



# Strathcona Elementary Road Safety Plan

Produced by:  
Strathcona Elementary - Safer School Travel Team in cooperation with Safer City



*Plan completed in January 2019*

## Acknowledgements

**It takes commitment and community to make this plan a reality.**  
As a result of the dedication and participation of following people,  
the Safer School Travel Plan for Strathcona Elementary School  
was made possible.

***Many thanks to.....***

Jonathan Ferris, Principal, Strathcona Elementary School  
Paul Allanson, Vice Principal, Strathcona Elementary School  
Anne Lamont Key, PAC  
Charlotte Tegtmeier, PAC  
Alex Griffiths, PAC  
Samantha Piper, Safer City Coordinator, City of Chilliwack

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## Executive Summary

The parents and staff at Strathcona Elementary participated in the Safer School Travel program developed by Safer City to identify school road safety related issues. The program strives to define priorities and create realistic solutions for addressing these issues. Strathcona Elementary worked together with key community partners to achieve this goal. Strathcona Elementary contacted the Chilliwack Safer City Coordinator, Samantha Piper, to participate in the Safer School Travel (SST) Program in January 2018.

The solutions generated identify strategies from three key perspectives: Engineering, Enforcement and Education. The final plan identifies both short and long term goals within each focus. As part of their education strategy, Strathcona Elementary School strongly advocates healthy lifestyles and fitness, encouraging students to walk and/or bike to school.

Strathcona Elementary is located at 46375 Strathcona Road. In 2018 the student population consisted of 450 students in kindergarten to grade six. The family survey results indicated that the majority of students are driven to and from school during good weather and adverse weather conditions. It should be noted that during good weather conditions students walking to school was closely behind the number of students driven to school; and students walking from school during good weather outranked those students who were driven from school.

### **Purpose of the School Road Safety Plan**

- Identify safety concerns for the student population, parents and school staff traveling to and from the school.
- Collaborate with the municipality, school community, school district, police, ICBC, and other stakeholders to identify and implement changes to enhance safety of student travel.
- Develop and include strategies for all modes of transportation from the three key disciplines of Engineering, Enforcement and Education.
- Increase support for safe pedestrian and bicycle travel and/or other vehicle reduction initiatives.

### **Consultation and Research**

Identifying the top road safety issues involves research and investigation. Key steps in the process include:

- A survey distributed to all families to determine modes of travel, routes to school and road safety issues;
- Traffic counts and behaviour patterns at key access points to the school;
- Mapping existing car and green modes (pedestrian, bike, bus) infrastructure and student travel routes.

## Data Collection

### Travel Surveys

Surveys developed by Safer City were distributed to all school families (Appendix 1). The survey was designed to gather the following information:

- How students travel to school during good and adverse weather conditions.
- Safety and travel issues identified by students and parents in the project area.
- The routes used to drive, walk and bicycle to school.

### Mapping

The Safer School Travel Team walked and collected observational data on safety issues within the project area. The information collected was from two perspectives. These were a green mode of travel (walk, bicycle or bus) and a car mode of travel.



## Data Analysis

### **Student Distribution and Existing Travel Mode Used to get to School**

250 home surveys were distributed by Strathcona Elementary School; 209 of 250 families returned surveys (84% return rate). Please note that the table totals exceed the number of students replying because some students use multiple modes to travel to and from school.

Modes %	Good Weather		Adverse Weather	
	A.M	P.M	A.M.	P.M.
Car	115	105	136	133
Walk	107	114	68	70
Cycle	25	25	5	5
School Bus	3	3	3	4
Transit	1	1	1	1
Car Pool	1	1	3	3
Daycare	8	8	10	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>226</b>

Table 1 – Student Mode of Travel

### **Routes to School and Infrastructure Mapping**

Mapping of the existing infrastructure in the community involves becoming more aware of the neighbourhood surrounding the school. The mapping process highlights key areas of concern by including the routes being taken to and from school and the extent of the existing infrastructure. The information gathered in this phase of the SST process was incorporated into the final list of issues.

