

2023

CITY OF VICTORIA | Transportation

# School Streets Guide

How to bring School Streets  
to your community





## About School Streets

School Streets are a community-led initiative to create temporary car-free zones in front of schools to make walking, wheeling and rolling safer and more enjoyable. School Streets can be established as an ongoing initiative or a one-time event.



# Benefits of School Streets

School Streets contribute to the well-being of communities.



## Safety

Children are vulnerable road users. By temporarily restricting car access on local roads next to schools, our streets can be safer for children walking, cycling and rolling.



## Independent mobility

In the Capital Regional District (CRD), 47 per cent of students are driven to and from school each day. School Streets allow children to have more autonomy in getting to and from school which can improve their sense of confidence and independence.



## Healthier lifestyles

Canadian studies have shown that 91 per cent of children and youth are not getting the recommended levels of daily physical activity. By promoting walking, rolling or biking and making it more comfortable in school zones, we can encourage increased physical activity.



## Improved air quality

56 per cent of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the CRD come from vehicular transportation. By reducing vehicle travel on streets around schools, we can provide a healthier environment for learning and play.



## Reduced congestion

On average, 25 per cent of road congestion during morning rush hour is related to school drop-off. School Streets reduce congestion in front of schools and encourages active modes of transportation.



## Community connections

The community-led nature of School Streets can bring people together to create vibrant public spaces that create a sense of belonging.

# How to launch a School Street

## Who is involved?

- School administration
- Parent Advisory Council (PAC)
- Caregivers
- City of Victoria staff

## Initiation

Typically, a request comes from the PAC or school administration to initiate a School Street. School Streets can be ongoing initiatives or one-time special events. City staff will connect with administration and the PAC to ensure there is interest across the school community and that all partners are informed.

## Planning

A working group can be established to coordinate the planning steps and delivery. City staff will work with the primary contact person to:

- Establish roles and responsibilities
- Review appropriate location options
- Pick a date, time, recurrence, etc.
- Determine volunteer requirements and capacity

## City coordination

City staff will prepare:

- Required permits
- Materials (traffic and safety)
- Signage
- Photo permission forms (if desired)
- Information sheet including recommendations, set-up instructions, how-to, etc.
- Sample notification letters, surveys and traffic counting sheets

## Implementation

The working group and volunteers from the school community will:

- Promote the event through the school community
- Build excitement and support for the initiative
- Notify neighbours and community stakeholders\*
- Deliver the School Street event at the approved time
- Collect data to set benchmarks for future years/events\*
- Survey participants and the broader community\*
- Share the impacts and benefits with the community, stakeholders or media

*\*City staff can provide samples for notification letters, traffic counting sheets and surveys.*

## Follow-up

City staff will follow up to collect materials and review the event and outcomes.

