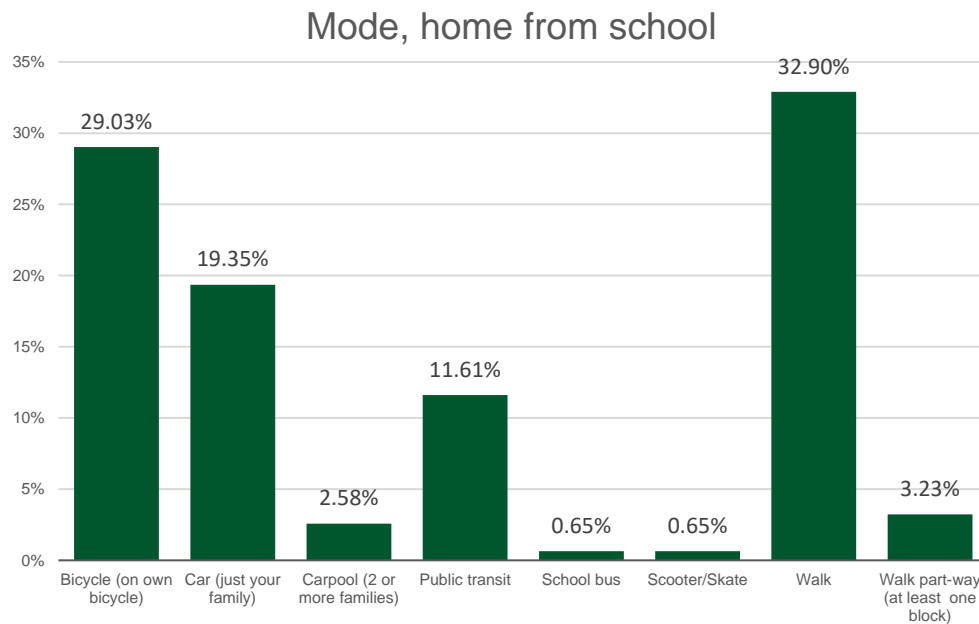
### Percentage Using Active Transportation



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)



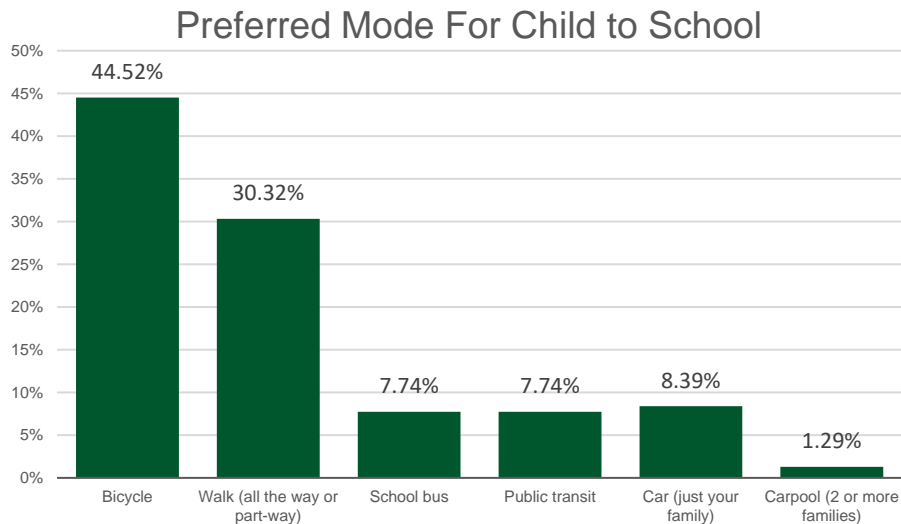
5. Is your eldest child accompanied TO school by an adult?

- 40% are accompanied to school by an adult

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

- 23% 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? (choose up to three)

- Convenience/Time pressures
- Traffic safety concerns
- Distance from home is too far
- Weather

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

- Continuous sidewalk
- Additional marked crosswalks
- Lower vehicle speeds and volumes

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

- Continuous bike facilities
- Additional crossings
- Lower vehicle speeds and volumes

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

- Identifying the most appropriate route
- Making sure my child has clothing to walk or ride in the rain
- Ensuring my child's bike is in good working condition
- Practicing walking or biking to school on the weekend