### **Safer School Travel Issues**

A wide variety of safety concerns were identified on the survey forms. Often people will use the SST process to express concern about issues that may not relate to safe school travel for students. Within the SST process, there is a consolidating and summarizing phase where issues are reviewed and assessed for relevancy.

The core SST team reviews the overall list of issues and determines which issues will be presented to the stakeholder committee. The stakeholder committee has representation from Municipal Engineering, the RCMP, School Principal, School PAC, School District #33 and the SST team leaders.

## **Final List of Issues**

These issues reflect the key concerns of the school community.

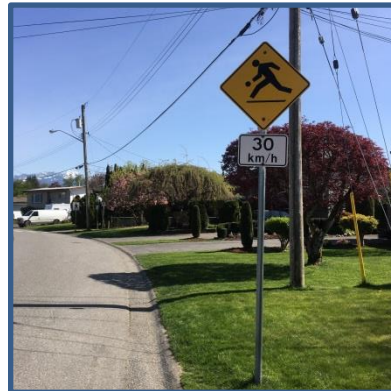
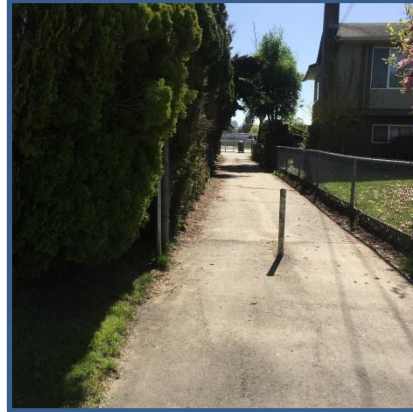
### **Issue #A: Engineering**

- Paint
  - Bike lane line + stencils fading on Strathcona Rd.; Brice Rd.; Kent Rd.;
  - The 'SCHOOL' and 'X' are fading on Strathcona Rd. and Kent Rd.
  - Crosswalk paint needs refreshing on Elliott Ave.
  - Requesting bike stencils be installed along McDonald Rd.
  - Stop bar paint fading on McDonald Rd. at Brice Rd.
  - Zebra striped crosswalk needs repainting at Strathcona @ Kent Rd.
- Bike Lanes
  - Size on Strathcona Rd. is narrow.
  - Newspaper boxes (east of Hymar) on Strathcona Rd. are located on bike lane
- Parking
  - Newspaper boxes & mail box on corner of Strathcona @ Killarney & McDonald @ Brice are creating a hazard due to delivery trucks often parking in the intersection.
- Crosswalk
  - Requesting a crosswalk installation near the pathway to the school on Crystal Dr.
  - Requesting a crosswalk





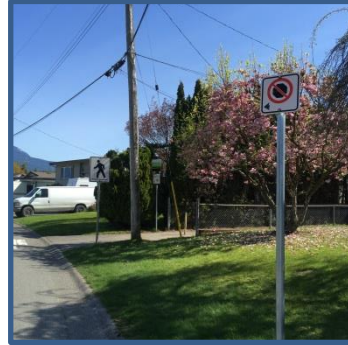
- installation at Kent & Brice
  - Requesting a crosswalk at McDonald & Brice.
  - Requesting crosswalk installation at Elliott @ Kent Rd.
- Sidewalk
  - Requesting a sidewalk installation along Crystal Dr.
  - Requesting a sidewalk installation along Strathcona Rd.
- Overgrown vegetation
  - Crystal Drive pathway
  - Seaholm Cres pathway
  - Elliott Ave pathway
  - Brice Road shrubs (near 46452 and 46591) need trimming
  - Tree trimming required over bike lane near 10260 Kent Rd.
  - School zone signage is obstructed by vegetation near 10172 Kent Rd.
- Signage
  - Requesting playground sign reflective panels be installed on Elliott Ave
  - No Stopping Anytime signage is missing from Elliott Ave (near 46428)
  - Requesting school sign reflective panels be installed on Kent Rd.
- Snow Removal
  - Requesting snow removal on bike lanes to assist with pedestrian safety during snow events





