



# School Travel Plan

Galiano Community School



Final Report - 2018

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# PROGRAM FUNDERS

The 2016/2017 Active & Safe Routes to School Program has been made possible through the generosity of our funding partners.



Making a difference...together

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is the regional government for 13 municipalities and three electoral areas on southern Vancouver Island and the nearby Gulf Islands, serving more than 377,000 citizens.

The Real Estate Foundation is a philanthropic organization based in British Columbia. Their mission is to transform land use attitudes and practices through innovation, stewardship and learning.



CRD TRAFFIC SAFETY  
COMMISSION

The Traffic Safety Commission's purpose is to review traffic safety problems in the capital region and make recommendations for reducing or eliminating the problems.

The Victoria Foundation is a community foundation that connects visionary donors with causes that truly matter, to invest in people, projects and non-profit organizations that make communities stronger – now and for the long-term.



VICTORIA  
FOUNDATION

# INTRODUCTION

## SUMMARY

The purpose of this School Travel Plan is to provide a summary of the 18-month school travel planning process at Galiano Community School. The School Travel Plan is a living document belonging to the school that should be revisited regularly in order to update the status of the Action Plan items and to incorporate future evaluation findings. The school travel plan identifies and prioritizes engineering, encouragement and enforcement actions aimed at creating a safe and more comfortable environment for students and their families to walk, bike and roll to school.

This document consists of information compiled since the Capital Regional District's (CRD) Active and Safe Routes to School program began at Galiano Community School in the fall of 2016.

## BACKGROUND

In 2016, the CRD initiated the Active and Safe Routes to School program across the capital region. School districts and municipalities were solicited to identify schools that would benefit from school travel planning. Through this process, a total of twenty schools, across 10 municipalities and one electoral area were recruited to participate in the program. This report focuses on Galiano Community School located on Galiano Island.

## SCHOOL TRAVEL PLANNING

School Travel Planning is a community-based planning process that has been used with success to date in communities across Canada to increase the number of families choosing active transportation modes to get to and from school. School Travel Planning uses a collaborative approach, working to involve all relevant stakeholders and enable communities to tackle the root causes of their schools' transportation challenges.

School Travel Planning involves a network of representatives of key school transportation stakeholder groups. Organizations and individuals that contributed to Galiano's school travel planning process included administrators, teachers, staff, parents and students from Galiano Community School, and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

At individual schools, the School Travel Planning process is led by a STP Facilitator, who convenes a School Project Committee, comprised of staff, parents and administration to outline specific active school travel barriers and solutions, developing the foundation and specifics for each school's Travel Plan.

Key benefits of School Travel Planning are:

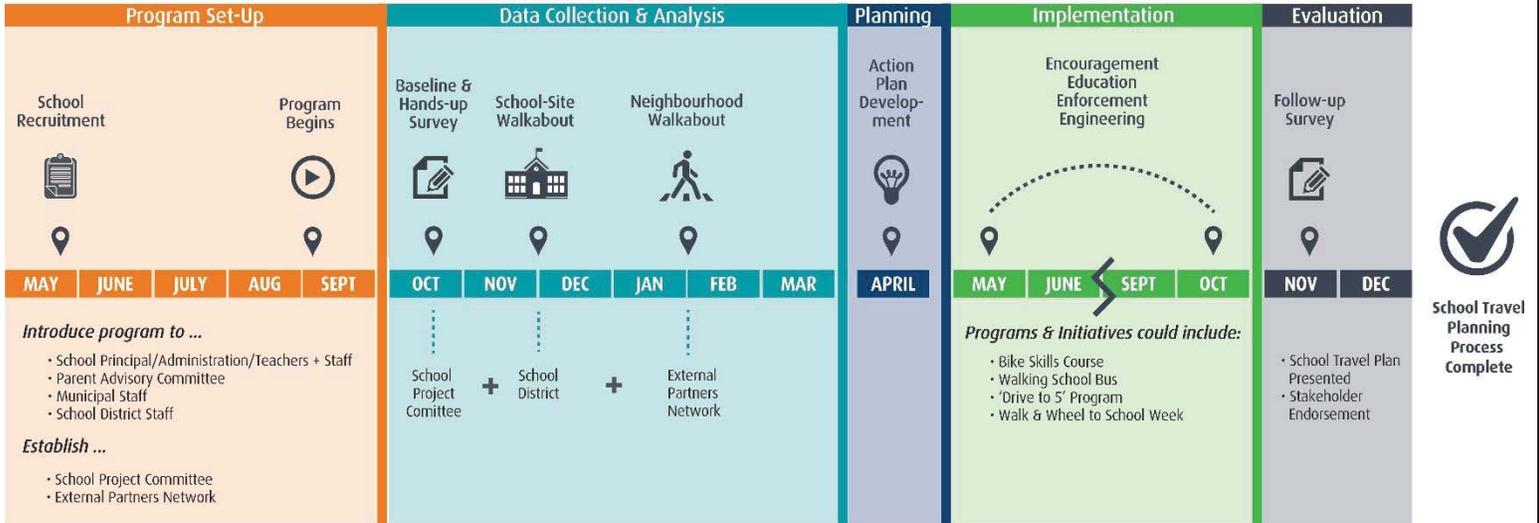
- Improved health and fitness of students
- Reduction in traffic congestion
- Improved traffic safety
- Reduction in pollution
- Improved air quality

# SCHOOL TRAVEL PLANNING PROCESS

There are five phases in the 18-month school travel planning process.