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

- Get physical activity
- Spend time outside
- Environmental benefits

13. Has your child participated a cycling education program?

- Yes 50%, No 50%

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

- Yes 88%, No 12%

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

- Yes 87%, No 13%

*Summary of comments:*

- Need for connected bike routes
- Barrier to walking and biking: carrying musical instruments, distance
- Request for covered bike racks
- Concerns about safety with driver behavior, vehicle speed and volumes
- Location concerns:
  - Finnerty Road and Edgelow Street – drivers not stopping
  - Edgelow Street – vehicle speed
  - Gordon Head Road – traffic speed and volume
  - Gordon Head Road and Feltham Road – request of pedestrian lights, improved sightlines
  - Lexington Avenue - traffic volumes and speed, request to remove vehicle parking

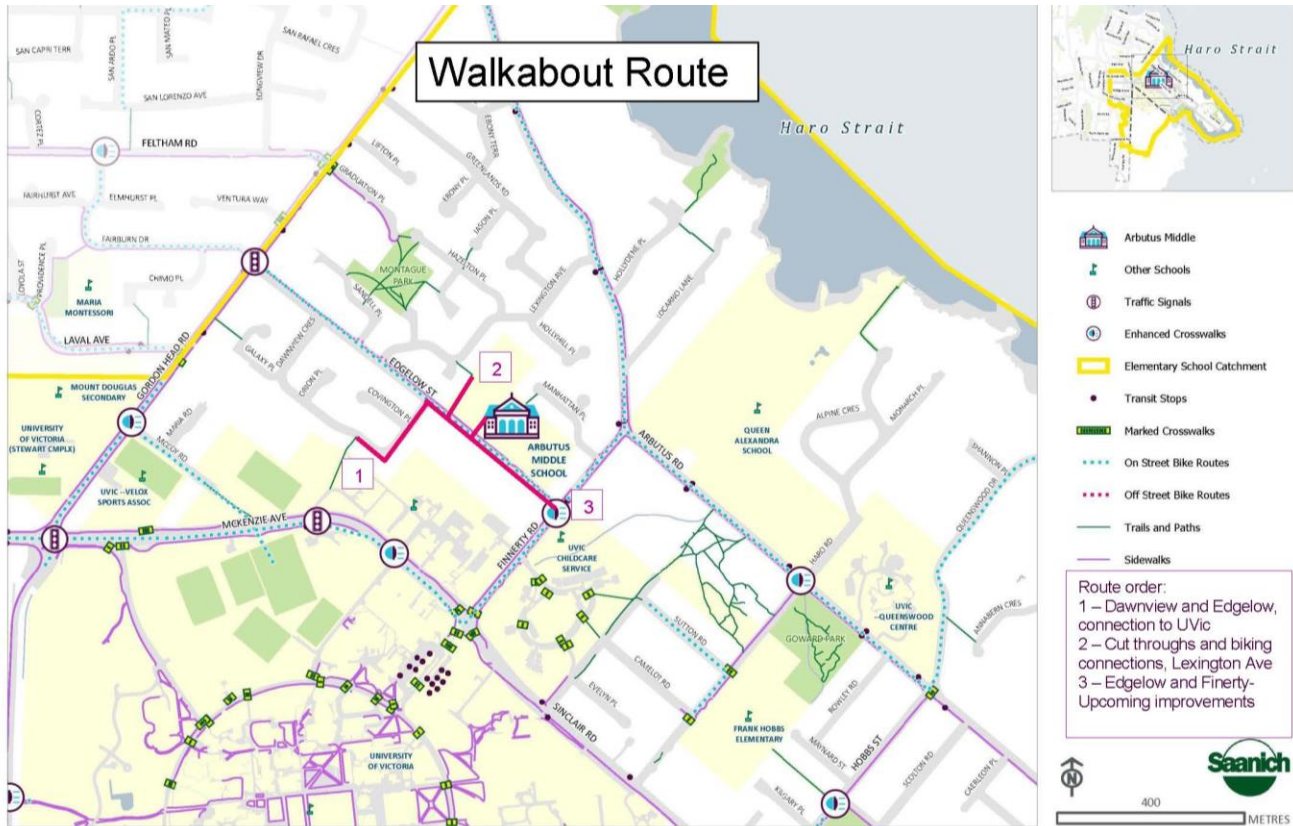


# **Appendix B – Walkabout Summary**

## Arbutus Walkabout

November 16, 2018 7:30am

**Attendees:** Saanich Engineering, BC Transit, Arbutus school administrators, seven parents, PAC member, Program facilitator and notetaker



### Dawnview Crescent and Edgelow Street:

- Request for crosswalk
- Difficulty turning left from Dawnview Cres on to the sidewalk on bike
- Parked cars on both sides of the street with low visibility
- Route to the closest bus stop
- Dawnview – low traffic volumes
- Suggestion: crosswalk, bumpouts, could be raised
- Edgelow Street is on the bike network but not short term plan for bike lane

