



Central Elementary Community School Safer School Travel Road Safety Plan

**Produced by Central Elementary - Safer School
Travel Team**

In cooperation with Safer City



**Safer
City**

Plan completed in March, 2007

Acknowledgements

It takes commitment and community to make this plan a reality.

Without the participation of following people,
The School Road Safety Plan for Central Elementary Community School
Would not be possible.

Many thanks to.....

Clyde Dougans, Principal, Central Elementary Community School
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Active members of the Central Elementary PAC
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Ed Pearce, Speed Watch Coordinator, Chilliwack RCMP
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Cpl. Bruce Abbott, NCO i/c of Municipal Traffic for Chilliwack RCMP
Cpl. Jeff Bodner, Team B Leader, Port Mann RCMP
Ineke Schuurman, Safer City Coordinator, City of Chilliwack
Shaw T.V. Chilliwack

March, 2007

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Executive Summary

The parents and staff at Central Elementary Community School have 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. Central Elementary worked together with key community partners to achieve this goal. Central Elementary contacted the Chilliwack Safer City Coordinator, Ineke Schuurman to participate in the Safer School Travel (SST) Program in January 2005.

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

Central Elementary is located on 9435 Young Rd. This school has been open for approximately 77 years. The student population consists of 300 students in grades kindergarten to six. The majority of students walk to school.

Purpose of the School Road Safety Plan is to:

- 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 and from the three key disciplines of Education, Enforcement and Engineering.
- 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.



Cpl. Bruce Abbott helps children cross the street during a Back to School media event.



Speed Watch volunteers assist Cpl. Bruce Abbott in looking for speeders in the school zone in front of Central Elementary.

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 poor 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.

Infrastructure 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. The information was transferred to and displayed on maps.

Artwork courtesy of Leena, Grade 2



Data Analysis

Student Distribution and Existing Travel Mode Used to get to School

300 children were registered at Central Elementary Community School at the time of the study. 45 students returned surveys (15% of school population). Please note that the table totals exceed 100% because some students use multiple modes to travel to and from school.

Mode	Good Weather		Adverse Weather	
	AM	PM	AM	PM
Car	24	20	37	37
Walk	76	73	54	56
Cycle	12	12	2	0
School Bus	0	0	0	0
Transit	0	0	2	2
Car Pool	2	2	2	2
Total	114	107	97	97

Table 1 – Student Mode of Travel

Routes to School and Infrastructure Mapping

Mapping of the existing infrastructure in the community involves becoming more intimate with the neighbourhood surrounding the school. The mapping process highlights key areas of concern by including the routes being taken to school and the extent of the existing infrastructure.

The maps are fairly large and detailed and are available for review. 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 had representation from municipal engineering, the RCMP, ICBC, Speed Watch, school principal, and the SST team leader.

Final List of Issues

This final list of issues was endorsed by the stakeholder group at a meeting on September 27th, 2006. These issues reflect the key concerns of the school community.

Issue #1a: Behavior Issues on Young Rd. and Reece:

- Drivers are not using the intersection properly



Issue #1b: Behavior Issues on College and Young:

- Near Reece: Drivers are not signaling to turn right, and the pedestrian as a result is not sure what the driver is going to do.
- Cars are driving through the crosswalk before the pedestrian has finished crossing.



Issue #1c: Behaviour Issues on College:

- Students are not using the crosswalks, and are instead darting out between cars mid block.



Issue #1d: Behaviour Issues on Young Rd:

- Between Bole and Reece cars are not stopping for pedestrians at the crosswalks.



Issue #1e: Behaviour Issues on Yale Rd. and Victor:

- Cars are not stopping at this crosswalk.



Issue #1f: Behaviour Issues on Cleveland:

- Children are crossing the street without looking for traffic.



Issue #1g Behaviour Issues on-Bole Ave., 1h- Yale & Nowell, 1i- Yale & Williams:

- This is an unsafe area for children to walk to and from school.



Issue #1j: Behaviour Issues on 1st Avenue and Nowell:

- Cars are not stopping at this crosswalk.



Issue #1k: Behaviour Issues on Cook and Reece:

- Drivers are not stopping at the 4 Way Stop (rolling stops).



Issue #2a: Infrastructure Issues on Mellard Avenue:

- No sidewalk



Issue #2b: College

- The southbound entrance to College is unsafe.
- The trees on the corner of College towards Young are blocking drivers view.



Issue #2c: College and Young:

- The southbound entrance to College is unsafe.
- The trees on the corner of College towards Young are blocking drivers view.



Issue #2c: Drop Off Area:

- There is no signage to indicate the drop off area.