## Active & Safe Routes to School

### SCHOOL TRAVEL PLANNING PROCESS



# SCHOOL OVERVIEW

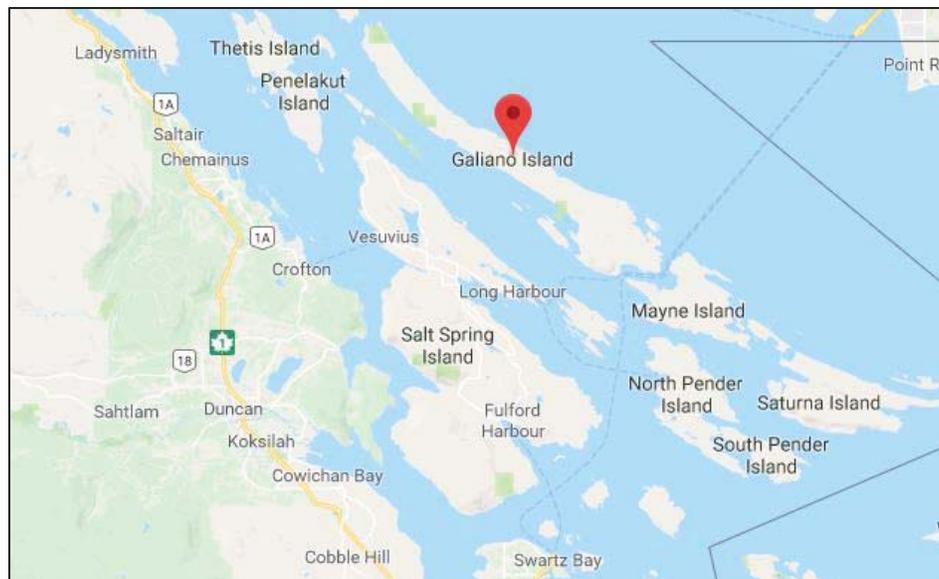
Galiano Community School is part of the Gulf Islands School District (SD 64) and is the only school on Galiano Island. The school is located at 120 Sturdies Bay Road on Galiano Island.

Galiano Island has a year round population of approximately 1,200 people. The Island is over 27 km long and between 1.6-6 km wide.

Galiano Community School has 48 students from Kindergarten to grade 8. The school consists of three classes comprised of students from multiple grades. The school is on a rural 15 acre piece of land. It is a community hub with a Strong Start program (with over 25 participating families). Adjacent to the school is the Galiano Activity Centre, Galiano Conservancy, and Galiano Library. As a community school, there is an emphasis on parent and community involvement in enhancing and enriching the students' learning environment.

At Galiano Community School, the overall school goal is that every person feels a sense of belonging, independence, mastery and generosity.

"RELATIONSHIPS, COMPASSION, DIVERSITY, WELLNESS"



## TRANSPORTATION LANDSCAPE

Galiano Community School is located up a hill from Sturdies Bay Road, which runs from Sturdies Bay and the ferry terminal up to Porlier Pass Rd. The school access road is one-way and is shared by the library and other community facilities. In front of the school is a paved parking lot that is used for staff and guest vehicle parking, bike parking and school bus drop-off and pick-up. The Sturdies Bay Trail is a narrow pedestrian-only trail that goes by the school.

All the roads on the Island are built and maintained to rural standard, which means they do not have sidewalks, paved shoulders or bike lanes. Speed limits are 50km on all Island roads.

# BASELINE SCHOOL TRAVEL DATA

## METHODOLOGY

Baseline school travel data was collected through a variety of methods, including student hands-up surveys, family take-home surveys, a school site visit and walkabout, and meetings with the school community.

### Surveys

Take-home surveys were distributed in October 2016 and a teacher facilitated hands-up survey was conducted from October 18-25, 2016. Classroom teachers recorded daily mode share students used to get to and from school over a one-week period. All three classrooms participated in the hands-up survey.

The take-home survey is part of the data collection process and helps inform the school action plan.

Parents were asked to complete one survey for their family and send it back with their eldest child. Students filled out the surveys with their parents and reported on how they travel to/from school, how far they live from their school, and reasons for using their chosen travel mode. Families who indicated that they usually drive to and/or from school were asked what would need to change in order for them to consider using active transportation for the journey. Families were also given a map to identify the route they currently take if they usually walk or bike to school, or the route they would take if they were to begin using active transportation.

A minimum 30% response rate was required to assist with accurate representation.

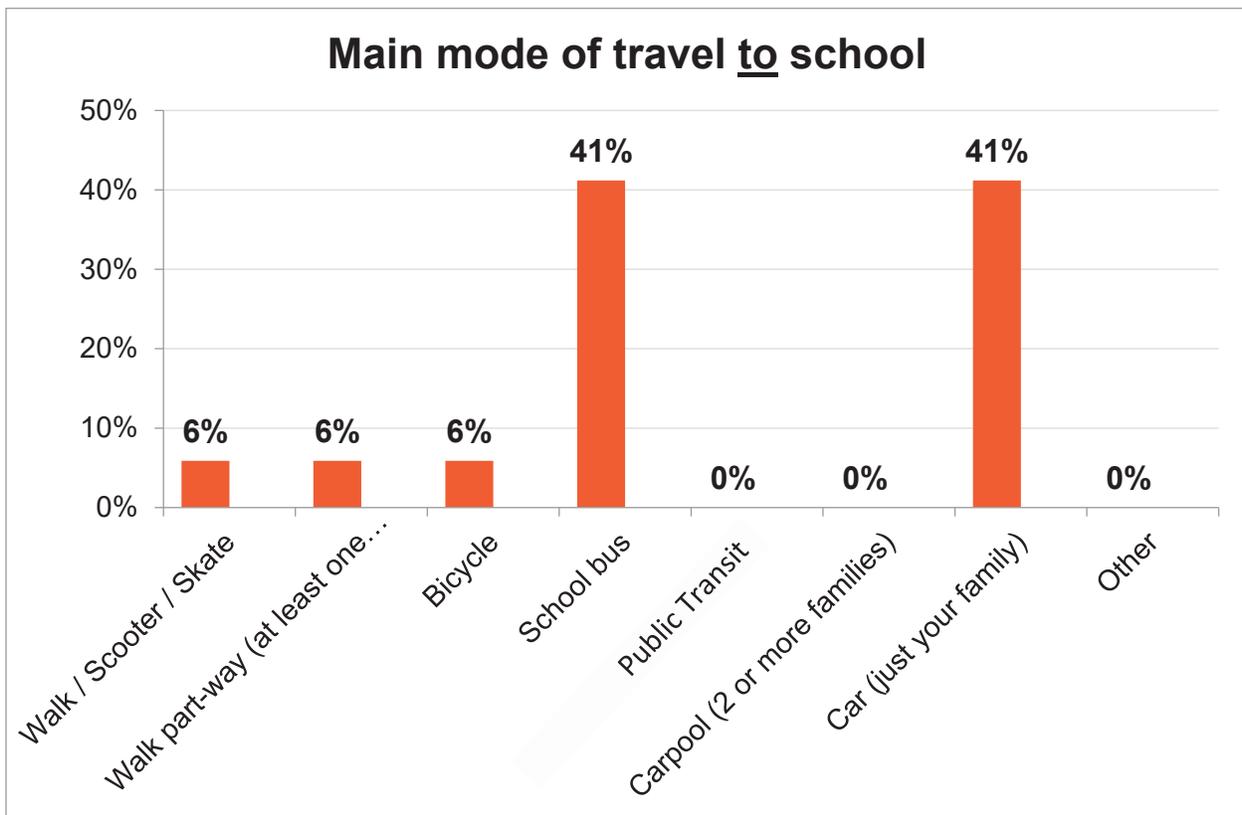
## School-site and Neighbourhood Walkabout