### Cut through between Dawnview Crescent and University of Victoria:

- Narrow but bounded by property lines so it can't easily be widened
- Very busy route (Arbutus, UVic students)
- Visibility issues on enter and exit of cut through

- UVic is going to build a connecting path in the future
- Suggestion: Trim vegetation (responsibility of the property owner), add pavement around path entrance where pedestrians are walking on the grass (muddy)

**Bike Parking:**

- Requests for covered parking
- Problem – tree is too close
- Gets to capacity, will need more soon
- PAC/school funded

**Lexington Avenue/pathway:**

- Students ride straight out of path
- Lots of moving cars; interactions between pedestrians, bikes
- Cars will park in front of path
- Increase awareness of the path and that drivers should expect students walking/biking
- Request to trim vegetation (responsibility of the property owner)
- Very dark in the morning - request for lighting. Challenging
- Options to reduce traffic speed: speed bumps, painting intersection, plastic posts, no drop off on one side, reduce speed limit, narrow road

**School:**

- No biking in parking lot and front of school
- Bike rack located at back of school so students can ride there

**Finnerty Road improvements (completion 2019) will include:**

- Protected bike lane and multi-use path
- Raised intersection to slow cars and increase pedestrian visibility
- Moving crosswalk to north side
- Sidewalks on both sides
- Existing flashing beacons

**10 Mile Point:**

- No safe crossing from Tudor
- Vegetation
- No sidewalk



**Gordon Head and Feltham Road:**

- Crosswalk limited to one side of intersection
- No flashing beacons (other crosswalks on Gordon Head have them)
- Safety concerns: High vehicle volumes and speeds
- Drivers turning west from Feltham Road: not looking for pedestrians/cyclists (looking for a break in traffic), turning into the bike lane, not coming to a complete stop
- Students are not visible
- Cars stop in intersection
- Suggestions: Move crosswalk to north (though that would inconvenience cyclists); crossing on both sides, install RRFB (rectangular rapid flashing beacon)

**Gordon Head and Edgelow Street:**

- Centre point of three schools
- Half-light treatment is confusing for all users (drivers, pedestrian, people on bikes)
- Turning vehicles use the pedestrian signal
- Parents are dropping off students at this location
- Drivers entering the bike lanes
- Safety concerns with interactions between drivers, pedestrians and cyclists
- Suggestions: add crossing guard, full traffic light, add plastic bollards on bike lane

**Gordon Head and Midgard Avenue:**

- Very busy intersection
- Current work going on is underground capital work
- UVic's desire is to widen and separate their chip trail (Alumni Chip Trail)
- Saanich will upgrade intersection for pedestrians and cyclists when that happens

**Gordon Head Road:**

- Identified as a bike route but no short-term plans for bike lanes

**Education:**

- Opportunity for more bus education (many student take bus to after school activities)
- Cycling education- include curriculum on how to use cut throughs
- Education for motorists
- Cycling education
  - Parents – awareness campaign
  - Include content in parent newsletter
  - Really practical information

- Routes planning
- Traffic safety education

Classes from Arbutus Global walk to Montague Park, Dawnview to UVic, Haro Woods via Finnerty, Gordon Head Recreation Centre (swimming), Montague then Feltham, Mystic Vale Beach, Global Action Exploratory – invasive species

**Other comments:**

- Enforcement: Blitz at intersections, Gordon Head and Edgelow Street
- Engagement – parent contest: win a hot lunch
- Drive to 5: Lexington is not a good location
- Build infrastructure more quickly – safety should take priority
- Bikemaps.org – Can be used to report near misses and safety incidents; used by Saanich to do cycling planning



# **Appendix C – Action Plan**

**Engineering** – Responsibility of District of Saanich unless otherwise noted

Location	Consultation Feedback	Recommended Action	Details	Timeline
Edgelow Street and Dawnview Crescent	No marked crosswalk at busy multi-modal intersection; low visibility of students	Restrict parking at the intersection	Improve pedestrian visibility	2020
		Install marked crosswalk	Consider enhancements such as raised crosswalk, curb bulges and/or beacons	2020
	Visibility and extent of school speed zone	Extend school zone to west of Dawnview intersection	Review in accordance with the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices at the time of marked crosswalk installation	2020
Dawnview Crescent pathway to University of Victoria (UVic)	Busy paved path is narrow; muddy entrance from Dawnview; UVic direct connection to McKenzie Ave is an informal dirt path	Request vegetation maintenance by owner	Improved pedestrian visibility entering Dawnview Cres; Bylaw enforcement issue	Complete (2018)
		Widen entrance of path at the road	Respond to desire lines where people are walking over the grass and creating mud	Align with UVic work
		Pave multi-use path on UVic grounds to connect to MacKenzie Ave	Responsibility of University of Victoria. Identified in the 2018 Campus Cycling Plan	Short term (1-3 years)
Edgelow Street and Finnerty Road	Busy multi-modal intersection; drivers not stopping at crosswalk	Move crosswalk to north side of intersection; install raised intersection	Part of the Finnerty Rd infrastructure upgrade project to increase safety and comfort of people walking and biking	2019
Path to Lexington Avenue	Low visibility of students exiting the pathway	Request vegetation maintenance by owner	Increase visibility between the trail and the road	Complete
	Cars stopping at pathway entrance to drop off students	Evaluate installation of wider landing pad/signage/flexi posts at trail	Restrict parking and increase visibility between the trail and the road	2019