Identified Measures

Issue #1a	Behaviour Issues at Young and Reece: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Drivers are not using the intersection properly. 				
Strategy Details	Priority	Action By	Funding Source	Projected Timing	Progress
ENFORCEMENT					
-Utilize the RCMP and Speed Watch to monitor and enforce driver behaviour at this intersection	High	RCMP/ Speed Watch	N/A	Immediate	Ongoing

Issue #1b	Behavior Issues at College and Young: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Near Reece: Drivers are not signaling to turn right, and the pedestrian as a result is not sure what the driver is going to do. ➤ Cars are driving through the crosswalk before the pedestrian has finished crossing. 				
Strategy Details	Priority	Action By	Funding Source	Projected Timing	Progress
EDUCATION					
Educate parents through newsletters that they need to pay more attention and stop at crosswalks	High	PAC	Central Elementary	Immediate	Ongoing

Issue #1c	Issue #1c: Behaviour Issues on College: ➤ Students are not using the crosswalks, and are instead darting out between cars midblock.				
Strategy Details	Priority	Action By	Funding Source	Projected Timing	Progress
EDUCATION					
-Educate children through a road safety assembly on how to properly use crosswalks.	High	RCMP	N/A	Immediate	Completed Oct. 2 nd , 2006
-Teach children how to properly use crosswalks during International Walk to School Week	High	Safer City SST Team	N/A	Immediate	Completed Oct. 4 th , 2006

Issue #1d	Issue #1d: Behaviour Issues on Young Rd: ➤ Between Bole and Reece cars are not stopping for pedestrians at crosswalks.				
Strategy Details	Priority	Action By	Funding Source	Projected Timing	Progress
EDUCATION					
Educate parents through newsletters about the importance of stopping at crosswalks	High	PAC	Central Elementary	Immediate	Ongoing

Issue #1e	Issue #1e: Behaviour Issues at Yale and Victor: ➤ Cars are not stopping at this crosswalk				
Strategy Details	Priority	Action By	Funding Source	Projected Timing	Progress
ENGINEERING					
-Improve visibility at this crosswalk	High	City of Chilliwack	City of Chilliwack	Immediate	Completed 2006

Issue #1f	Issue #1f: Behaviour Issues on Cleveland Ave: -Children are crossing the street without looking for traffic.				
Strategy Details	Priority	Action By	Funding Source	Projected Timing	Progress
ENGINEERING					
Construct a sidewalk on Cleveland to assist children in walking to and from school.	High	City of Chilliwack	City of Chilliwack	Summer 2007	N/A

Issue #1g,h,i	Issues #1g,h,i: Behaviour Issues on 1g: Bole Ave., 1h: Yale and Nowell, 1i: Yale and Williams: ➤ These areas are unsafe for children to walk to and from school.				
Strategy Details	Priority	Action By	Funding Source	Projected Timing	Progress
EDUCATION					
Provide an alternative route through the Best Walking Routes Map and distribute maps to students	High	SST Team Safer City	City of Chilliwack	Immediate	Completed March 26 th , 2007

Issue #1j	Issue #1j: Behaviour Issues on 1st Avenue and Nowell: ➤ Cars are not stopping at this crosswalk.				
Strategy Details	Priority	Action By	Funding Source	Projected Timing	Progress
ENGINEERING					
-Investigate the parking situation in order to determine the feasibility of restricting on street parking during school hours.	High	City of Chilliwack	N/A	Winter 2007	Completed February 2007

Issue #1k	Issue #1k: Behaviour Issues on Cook and Reece: ➤ Drivers are not stopping at the 4 Way Stop (rolling stops)				
Strategy Details	Priority	Action By	Funding Source	Projected Timing	Progress
ENFORCEMENT					
Utilize Speed Watch and the RCMP to monitor and enforce driver behaviour at this intersection	High	RCMP/ Speed Watch	N/A	Immediate	Ongoing

Issue #2a	Issue #2a: Infrastructure Issues on Mellard Avenue: ➤ No sidewalk.				
Strategy Details	Priority	Action By	Funding Source	Projected Timing	Progress
ENGINEERING					
-The City will investigate whether a sidewalk is warranted.	High	City of Chilliwack	City of Chilliwack	Winter 2007	Completed February 2007

Issue #2b	Issue #2b: Infrastructure Issues on College:				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The southbound entrance to College is unsafe. ➤ The trees on the corner of College towards Young are blocking drivers' view. 				
Strategy Details	Priority	Action By	Funding Source	Projected Timing	Progress
ENGINEERING					
-Block off the southbound entrance to College St.	High	City of Chilliwack	City of Chilliwack	Long Term	N/A
Trim the trees on College St.	High	City of Chilliwack	City of Chilliwack	Short Term	Spring 2007

Issue #2c	Issue #2c: Infrastructure Issues in the Drop Off Area on Victoria:				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There is no signage to indicate the drop off area. 				
Strategy Details	Priority	Action By	Funding Source	Projected Timing	Progress
ENGINEERING					
-Install signage to indicate the drop off area.	High	City of Chilliwack	City of Chilliwack	Immediate	Completed Winter 2007

Summary

Significant effort has been made by Central Elementary 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 together 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 effect 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 a few engineering solutions that will require significant capital funding. Like many municipalities and school districts, Chilliwack and School District #33 have budgets that are tight and are stretched in many directions. The School Road Safety Plan for Central Elementary seeks to prioritize and identify the strategies that will have the greatest impact on road safety concerns in this community.

**Let us look forward to Safer School Travel around Central Elementary
Community School**

Appendix 1

Safer School Travel Survey

Chilliwack Central Elementary Community School Road Safety Plan Survey

Dear Parent / Guardian

Chilliwack Central Elementary Community 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 January 30th, 2006 to your child's homeroom teacher.**

Parent / Guardian name: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone number: _____

Number of children in your household, attending Chilliwack Central Elementary Community School: _____

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?

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.

D. Safety Suggestions

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

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 colored 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:

Ineke Schuurman 604-793-2766 Karen Bradwell 604-792-8537