

COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

For consideration at the Standing Committee meeting of City Council on June 18, 2025

2. Expanding the School Travel Planning Program

Submitted by: Councillor Dominato and Councillor Meiszner

WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver is committed to Vision Zero, which aims to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries;
2. A key part of achieving the Vision Zero goal is working directly with communities on safety planning;
3. The School Travel Planning program (STP) has been helping students walk, bike, and roll to school safely for over 10 years, while involving families and schools in conversations about road safety and active travel;
4. Through STP, the City assists with data collection, provides infrastructure improvements and support, and creates personalized action plans collaboratively with participating schools and stakeholders;
5. Each STP project takes place over three years and includes research, consultation, on-the-ground improvements, and follow-up. These projects have consistently made travel safer and easier for students and have helped build trust with communities;
6. The program also plays an important role in teaching kids and youth about safe and sustainable ways to get around;
7. Despite its success, the STP program currently works with only about four schools per year out of 107 in the Vancouver School District, which means each school participates only once per generation;ⁱ
8. The limited reach of the STP program creates inequities, especially for schools in underserved areas that often face higher traffic safety risks and have fewer supports for active travel;
9. To date, 49 schools have participated in the School Travel Planning Program;
10. STP is part of the broader School Active Travel Program, which currently has a \$750,000 annual budget; and
11. There is unmet demand and a significant opportunity to scale-up the successful STP program with a modest increase in funding and capacity.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to report back by end of Q3 2025 with options and costs associated with increasing the number of schools served each year by the School Travel Planning program.
- B. THAT Council reaffirm its support for the School Travel Planning program as a key part of the Vision Zero initiative and the City's active transportation efforts, and ensure that expanding this program will not take away resources from other road safety or equity-focused mobility programs.

* * * * *

ⁱ Since 2012, the City has consulted 3 to 6 elementary and secondary schools each year to identify transportation-related challenges and opportunities, improve safety, and increase the number of children walking and cycling to school. <https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/school-travel-planning.aspx>