### Issue #B: Enforcement

- Speeding
  - Strathcona Rd., Kent Rd., Killarney Rd., Crystal Avenue
- Parking Concerns
  - Strathcona Rd. in bike lanes;
  - Killarney @ Strathcona corner.
  - Parking lot congestion at school
  - Vehicles are parking less than 5m from the fire hydrant on the corner of Killarney at Strathcona.
  - Vehicles are parking in the bus stop west of the exit of the school.



### Issue #C: Education

- Walking program
- Parking near schools education



## Identified Measures

<b>Issue #A</b>	<p><b>ENGINEERING:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Concern:</b> ROAD PAINT: bike lane lines and stencils were identified as fading on Strathcona Road, Brice Road and Kent Road. The “SCHOOL” and “X” were noted as fading on Strathcona Road and Kent Road. Crosswalk paint was requested to be refreshed on Elliott Avenue. A request for bike stencils to be installed along McDonald Road. The stop bar paint was noted as fading on McDonald Road at Brice Road. The zebra crosswalk at Strathcona @ Kent Road was requested to be repainted. BIKE LANES: the bike lanes on Strathcona Road is very narrow. There are newspaper boxes (east of Hymar) on Strathcona Road that are placed on the bike lane and force cyclists and pedestrians to enter the travel lane to pass. PARKING: there are newspaper boxes and a mail box located on the corner of Strathcona @ Killarney – these are creating a hazard due to the delivery trucks parking in the intersection to conduct their business at either of these boxes. CROSSWALK: requesting a crosswalk installation near the pathway to the school on Crystal Drive; Kent at Brice; McDonald at Brice; and Elliott at Kent Road. SIDEWALK: requesting a sidewalk installation along Crystal Drive; and an installation along Strathcona Road. OVERGROWN VEGETATION: several locations were identified to have overgrowth occurring at Crystal Drive pathway to the school; Seaholm Crescent pathway; Elliott Avenue pathway; Brice Road shrubs near 46452 and 46591 require trimming; tree trimming required over bike lane near 10260 Kent Road; and the school zone signage was obstructed by vegetation near 10172 Kent Road. SIGNAGE: requesting playground signage to have reflective panels installed on Elliott Ave; NSAT signage needs to be replaced near 46428 Elliott Avenue; requesting school zone sign have reflective panels installed on Kent Road.</li> </ul>				
Strategy Details	Priority	Action By	Funding Source	Projected Timing	Progress
ENGINEERING					
Road paint (bike lanes; stencils; SCHOOL + X; Stop bar; crosswalk)	Medium	Engineering	City	Ongoing	Ongoing with yearly applications as annual inspection and budget allows

Bike Lanes: size of bike lane on Strathcona narrow	Medium	Engineering	City	Completed	Inspection complete; no action at this time.
Bike Lanes: newspaper boxes (east of Hymar) on Strathcona Rd are located in bike lane	High	Engineering	City	Completed	The City of Chilliwack has contacted the Progress Newspaper and requested the relocation of the newspaper box.
Parking: the newspaper box & mail box on the corner of Strathcona @ Killarney is creating a hazard due to delivery trucks often parking in the intersection; there is also ponding occurring on the corner due to the parking	Medium	Engineering	City	Completed	The City of Chilliwack has contacted the Progress Newspaper and Canada Post asking them to relocate their boxes. Ponding on corner was reviewed and was noted as not significant at this time.
Crosswalk: request for new installations near the pathway to the school on Crystal Drive; an installation at Kent @ Brice; McDonald @ Brice; and Elliott @ Kent.	Medium	Engineering	City	Completed	Inspections were completed and crosswalk installations were not warranted at this time.
Sidewalk: requests for new sidewalk installations for Crystal Drive and Strathcona Road	Medium	Engineering	City	Ongoing	Crystal Drive and Strathcona Road have been added to the future sidewalk installation list for consideration
Overgrown vegetation: Crystal Drive pathway; Seaholm Crescent pathway; Elliott Avenue pathway; Brice Road shrubs; and Kent Road.	High	Engineering	n/a	Completed	Letters have been issued to homeowners and City Operations Department for trimming action. Brice Road saw tree removal and a new parking lot installed to allow access to park.
Signage: requests for reflective panels to be installed on playground signs on Elliott Avenue; and on school zone signs on Kent Road	Medium	Engineering	City	Ongoing	Installations scheduled for early 2019
Signage: request for 'no stopping anytime' signage to be replaced on Elliott Ave (near 46428)	High	Engineering	City	Ongoing	Parking restrictions will be amended to meet current standards.