At schools participating in the program, a school site and neighbourhood walkabout was held to examine the opportunities and barriers for active travel to and from school. Due to Galiano Community School's many unique features and limited opportunities in relation to infrastructure, the formal walkabouts did not take place. An informal walkabout of the school site was completed with the principal in October 2016 to discuss some of the on-site challenges to active transportation.

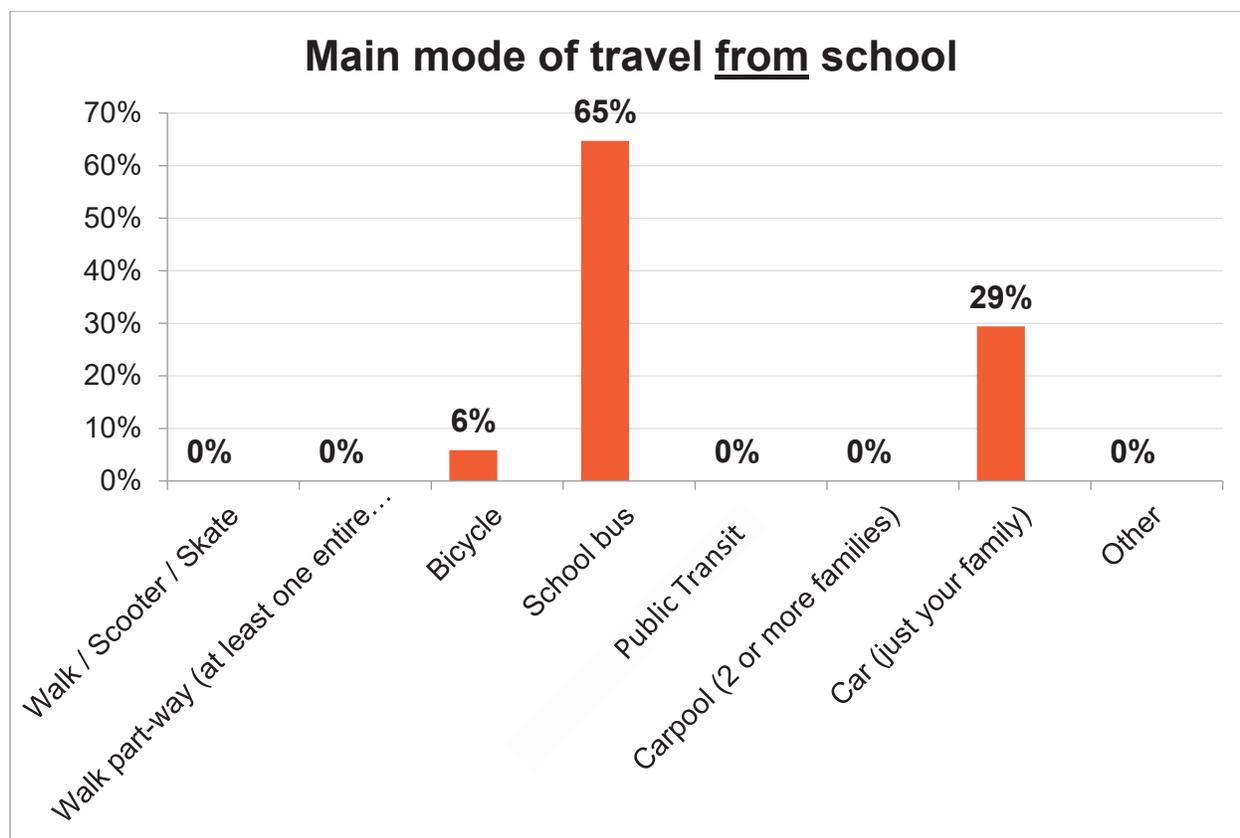
# BASELINE FINDINGS

## BASELINE SURVEY RESULTS

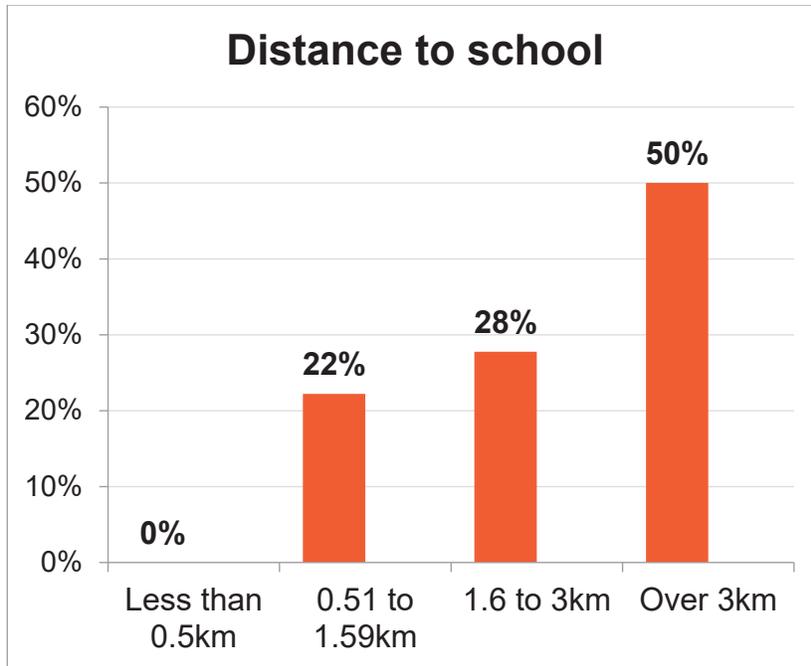
The take-home survey was completed by 20 families. This section outlines the results from the survey.



According to the take-home survey, a majority of students arrive by school bus or by car. In addition, 18% of the students use active transportation for all or part of their way to school.



