

Lochside Elementary: Active Transportation Challenges and Opportunities

Final – August 2018

Lochside 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 was 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
Lochside Dr (south of Royal Oak Dr)	Very narrow road with limited space; cyclists are commuting along the Lochside Trail, people and kids walking; concerns about number of vehicles blocking the trail, driving at unsafe speeds	Restrict parking to discourage drivers from using this road and turning around. Encourage it to be used as a trail, and alternative parking locations needs to be promoted.	This item has been submitted to engineering@saanich.ca for review of parking restrictions. Explore installation of 'Cyclists slow during school hours' signs	Immediate
Royal Oak Drive and Lochside Drive	Safety concern raised with small pedestrian staging areas at the intersection for pedestrians/kids; high volume of pedestrians at peak times	Review opportunities to increase pedestrian staging areas at the intersection Consider reviewing traffic signal phasing to accommodate pedestrian movement through the intersection during high volume pedestrian peak times	Install concrete pads to create larger pedestrian staging area behind sidewalk. Review traffic signal phasing, consider changes to increase pedestrian movement through the intersection	Immediate Medium
	Crosswalk only on 3 sections of the intersection – request to look into adding another leg	Review intersection for addition of north south crosswalk on east side of the intersection.	This item has been added to the Districts sidewalk priority list and will be reviewed as budget and priorities permits.	Medium
Royal Oak Dr	Reduce vehicle speed to Outerbridge Park because many students are walking	Expand the school zone to Outerbridge Park	Current conditions (student do not need to cross the street, sidewalk and bike lane present, and average traffic speed) do not support expanding the school zone.	N/A

In addition, a concern regarding the drop-off area has been shared with School District #63. Specifically, there is no comfortable walking route from the far end of the parking lot. A potential improvement could be the installation of a trail from the east side of the school property behind the parking lot and to the school.

Crosswalk Requests

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

Location	Challenge (consultation feedback)	Review/ Action	Timeframe
Emily Carr and Rithetwood Dr	Visibility of crosswalk (hidden by vehicles)	This item has been submitted to engineering@saanich.ca for review of parking restrictions	Immediate
Sunnymead and McMorran	Request for crosswalk	This item has been sent to engineering@saanich.bc.ca for work order and completion.	Immediate
Royal Oak and McMorran	Request for crosswalk	There is an existing controlled intersection at Royal Oak and Lochside with connecting sidewalk. Not warranted.	N/A
Emily Carr and Lohbrunner Rd W	Request for crosswalk	This item has been added to the crosswalk priority list and will be reviewed as budget and priorities permit.	Long
Rithetwood and Royal Oak	Request for enhanced crosswalk – flashing lights	Signalized crossing at Lochside 135m away, Crosswalk not warranted.	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
Royal Oak Drive	Large volumes of pedestrians before and after school utilizing the sidewalk for walking and biking from Rithetwood Drive and Lochside making it narrow	This item to widen the sidewalk has been added to the Districts sidewalk priority list and will be reviewed as budget and priorities permits.	Medium
	Do not feel safe using the bike lanes due to vehicle speed and cars entering the bike lanes at corners	Royal Oak Drive is identified in the District's Active Transportation plan as a major cycling spine to receive facilities that caters to All Ages and Abilities (AAA).	Long

Location	Challenge (consultation feedback)	Review/ Action	Timeframe
Sunnymead	Sidewalk	Low priority as there are sidewalks on one side of Sunnymead	N/A
Amblewood Dr	Sidewalk	Wide low volume residential road. This location does not meet warrant for sidewalk installation.	N/A
Blenkinsop Rd	Bike lanes	Identified as a shoulder bikeway cycling route as part of the Active Transportation Plan. The current shoulder bike lanes will not be improved.	N/A

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 off Pheasantwood Trrc to Trailwood Pl	Overgrown trail	Vegetation pruning to improve visibility to path and improve lighting.	Immediate
Donwood to Lochside Trail	Stairs that are slippery and overgrown.	Vegetation sightline pruning already in progress.	Immediate
Lochside Trail (CRD portion)	Lack of lighting	CRD Regional Parks to undertake a regional trail lighting study as part of the Regional Trail Management Plan.	Medium
Outerbridge Park	Provide a trail from the park to the side of the school	Saanich Parks has no plans to connect the trails to the school property as they do not want to encourage public paths to connect with private property.	N/A

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