Snow Removal	Medium	Operations	City	Ongoing	Snow and ice control operations will be undertaken subject to the availability of resources and in priority order according to the road priorities policy. Additionally, with the exception of sidewalks adjacent to municipal properties and facilities, snow and ice removal from sidewalks is the responsibility of the adjacent property owner and/or tenant.
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**ENFORCEMENT:**

<b>Issue #B</b>	<b>ENFORCEMENT:</b> <b>Concern:</b> PARKING concerns for Strathcona Road along the bike lanes; the corner of Killarney @ Strathcona; parking near the fire hydrant on Strathcona (less than 5m); and vehicles parking in the bus stop west of the exit from the school. SPEEDING concerns received for Strathcona Road, Kent Road, Killarney Road and Crystal Avenue.
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Strategy Details	Priority	Action By	Funding Source	Projected Timing	Progress
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**EDUCATION**

Parking lot etiquette education through school newsletters and webpage. Topics to include speeding, parking areas; parking lot safety for pedestrians and drivers	High	School	School Board/ PAC	Ongoing	Ongoing
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**ENFORCEMENT**

School volunteers to consider "policing" parking lot to ensure parking restrictions are adhered to	High	School	School Board	Ongoing	
Bylaw patrols for parking too close to fire hydrants, parking on bike lanes, and parking in prohibited areas as signed.	High	Bylaw	City	Ongoing	Ongoing

Speeding on public roadways	High	RCMP	n/a	Ongoing	Ongoing
Parking: the newspaper box & mail box on the corner of Strathcona @ Killarney is creating a hazard due to delivery trucks often parking in the intersection; there is also ponding occurring on the corner due to the parking	High	Bylaw	City	Ongoing	Ongoing enforcement patrols throughout the school year to address parking concerns.
<b>Issue #C</b>	<b>EDUCATION:</b> <b>Concern:</b> Parking lot congestion				
<b>Strategy Details</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Action By</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Projected Timing</b>	<b>Progress</b>
<b>EDUCATION</b>					
Parking lot etiquette general parking education through school newsletters and webpage. Topics to include speeding, parking areas; parking lot safety for pedestrians and drivers	High	School District	School District & PAC	Ongoing	
Implement a “walking program” for the school	Medium	School District	School District	Ongoing Consideration	

## Summary

Significant effort has been made by Strathcona Elementary School to identify key concerns that affect the safety of children traveling to school. It is the role of the SST Team and the relevant stakeholders to review the issues and information brought forward and to seek realistic strategies to mitigate these concerns.

By incorporating education, enforcement and engineering strategies, the School Road Safety Plan strives to achieve participation by parents, stakeholders and the neighbourhood community to make positive change.

Behaviour concerns are the most difficult to affect as it takes a conscious shift by the school community and the general public to be a part of the solution. At the same time behaviour changes cost very little and can have an immediate and long lasting impact.