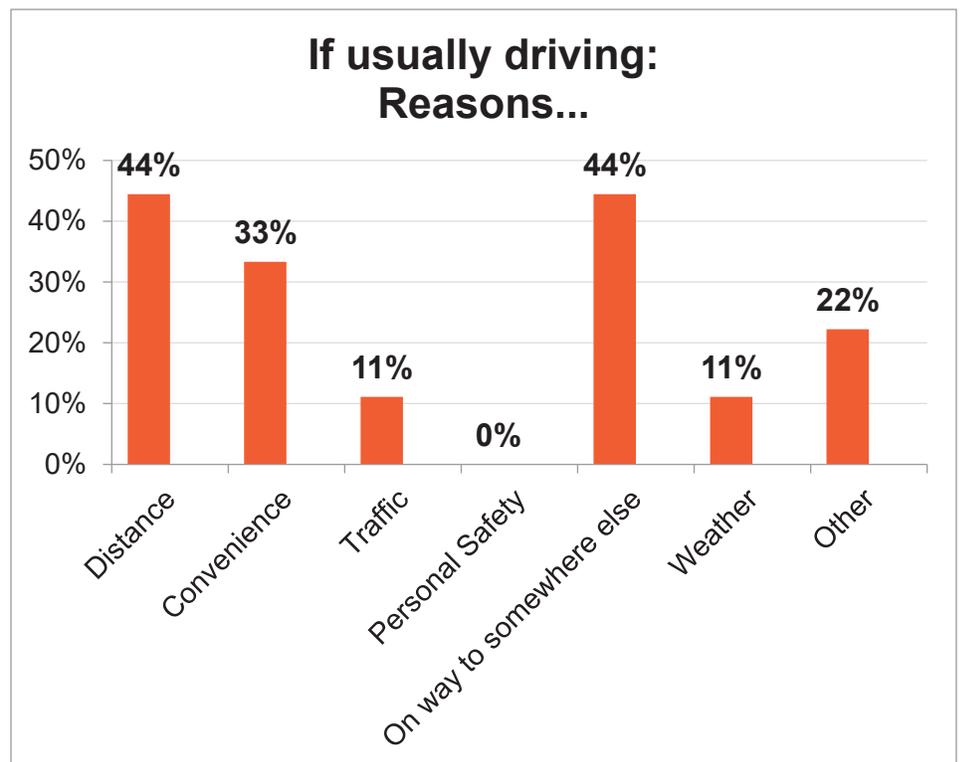
The travel patterns at the end of the day, travelling from school, see an increase in students taking the school bus home. There is a corresponding decrease in the number of students who are driven home.



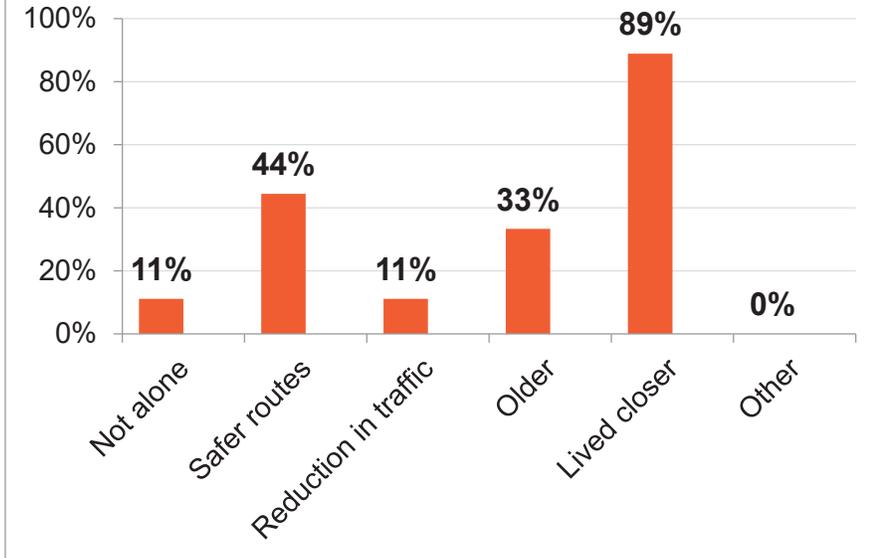
Half of the students attending Galiano Community School live over 3 km away from the school. This is expected as the catchment for the school covers the whole island.

For the next section of questions, families were allowed to choose up to three answers.

According to the take-home survey, families drive to school because of distance (44%), they are on their way to somewhere else (44%) and also the convenience of driving (33%).



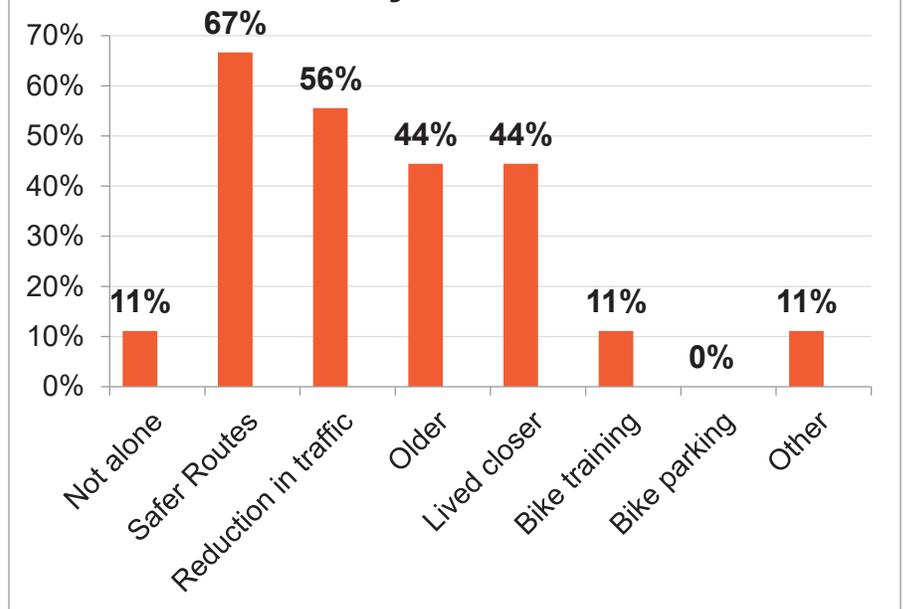
### If usually driving: I would allow my child(ren) to walk if...