**ACTIVE AND SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL 2018-19**  
Arbutus Global Middle School

Location	Consultation Feedback	Recommended Action	Details	Timeline
Lexington Avenue	Busy local street with conflicts between students walking/biking and being dropped off; concern of speed and volume of vehicles	Reduce vehicle traffic speed	Advisory 20 km/hr signs currently in place; assess visibility of signs; monitor changes from improving the entrance to the path	2021
Edgelow St	Congestion during pick-up and drop off in front of the school	Programming and education	Encourage active transportation and Drive to 5; Communication to parents	Ongoing
	Provide on-street drop off opportunity	Convert on-street parking in front of school to drop-off zone	Details to be confirmed with school administration	2019
	Lack of bike lanes	Installation of bike facilities as part of the Long-term Bicycle Network Priorities (All Ages and Abilities)	Install AAA cycling facilities from Dawnview Cr (east) to Finnerty	2022
Install AAA cycling facilities from Dawnview Cr (east) to Gordonhead Rd			Long term	
Gordon Head Rd and Edgelow St	Lack of crosswalk crossing one side of Gordon Head Rd; conflict between pedestrians and high volume of turning vehicles; drivers entering the bike lane	Remove vegetation and restrict parking	Improve sightlines and visibility of pedestrians	2019
		Make the signal cycle automatically during peak times (8:20-8:40 am, 2:45-3:00pm)	Improve level of service for pedestrians and cyclists. Reduce long queues of vehicles exiting the school.	Complete (2019)
		Install bike buttons	Improve crossing for cyclists	Complete (2019)

**ACTIVE AND SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL 2018-19**

Arbutus Global Middle School

Location	Consultation Feedback	Recommended Action	Details	Timeline
Gordon Head Rd and Feltham Rd	Lack of crosswalk crossing one side of Gordon Head Rd; high vehicle volumes and speed; no flashing beacons, low visibility of students	Install pedestrian controlled flashing lights	Improve visibility of pedestrian	2022
	Drivers entering the bike lane	Install delineators (plastic posts) on bike lanes near intersection	Discourage vehicles turning into the bike lane	2020
	High volume of turning vehicles conflict with pedestrians	Re-configure intersection with sidewalk connections	Connect to sidewalk planned for Gordon Head and Feltham	Long term
Connection to Frank Hobbs Elementary	Request for improved walking and biking connection	Enhance the family friendly route	Ongoing discussion with partners	Long term
Access to 10 Mile Pt area	Request for safe crossing of Cadboro Bay Road (near Telegraph Bay Road)	Improved pedestrian connection		2022
School bike racks	Bike racks are at capacity in good weather; interest in covered bike rack	Expand bike parking and install covered bike racks	Responsibility of Arbutus Global/School District 61; District-wide program to provide covered bike racks	As funding is available

**Education and Encouragement**

Activity	Details	Timeline
Bike Skills Course – Grade 7	To prepare students for the annual multi-day bike trip.  Delivered by Greater Victoria Bike to Work Society with 2019 funding from CRD/CRD Traffic Safety Commission	Completed (Spring 2019)
Grade 7 bike trip	Annual multi-day bike trip led by Aaron Maxwell, Vice Principal, to Sooke	Completed (May 2019)
Bike maintenance workshop	Athletic Leadership students did the ABC check of approximately 20 bikes at Frank Hobbs Elementary with support of Mac's Cycles	Completed (May 2019)
School zone enforcement	Request to Saanich Police for school zone enforcement	Request submitted
Bike to School Week	Greater Victoria Bike to Work Society program held in May	Annually
Drive to 5	CRD Toolkit and signs provided to school. Potential locations at Lexington Avenue, Dawnview Crescent, and Graduation Drive	
Walk and Wheel to School Week	CRD program held 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](http://www.saanich.ca) for more information.

# Arbutus Global Middle 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.