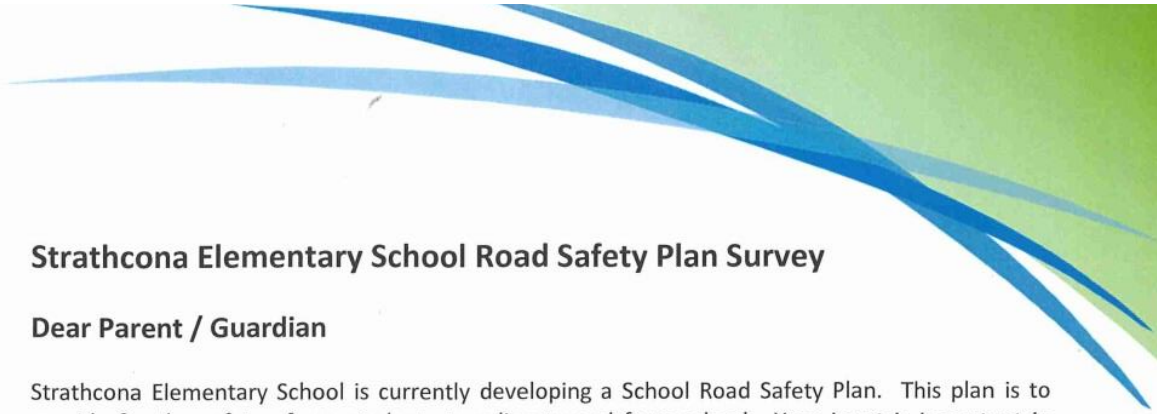
This report details Engineering, Enforcement and Education solutions with some of those solutions having funding requirements attached. Like many municipalities and school districts, the City of Chilliwack and School District #33 have restricted budgets. The School Road Safety Plan for Strathcona Elementary School seeks to prioritize and identify the strategies that will have the greatest impact on road safety concerns in this community.

***By working together we can make road safety a priority***



## **Appendix 1**

### **Home Survey**



## Strathcona Elementary School Road Safety Plan Survey

**Dear Parent / Guardian**

Strathcona Elementary School is currently developing a School Road Safety Plan. This plan is to provide for the safety of our students traveling to and from school. Your input is important in developing the plan. Please take a few minutes to complete the following survey (one per household). **Please return by Monday, April 23, 2018 to your child's homeroom teacher.**

Number of children in your household, attending: \_\_\_\_\_

**A. MODES OF TRAVEL**

Indicate the most frequent mode of travel to and from school for the following conditions:

MODE	GOOD WEATHER CONDITIONS		ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
CAR				
WALK				
CYCLE				
SCHOOL BUS				
TRANSIT				
CAR POOL				

**B. ALTERNATIVE MODES**

Is your most frequent mode of travel to school by car? If yes, what will encourage you to switch to other modes?

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**C. SAFETY ISSUES / CONCERNS**

Please describe or give details of any safety concerns you may have in and around the school. Indicate any specific problem locations by circling and numbering them on the accompanying map.

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**D. SAFETY SUGGESTIONS**

Please describe or give details of any suggestions you have to improve safety in and around the school.

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**E. ROUTES**

On the attached map, please mark your child's usual route to school.

If your route begins off the map start marking where you join the map. If the route home (p.m.) differs from the morning (a.m.) route, please mark a second route and label it.

Please use a coloured marker that coincides with the following legend or label the route with the given letter.

Walk	-	Green (W)
School Bus or Transit	-	Orange (T)
Car	-	Red (C)
Bicycle	-	Blue (B)
Car Pool	-	Yellow (P)

**F. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

If we determine the need for Community Programs such as crossing guards and speed watch, would you be interested in assisting?