A majority of the respondents to the take-home survey indicated that they would allow their child(ren) to walk to school if they lived closer to the school (89%), there were safer routes (44%) or they were older (33%).

Respondents also felt strongly (67%) that safer routes and a reduction in traffic (56%) would have a bearing on whether they would be allowed to cycle to school. Almost half of parents indicated that they would allow their child(ren) to bike to school if they were older (44%) or lived closer (44%).

### If usually driving: I would allow my child(ren) to cycle if...



## SCHOOL TRAVEL CHALLENGES

School travel challenges are the barriers to active travel faced by families and students at Galiano Community School. These challenges were identified through a variety of forums: take-home family surveys, where families were presented with a map to identify particular areas of concern in the neighbourhood, through Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) meetings, and through conversation with the principal and other members of the school community.

This document, including the attached Action Plan, identifies some of the challenges and potential ways to address and overcome these challenges in order to encourage more active school travel at Galiano Community School.

### 1. Sturdies Bay Road

Sturdies Bay Road was identified as an area of concern for its poor visibility and lack of road shoulder. With winding roads and no designated area for people walking or biking, it does not feel comfortable or safe to use for active transportation. A portion of the road is paralleled by the Sturdies Bay Trail, but this trail only covers a small area and does not allow biking.

### 2. School Access Road

The school is located above Sturdies Bay Road on a one-way dirt driveway. Surrounding the school is a variety of trails that students use for recreation and educational purposes. The trail crossings of the driveway are not very visible. There is also a concern about the speed of vehicles using the driveway, especially as patrons to the activity centre and library share the driveway.

### 3. Montague and Georgeson Bay Road

A number of parents raised concerns about the confusing intersection at Montague and Georgeson Bay Road. The stop bar paint on Georgeson Bay Road is faded and it was reported that vehicles do not always come to a complete stop at the stop sign.

# INTERVENTIONS

The take-home survey and meetings with the school community provided an opportunity to discuss a range of interventions and solutions in response to the identified transportation challenges. These interventions can be distinguished into three different categories: engineering, enforcement and education/engagement.

Below is an overview of the solutions identified. These solutions can also be found in the Action Plan section of the document where the progress on each of these actions is being tracked.

## ENGINEERING INTERVENTIONS

Due to the rural road designation and limited road enhancement opportunities, there are limited engineering interventions for Galiano Community School. Still, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, who is responsible for the roads, is responsive to feedback and requests for effective signage and improving sightlines with ongoing vegetation control.

An intervention that was explored was the installation of trail signage to improve visibility of students using the Sturdies Bay Trail. The trail signage was ordered in November 2017 and is awaiting installation. The signs will be posted at the school driveway exit to warn drivers of the trail crossing ahead.

## EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES

### Bike Skills Course

As part of the Active and Safe Routes to School program, each school received a bike skills course for one class. Since there are only 48 students at Galiano Community School, the course was offered to all students at the school.

Students were encouraged to bring their own bikes to the course, but additional bikes were provided for those who did not have a bike or students who had grown out of their old one. The school was also provided with six helmets to use during the course and to keep after for future bike related activities. After a maintenance check to ensure the bikes were in good working order, the 3-4.5 hr course was underway.



The bike skills course taught safe bike handling skills, rules of road, and traffic safety including hand signals. In addition to teaching skills and knowledge, the curriculum focused on confidence building through exercises. More specifically, students learned and practiced starting in the 'ready position' riding in a straight line and turning, and safely stopping. Individual and group feedback was provided to build cycling skills. Finally, games and obstacles were used to integrate and practice skills.

Since there were many different ages and skill levels being taught at the same time, the instructor customized individual courses that were geared to the age range. In the younger group (Kindergarten to grade 3), one-on-one instruction was provided to kids who had not learned to bike independently. The instructor began by removing pedals of the bikes to encourage students to learn balance before teaching them how to ride.

Older students, grade 6-8, learned introductory mountain biking skills by riding over wood logs, bumps and other obstacles. This skill is very applicable for students at Galiano Community School as there are no formal bike infrastructure.



As part of the bike skills course, a bike repair workshop was held on the same day to teach students about how to make minor repairs to their bike. This also provided the opportunity for students to tune-up their bike before the course began.

After the course, students wrote cards to the instructors and the CRD thanking them for the opportunity to practice their riding skills at the bike skills course.

## Visibility Campaign

A pedestrian visibility and safety workshop was offered to all students on April 21, 2017. In the one-hour workshop, students learned about the importance of visibility as a pedestrian during darker hours and the types of material that is visible to drivers.

To learn about the types of materials, students used a tool called a 'Light Box' to look at how different material (dark and light material, glow in the dark, reflective) was visible in the dark. Students then participated in a discussion on what students should wear while walking along roads that do not have street lights.

After the discussion, students made reflective pinwheels that they could clip to their clothing or backpacks. By having the students make the pinwheels themselves, they are more likely to use them. Each student also received a hand powered flashlights, which they decorated with stickers and reflective materials. The flashlights were provided through a partnership with the CRD's Climate Action program.



## Skateboard Workshop

On May 31, 2017, students at Galiano Community School participated in a skateboard workshop. Groups of six were provided with skateboards and helmets to learn the basics of being on a board. Students learned how to balance, push, turn and some even learned how to do tricks. Students were also given a safety overview of what type of equipment they should wear, skateboard etiquette and rules of the road. After the skateboard lesson, many of the students went to the Galiano skate park to practice their new skills.



## Walk & Wheel to School Week

The Capital Regional District held a Walk and Wheel to School Week campaign from October 2-6, 2017. During this week, students were encouraged to walk and roll for all or part of the way to school. Each school was given a participant package that included a large trip-tracking poster, shoe and wheel stickers to track participation and a number of swag items to encourage students to participate. Due to the installation of a new playground at the school, students at Galiano participated in the campaign one week later. During this week, a number of students walked and wheeled to school.

## Bike Repair Stand

As part of the Active and Safe Routes to School program, the CRD purchased a bike repair stand for the school and larger community. The rack was installed at the skateboard park which is also close to the health centre, so that all residents of Galiano Island can make use of it. The bike rack also included a number of tools and a bike pump for students to be able to fix their bikes.

