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School Travel Plans

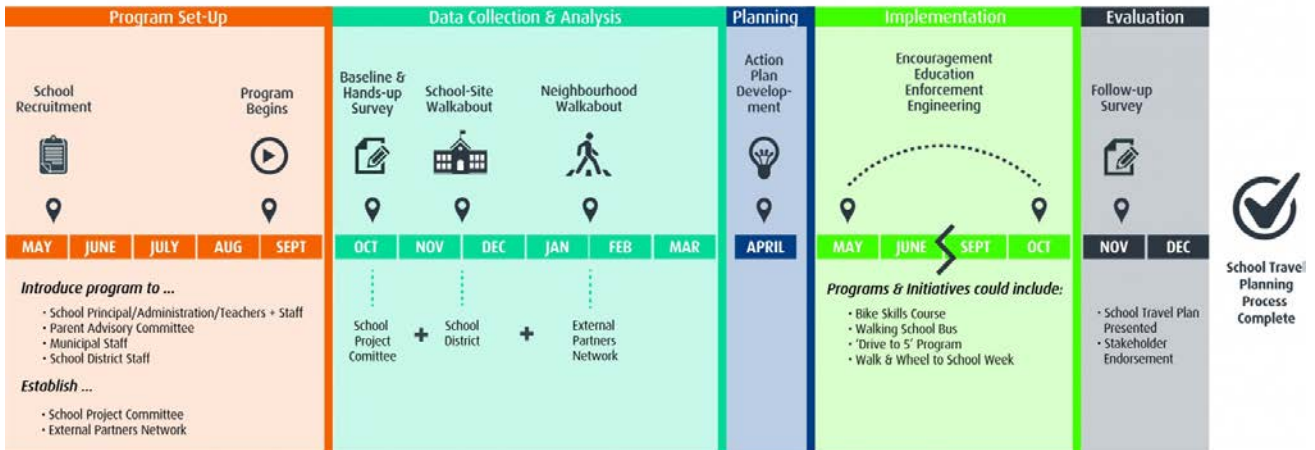
We are currently in the Evaluation phase of the School Travel Planning process, with School Travel Plans underway. School Travel Plans summarize the 18-month School Travel Planning process at each participating school and are living documents belonging to the school. Plans should be revisited regularly to update the status of the School Travel Action Plan and to incorporate future evaluation findings. Each School Travel Plan identifies and prioritizes engineering, encouragement, and enforcement actions aimed at creating a safer and more comfortable environment for students and their families to walk, bike, and roll to school.

Next steps

- Complete School Travel Plans and program wrap-up
- Program evaluation and reporting
- Consider potential for future iteration of the program

Active & Safe Routes to School

SCHOOL TRAVEL PLANNING PROCESS



Walk and Wheel to School Week



Thank you to all those who participated in our first annual Walk & Wheel to School Week!

22 schools in 13 municipalities and electoral areas participated in the Capital Regional District's inaugural Walk & Wheel to School Week, which ran from October 2-6. Public and independent schools in four school districts saw increased numbers of students walking or wheeling during the free, fun campaign. Funded by a Community Wellness Grant from Island Health, the campaign encouraged and motivated students and their families to choose active travel — walking, biking, scooting and busing — for all or part of their school commute.

Participation highlights include:

- total students that participated in Walk & Wheel to School Week: **7,127**
- highest number of walking trips at one school: **505**
- highest number of wheeling trips at one school: **222**

Prizes awarded

- **Ruth King Elementary** won the Street Party Pack for most walking trips per school capita. Prize pack included an event tent, table and wireless speaker.
- **Sir James Douglas Elementary** won the Rack'em Up Prize Pack for most wheeling trips per school capital. Prize pack included a bike rack and installation.
- **Macaulay Elementary** won the Active Transportation Photo Booth Prize Pack for being the school with the most social media coverage. Prize pack included photography items and props.

Visit www.crdwalkwheel.ca to read the final report and check for future campaign updates.

Wildlife Awareness Program

Four schools in the Westshore/ Sooke area are adjacent to forest and trail systems. In both the take-home survey and in PAC meetings, families expressed concerns about the possibility of encounters with bears and cougars on the way to school. Parents said the risk of a wildlife encounter was preventing them from allowing their kids to walk or cycle to school.



A cougar awareness program created by CRD Regional Parks was offered to the schools in Sooke to engage with students about the benefits of cougars in the ecosystem and what to do, or not do, if they encounter a cougar. Almost 100 students from Poirier participated in an interactive cougar education and information program where they explored the elusive and mysterious world of cougars and the important role they play as one of Vancouver Island's large carnivores in a balanced ecosystem. Classes were divided into two groups to explore the natural history and test their cougar skills along the park trails.

At the end of the workshop, each participating student received a reflective snap bracelet to improve their visibility while on local trails, as well as information on how their new knowledge about cougars can contribute to safe and enjoyable walking and biking trips to school.

Drive to Five



As part of the Active and Safe Routes to School Program, the CRD developed a Drive to Five toolkit to assist schools in starting their own Drive to Five program, where parents can drop-off their children at designated locations within a 5-minute safe and comfortable walk to school. Parents can either park and walk with their children or drop them off. Drive to Five encourages children to participate in active travel for part of their trip to school, and can help ease traffic congestion around schools.

The toolkit provides all of the information a school needs to start a program, including:

- How to develop and implement a Drive to Five program
- Program branding
- Sign templates and suggested use
- Communication resources (templates and drafts)

There are many benefits to a successful Drive to Five program:

- Children get exercise = physical and mental health benefits
- Children have opportunity to gain independence, socialize with classmates and get to know the community around the school
- Congestion is reduced at schools = improved air quality and increased safety for all road users
- Parents save time by avoiding the drop-off loop
- Parents and children can walk together at the start or end of the school day.

A number of schools in the Active and Safe Routes to School initiative introduced a Drive to Five program and have had much success since program launch.

[Subscribe](#) to this newsletter. Visit the CRD's Active and Safe Routes to School [webpage](#).



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