Yes / No (Please circle one)

**Please contact any of the following persons, should you have any queries:**

**Contact:** Jonathan Ferris, Principal  
Phone: 604-792-9301 Email: [jonathan\\_ferris@sd33.bc.ca](mailto:jonathan_ferris@sd33.bc.ca)

**Contact:** Samantha Piper, Public Safety Specialist  
City of Chilliwack – Engineering Department  
Phone: 604-793-2766 Email: [piper@chilliwack.com](mailto:piper@chilliwack.com)

*A paper survey has been chosen to ensure privacy protection*

## **Appendix 2**

### **Best Walking Routes Map**

**Parents / Guardians**

**Encourage** your children to walk or cycle to and from school on a regular basis.

**Promote** healthy living.

**Save** yourself from traffic and scheduling hassles.

**Cut out** even a few car trips to school.

**Show** your children what a great driver you are!

**Model** excellent driving behaviour.

**Respect** our neighbours and fellow road users; please don't block driveways or park on bike lanes. Improve our school, our community and our environment.

**Students want independence, but need reminding that they are not indestructible. Help children learn how to make responsible choices by talking about safe walking habits. Although parent volunteers have walked these main pedestrian routes to check for major safety issues, please keep in mind that no route can be guaranteed safe.**

**The main goal** is to help students get to and from school safely.

**Your** participation is required to promote student safety.

**Your ideas** and feedback are welcome.

If you have questions or comments please contact:  
 Jonathan Ferris, Principal  
 (604) 792-9301  
 Samantha Piper, Public Safety Specialist, City of Chilliwack  
 (604) 793-2766

**Websites:**  
 Strathcona Elementary School : strathcona.sd33.bc.ca  
 Chilliwack Safer City : safercity.ca

**School Zone**  
 30 km/h limit is in effect from 7:30 am to 5 pm on school days.

**Crosswalk**  
 YIELD to pedestrians.  
 If there is a crossing guard, or student patrol, follow their directions.

**Playground Zone**  
 30 km/h limit is in effect every day from dawn to dusk.

**NO PARKING or STOPPING**  
 Vehicles must not be stopped or parked at any time in a zone marked by signs; on a bike path; in a bus zone; within 5m of a fire hydrant; within 6m of a stop sign; in an intersection or within 10m of an intersection.

# STRATHCONA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## Best Walking Route Map

Artwork by: Jordan P., Grade 5



### Strathcona Elementary School Best Walking Routes to School

**STREET WISE TIPS**

**SIDEWALKS:**

- If there is a SIDEWALK, use it.
- If there is NO SIDEWALK:
  - Walk facing traffic.
  - Walk on the gravel shoulder, grass boulevard or bike path where permitted.

**CROSSING THE STREET:**

- NEVER JAYWALK!
- STOP at the curb or road edge.
- LOOK left, right and then left again.
- CROSS when the street is clear, but keep looking and listening.
- DO NOT step onto the roadway until ALL vehicles have stopped moving.
- WATCH for left and right turning vehicles.
- LOOK at the driver to make eye contact.
- REMEMBER—a crossing guard does not guarantee safety.
- ALWAYS follow the instructions given by a crossing guard.

**CYCLING TIPS:**

- ALWAYS wear a helmet.
- RIDE in single file; it's the law in B.C.
- OBEY all traffic signs, signals and rules of the road.
- KEEP to the right-hand side of the road.
- YIELD the right-of-way to pedestrians.
- SHOULDER CHECK.
- KEEP both hands on the handlebars unless signaling.
- WALK your bike over crosswalks and sidewalks.

**MOBE SAFETY TIPS:**

- BUDDY UP—walk with a friend.
- BE SEEN—wear something brightly colored & reflective.
- BE ALERT—do not wear headphones or earbuds while walking or biking to school.

**SCHOOL PARKING LOT RULES**

- Park in "Visitor Parking" areas only OR park legally on the neighbouring streets.
- Drop-Off in the designated "Drop-Off Zone" between the flag and the pylon by the front crosswalk.
- Drive slow and watch for pedestrians.
- Follow the instructions provided by Crossing Guards.
- No parking is permitted in the "Bus Parking Zone" or the "No Parking Zone"