## Gulf Island Trails Plan

Galiano Community School parents had the opportunity to provide input into the CRD's Gulf Island Regional Trails Plan that involves a new regional trail that connects to the Sturdies Bay Trail; a trail that goes by the school and provides an opportunity for active travel. The Open House was held on March 28, 2017 and parents were notified through the school of the opportunity to participate.

# ACTION PLAN

An Action Plan was developed to document the itemized recommendations and actions that have resulted from the School Travel Planning process. It features actions for which various stakeholders are responsible, including infrastructure recommendations the Ministry of Transportation will investigate, as well as engagement and education the school community will explore. A variety of actions can be taken, in the holistic process of school travel planning, to support more active travel to and from school.

Each action can be identified to support one or more of the following goals:

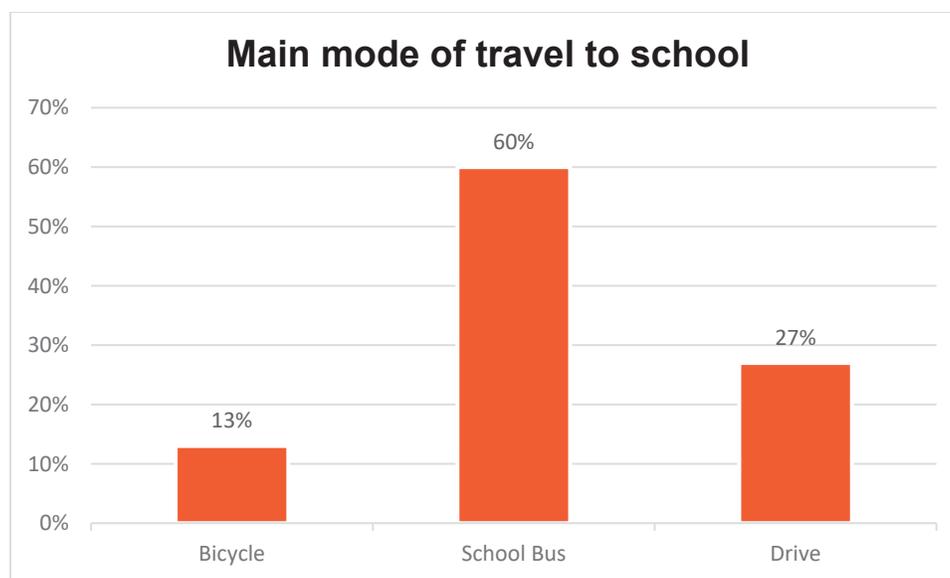
- 1) Build confidence to use active modes of transportation
- 2) Increase the number of trips being taken by active transportation both to/from school and outside of school
- 3) Increase knowledge of road safety, including visibility
- 4) Create a legacy that will continue to promote active transportation long after the Active and Safe Routes to School program is complete.

The Action Plan can be found as an Appendix item to this document.

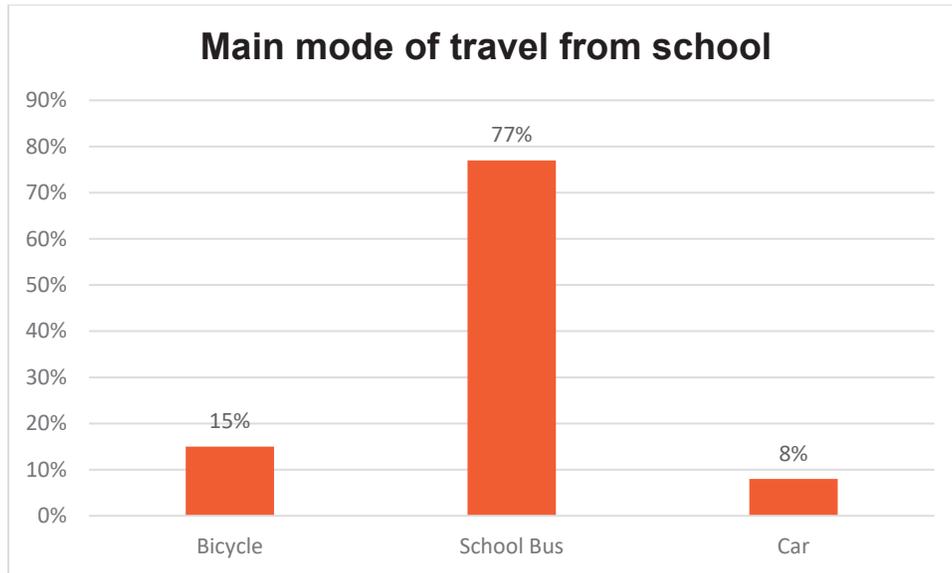
# FOLLOW-UP SURVEY

A follow-up survey was distributed at Galiano Community School in November 2017. A total of 7 families representing 12 students completed the survey. Of these families, 83% completed the baseline survey.

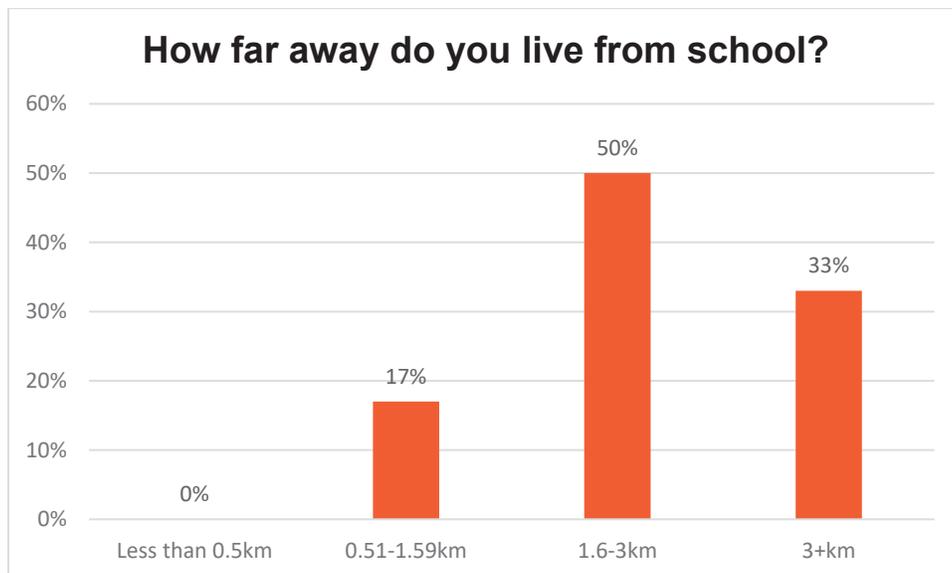
There are a number of limitations to the findings in the follow-up survey in regards to travel change. Specifically, at Galiano Community School, there was only a small sample size of families who completed the follow up survey, representing only a quarter of students at the school. As a result, one or two surveys has a significant impact on the survey results. In addition, the school travel planning program is only an 18-month process, with education and engagement happening for only a few months. The process aims to provide the foundations for long lasting programs so that school travel programs can continue after the process is complete. If the schools were to complete follow up surveys 3-5 years after the program is completed, the results may show more increases in travel change behaviour because of the programs and behaviour installed through the school travel planning process.



