

Prospect Lake Elementary: Active Transportation Challenges and Opportunities

Prospect Lake 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.

The 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. 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.

The following infrastructure items have been assigned review/action completion timeframes. 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

General Infrastructure

Location	Challenge (consultation feedback)	Potential Improvement	Review/ Action	Timeframe
Prospect Lake/West Saanich/ Sparton	Crosswalk lights are not functioning properly; cars are not seeing the flashing lights and are not stopping. Many safety concerns; request for full traffic lights	Check if lights are working; review visibility/sightlines; monitor compliance	Review of light function complete. Crosswalk will be upgraded as part of the West Saanich/Prospect Lake/Sparton project. Construction tentatively scheduled for 2019	Immediate
Prospect Lake Rd	Paved path – cars drive over the path and park on it; covered with debris (leaves), narrow width, uneven surface (roots pushing up the pavement); feels unsafe in portions because it is narrow or too many people parked on it	Widen and formalize it as a multi-use path (particularly between Whitehead Park/school/ West Saanich Rd); add curb or physical barrier between path and road	Portion of pathway (intersection to the school) will be widened into a multi-use path as part of the intersection project. Remainder of the path has been added to the sidewalk priority ranking list. To prevent parking on the path in front of the school, this item has been sent to Engineering@Saanich.bc.ca to explore short term options.	Immediate/ Short
West Saanich Rd	School zone “40km/hr when children on road” – hard to enforce, request for regular school zone; suggestion that it could be part of the village development	Prospect Lake Elementary is not located on West Saanich Road, typically 30km school zone signs are placed at streets where the school resides.	This item has been submitted to Engineering@Saanich.ca for review and consideration.	Short

In addition, a concern regarding the drop-off area has been shared with School District #63. Specifically, there is no separated walking route into the main entrance of the school. A potential improvement is using the painted fire lane as a path. There was also a request for more information/encouragement to ride the bus. The School District responded to concern about bullying by outlining the strict response process they follow. There is an ongoing discussion regarding creating promotional material.

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
Prospect Lake Rd	Currently do not have dedicated cycling facilities on Prospect Lake Road	Consider installation of dedicated facilities. This is identified as a cycling route as part of the District Active Transportation Plan.	Long
Sparton between community hall and West Saanich Rd	Sidewalk and bike lanes	This will be added to the sidewalk priority list and reviewed as budget and priorities permit	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
Interurban Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Large chunky and loose gravel is difficult for kids to bike safely on; request for paving; ○ Request for maintenance – large potholes have been created where vehicles cross the trail; ○ Request for improved signage- driveway crossings; ○ Request for increase awareness of bike trails/how to use 	The District is working with the CRD on the wastewater project. Existing loose coarse gravel will be replaced with fine compacted gravel as part of this project from Interurban to Willis Point. After completion Parks to review and identify locations for additional signage.	Dependant on CRD Wastewater project.