

Dear Principals and PAC Members,

I am writing to share the good news of an exciting pilot project, recently approved by the City of Vancouver, that we hope will improve safety in our school zones.

The pilot project will reduce speed limits at nine schools, beginning in early 2023, to 30 km/h for school zones adjacent to collectors, and to 40 km/h for school zones adjacent to secondary arterials and arterials. This initiative is part of our Vision Zero road safety strategy; adopted by major cities around the world, Vision Zero aims to eliminate traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries. It is grounded in studies that show lowering vehicle speeds can reduce pedestrian fatality rates in the event of a collision from 80% to 15%.

City of Vancouver data shows that most drivers already travel at slower speeds along arterial and collector streets adjacent to schools during peak periods. Formalizing a lower speed limit would not significantly affect travel times, and would encourage all drivers to lower their speed to below 50 km/h.

We believe this pilot project can support our efforts to create safer communities, and ensure students (and their parents or guardians) are comfortable getting to and from school safely whether they are walking, cycling or using another method of active transportation.

The schools selected for the pilot project are:

SCHOOL	LOCATION	STREET CLASSIFICATION
Sir Wilfrid Laurier Elementary	800 W 57 th Ave.	Collector
Waverley Elementary	6100 Elliot St.	Collector
Dr. Annie B Jamieson Elementary	600 W 49 th Ave.	Secondary Arterial
John Norquay Elementary	4600 Slocan St.	Secondary Arterial
Florence Nightingale Elementary	400 E 12 th Ave.	Secondary Arterial
Dr. George M Weir Elementary	5900 Rupert St.	Secondary Arterial
Stratford Hall	3000 Commercial St.	Arterial
Henry Hudson Elementary	1900 Cornwall St.	Arterial
Crosstown Elementary	100 Expo Blvd.	Arterial

City staff will be connecting with each of the schools later this year to provide more information. Staff will also report back in spring 2024 with the pilot project results and, if successful, the city will consider expanding the initiative to all remaining schools.

For more information about the pilot project and related data, please visit:

<https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/2022-05-11-council-memo-rts-14598-schools-on-arterials-slow-zones.pdf>

Please share this information with your school communities. If you have questions about this project, or anything else happening in the City of Vancouver, please do not hesitate to contact me at CLRdominato@vancouver.ca or 604-754-7290.

I wish your school teams and families a wonderful summer break.

Warm regards,



Lisa Dominato, Councillor
City of Vancouver