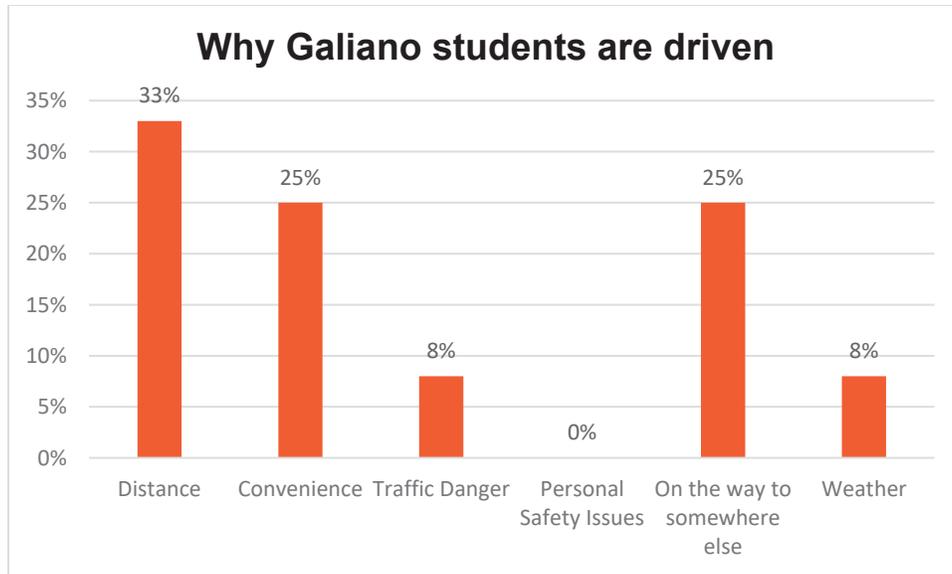
According to the follow-up survey, a majority of students arrive by school bus or by car. In addition, 13% of the students bike to school, which is a 7% increase from the baseline survey.



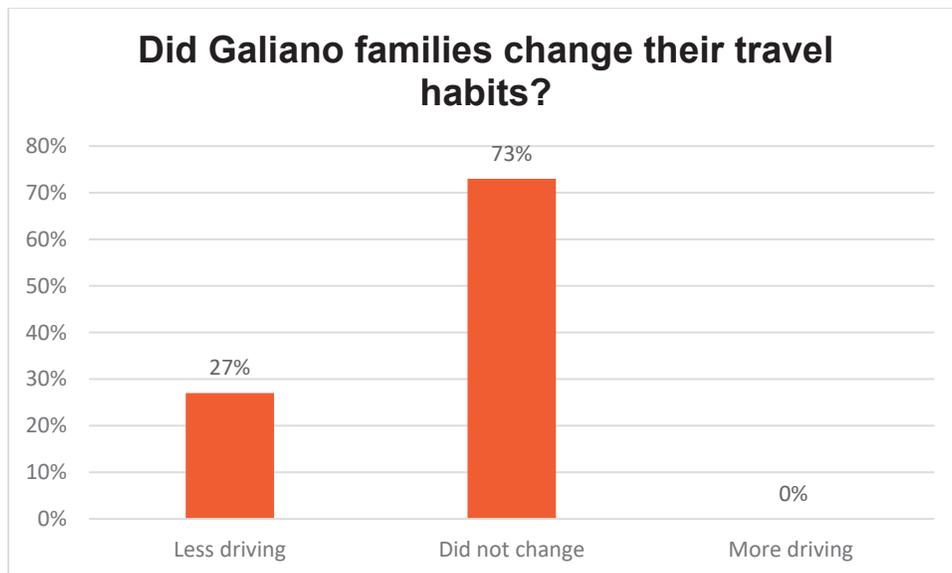
According to the follow-up survey, a majority of students take the school bus from school. There are less students being driven home (8%) and more students biking.



Half of the students represented in the survey live between 1.6km and 3km away from the school. Another 33% live over 3km from the school.



The majority (33%) of Galiano students are driven because of distance. Other factors included convenience and being on the way to somewhere else.



Over a quarter of Galiano Community School students changed their travel habits and are driven to/from school less. Of the students who changed their travel behaviour, all began cycling to school more.

# CONCLUSION

School travel planning is a process by which a school undergoes an assessment to review what education, engagement, enforcement and engineering initiatives could be undertaken to encourage and motivate students to use active transportation. Galiano Community School is one of the most unique Active and Safe Routes to School examples as is it a rural island school with only 45 students. In addition, the size of Galiano Island means that many children are travelling much farther than the 3km distance that is usually used to encourage active school travel. Though Galiano Community School does not have the same characteristics as the other schools participating in the program, it has engaged families, excited students and a commitment to students' overall health that includes physical activity. By providing bike skills courses, skateboard skills course and visibility education, students at Galiano Community Schools were provided with the skills to be comfortable using active transportation for a variety of trips on the island, including school travel.



## School Travel Action Plan: Galiano Community School

The purpose of this Action Plan is to identify and prioritize engineering, encouragement and enforcement actions aimed at creating a safer and more comfortable environment for students to walk, bike or roll to school. This Action Plan is a living document belonging to the school. It should be revisited regularly in order to update the status of Action Plan items and incorporate new or revised actions.

Galiano Community School is a multi-age, Grades K-8 school, located on Galiano Island, one of the Southern Gulf Islands between Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland of British Columbia. The school is situated in a rural setting surrounded by 15 acres of beautiful and diverse flora and fauna.

