

# Torquay Elementary: Active Transportation Challenges and Opportunities

Final – August 2018

Torquay 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](mailto: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](http://www.saanich.ca) or contact your school.



## General Infrastructure

Location	Challenge (consultation feedback)	Potential Improvement	Review/ Action	Timeframe
Torquay Dr	Visibility concerns- remove parking between Longacre crosswalk to the entrance of the school	Remove 3 parking spaces on Torquay (road width of 7.3 m is too narrow for 2 travel and 1 parking lane)	This item has been sent to <a href="mailto:engineering@saanich.ca">engineering@saanich.ca</a> for review	Immediate
	Westside sidewalk – people drive on the sidewalk; sidewalk between Tremblay Dr and Ash Rd is very minimal; request to improve the visibility and structure of the sidewalk between Tremblay Dr and Hillview (or Ash) by raising the curb/building traditional sidewalk	Upgrades to the existing sidewalk with installation of concrete sidewalk	This item has been added to the sidewalk priority list and will be reviewed as budget and priorities permit	Medium
	Section between school and Ash Rd – narrow road	Consider restricting on-street parking	This item has been sent to <a href="mailto:engineering@saanich.ca">engineering@saanich.ca</a> for review	Immediate
Longacre	Concern about “drifting” at the sweeping curve. Suggestion to provide a visual cue to drivers	Consider painting 25m of yellow center line	Review location for warrant to install 25m of yellow center line	Short
Torquay/ Ash	Concerns about intersection safety- visibility with Arbutus tree, drivers can see the pedestrian flashing lights but not pedestrians; drivers drive on the curb; request for pedestrian controlled crossing (survey)	Parallel process to look at changes to this specific intersection	Installation of flashing beacons, additional street light, ‘crosswalk ahead’ signs, hedge clearing and paint markings.	Complete
School site (Responsibility of School District #61)	Concern about current pedestrian access with crosswalks that require students to cross driveways; opportunity for additional school accesses with gravel/paved paths from Tyndall Park and Tiffen PI	Re-locate crosswalks to outer perimeter of the site; install pathways	Site painting will be considered for the 2019 summer season; installation of pathways will be considered as part of future renewal of the sport field	TBD

## Crosswalk Requests

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

Location	Challenge (consultation feedback)	Review/ Action	Timeframe
Torquay/Longacre	No curb drop on east side of crosswalk; request for flashing beacons and bump out/landing pad; visibility of crosswalk with street parking	Install crosswalk drop and formal pedestrian staging area.	Short
Torquay/Hillview	Request for north/south crosswalk with bump outs	Installation of a painted crosswalk across Hillview will be considered as part of the improvements to the Torquay sidewalk.	Medium
San Juan and San Cristo Pl	Request for crosswalk	Has been added to the crosswalk priority list and will be reviewed as budget and priorities permit	Medium
Majestic Dr and San Juan	Request for crosswalk	Has been added to the crosswalk priority list and will be reviewed as budget and priorities permit	Medium
Majestic and Hawthorn, Longacre, and Prairie	Request for crosswalks	Have been added to the crosswalk priority list and will be reviewed as budget and priorities permit	Medium

## 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
Longacre	Sidewalk	Short section of Longacre near the intersection with Torquay will be considered for installation of a sidewalk.	Long
Torquay Dr	Bike lanes	Identified in the Active Transportation Plan to receive bicycle facilities that cater to All Ages and Abilities.	Long
Ash Rd	Bike lanes, wider sidewalk	Identified in the Active Transportation Plan.	Long
San Juan	Bike lanes	Identified in the Active Transportation Plan.	Long

Tyndall Ave	Bike lanes	Installation of bicycle facilities have been identified for neighbouring Torquay.	N/A
Triest Crescent	Sidewalk	Under review by Saanich Engineering	TBD

### 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
Tyndall Park	Improve year-round access through park to the school with a paved pathway	Subject to budget request. Require school district partnership for connecting trail on school property.	TBD
Tiffin PI access	Remove staggered bike barrier (Saanich)	Sent to engineering@saanich.ca for work order and completion	Immediate