As a community school, parent and community involvement enhances and enriches the learning experiences of students in various projects like gardening, cooking, recycling, music, fine arts and after-school sports' activities. As part of the Gulf Islands School District (SD 64), students of Galiano Community School not only develop foundational skills and competencies but also pursue various learning paths for personalized learning experiences.

### MAIN ISSUES/AREAS OF CONCERN

- Distance is too far for many to use only active transportation - 50% of students live over 3km away from the school
- Concern regarding the lack of sidewalk and bike infrastructure
- Concern regarding visibility – winding roads
- Journey to school is too hilly for younger students

### GOALS

- Build confidence to use active modes of transportation
- Increase the number of trips being taken by active transportation both to/from school and outside of school
- Increase knowledge of road safety and visibility in traffic
- Create a legacy that will continue to promote active transportation long after the Active and Safe Routes to school program is complete

### BASELINE MODAL SPLIT (OCT 2016)

Walk/Scooter/Skate	6%
Walk part-way	6%
Bike	6%
School Bus	41%
Carpool	0%
Drive	41%



## School Travel Action Plan: Galiano Community School

November 1, 2017

School Travel Planning Facilitator		Status	Anticipated Completion	Next Steps	Notes
Action	Description				
School Site Walkabout	Principal and STP school site walkabout completed.	Complete	October 2016		
Baseline Survey	Surveys distributed, collected and analyzed. Summary presentation created and presented to PAC.	Complete	January 2017		
Present Survey & Walkabout Summary	Present survey and walkabout summary to PAC and School Administration	Complete	January 2017		
Gulf Island Trails Plan Open House Promotion	GRD is hosting an Open House on Tuesday March 28 to gather feedback on preferred route options and priorities before drafting the Gulf Islands Regional Trails Plan	Complete	March 2017	STP emailed Galiano parents about opportunity to provide input into the Gulf Island Regional Trails Plan that involves Sturdies Bay Trail; a trail that goes by the school and could provide opportunity for active travel to school	
Bike Skills Course	A bike skills course is being offered for all students	Complete	April 2017	April 26, 2017. STP connected with Nolan Riding to develop curriculum for bike skills day.	
Bike Repair Course	A bike repair course is being offered to all students	Complete	April 2017	April 26, 2017. Completed in conjunction with bike skills course. Opportunity for bike repair day with installation of the bike repair station.	Bike repair station to be installed at the health centre.
Art Visibility Workshop	Provide education regarding visibility on the journey to and from school. Facilitate art workshop to provide all students with reflectors.	Complete	April 2017	April 21, 2017. Completed with all students, including visibility education, reflective pinwheel craft and hand powered flashlight decoration.	

Action	Description	Status	Anticipated Completion	Next Steps	Notes
Skateboard Lessons	A skateboard lesson is being offered to all students	Complete	May 2017	May 31, 2017. Instructors hired through Artavi Skate Shop.	Helmets purchased for lesson and given to the school for use/distribution.
Bike Repair stand	Install a bike repair stand with pump outside the skate park/health centre to provide tools for basic bike repair.	In progress	Spring 2018	At school. Awaiting installation with plaque. Promotional and educational content to be developed.	
Walk & Wheel to School Week	Support a Walk and Wheel to School Week campaign and celebration	Completed	October 2017		
Trail signage	Design and install signs on the road exiting the school to warn of trail crossing ahead	In progress	Spring 2018		
Follow-up Survey	Follow-up take-home survey	Completed	November 2017		

<b>Galiano Community School (PAC &amp; Principal)</b>					
Action	Description	Status	Anticipated Completion	Next Steps	Notes
Walk and Wheel to School Week	Celebrate Walk and Wheel to School Week by hosting event and celebration activities.	Completed	October 2017	Registered and promoted the campaign.	
Brighter school sign	Increase visibility of the school to re-inforce school speed zone	Not started	TBD	Principal to talk to School District facilities	Consider short term art installations
Support trail from ferry terminal to the school	Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, CRD and Galiano Parks and Recreation Commission have interest and plans to complete portions of the connection	Not started	TBD	Support the Regional Trails Plan for the Gulf Islands and MOTI's ferry terminal connection improvements.	Refer to trail connection graphic for trail sections, status and responsibility

<b>School District 64</b>				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Anticipated Completion</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>
Review Survey, Walkabout Summary Presentation & Action Plan	Review presentation and provide suggestions on which areas of concern school district can address	Not started	May 2017	

<b>Ministry of Transportation &amp; Infrastructure</b>				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Anticipated Completion</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>
Review Survey & Walkabout Summary Presentation	Review presentation and provide suggestions on which areas of concern municipality can address	Complete	March 2017	
Georgeson Bay Rd. & Montague Harbour Road intersection	Repaint stop line and paint yellow striped lines as road forks to guide vehicles	Not started	Spring/Summer 2018	Plan to complete all line painting in Spring/Summer 2018
School Zone Signage	Consider installing flashing lights with school zone sign to alert drivers to the presence of the school or install road marking that read 'school zone'	Complete	November 2017	MoTI engineer reviewed the request and flashing lights are not warranted; MoTI does not install school zone road marking
Safety improvements to Sturdies Bay Rd above Whaler Bay; first bend in Burrill Rd	Poor sightlines at these locations	In progress	Ongoing	Directed maintenance contractor to locations to ensure vegetation control is completed to improve sightlines around corners
Separated walk/wheel path from ferry terminal to Sturdies Bay Rd after Madrona	Paved shoulder barricaded by 18" barrier	Planning	Spring 2018	MoTI has been informed of relationship between this improvement, the proposed regional trail and the Sturdies Bay trail

Galiano Community School

**Trail Connections – Planned and Constructed**  
**Sturdies Bay to Galiano Community School**

Sturdies Bay Trail is constructed as a walking trail and is the responsibility of the Galiano Parks and Recreation Commission

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure plans to create a separated walk/wheel path with paved shoulder barricaded by 18" barrier

CRD's Regional Trails Plan for the Gulf Islands (draft) identifies an initial phase of a regional trail to connect Sturdies Bay to Matthews Point  
([https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/parks-pdf/2017-06-21-sr-rpc-gulfislandsregionaltrailsplan-att2.pdf?sfvrsn=972d3aca\\_4](https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/parks-pdf/2017-06-21-sr-rpc-gulfislandsregionaltrailsplan-att2.pdf?sfvrsn=972d3aca_4))

