



Yarrow Elementary Community School Safer School Travel Road Safety Plan

**Produced by Yarrow Elementary - Safer School
Travel Team
In cooperation with Safer City**



Plan completed in October, 2006

Acknowledgements

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

Without the participation of following people,
the School Road Safety Plan for Yarrow Elementary
would not be possible.

Many thanks to.....

Gabe D'archangelo, Acting Principal at Yarrow Elementary
Wendy Block, SST team leader at Yarrow Elementary
Active members of Yarrow Elementary PAC
Rod Sanderson, Manager of Transportation and Drainage, City of Chilliwack
Mike Kelly, Traffic Technician, City of Chilliwack
Mike Weightman, ICBC Loss Prevention Coordinator
Cpl. Bruce Abbott, NCO i/c of Municipal Traffic for Chilliwack RCMP
Ineke Schuurman, Chilliwack Safer City Coordinator

October, 2006

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Executive Summary

The parents and staff at Yarrow Elementary 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. Yarrow Elementary worked together with key community partners to achieve this goal. Yarrow Elementary contacted the Chilliwack Safer City Coordinator, Ineke Schuurman to participate in the Safer School Travel (SST) Program in October 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, Yarrow Elementary strongly advocates healthy lifestyles and fitness, encouraging students to walk and or bike to school.

Yarrow Elementary is located on 4605 Wilson Rd. This school has been open for approximately 50 years. The student population consists of 285 students in grades kindergarten to six. The majority of students walk to school or take the school bus.

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.

Crossing guards at Yarrow Elementary help students cross Yarrow Central Rd. safely.



Students are dropped off at the corner of Yarrow Central Rd. and Wilson Rd.



Speed Watch volunteers Ed Pearce and Art Rotundo help Cpl. Bruce Abbott (left) look for speeders on Yarrow Central Rd.



Data Collection

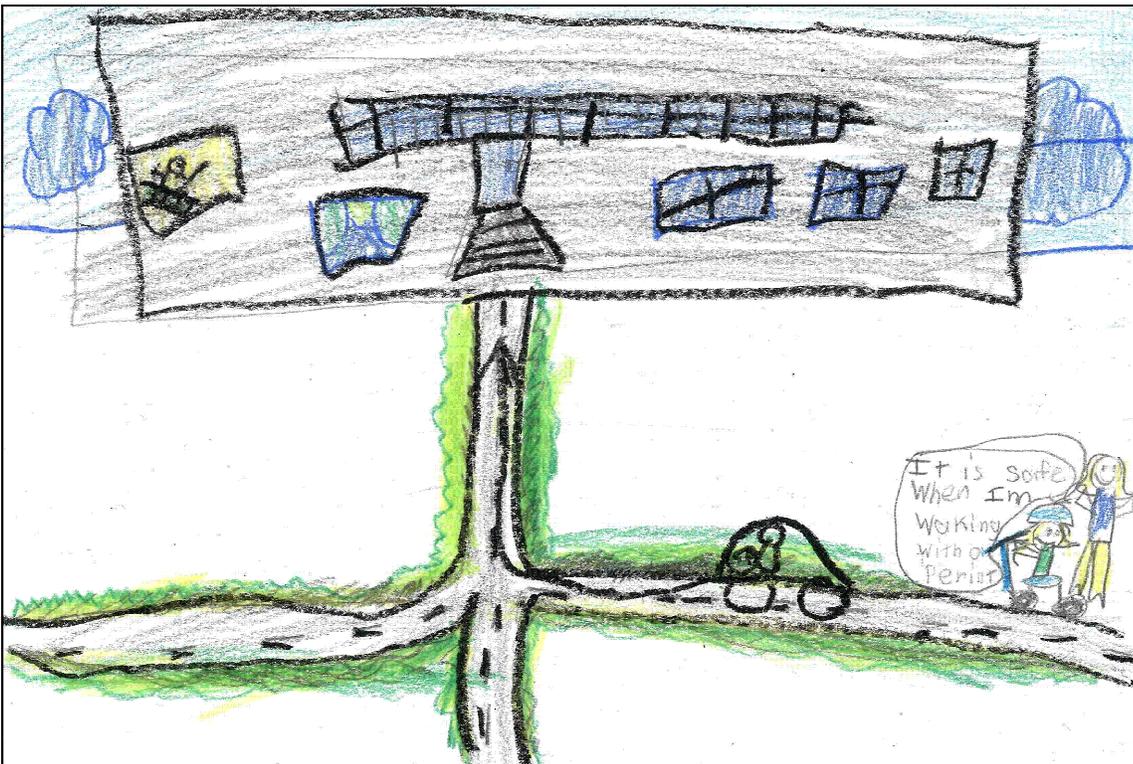
Travel Surveys

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.



"It is safe when I'm walking with a parent"(Artwork courtesy of Sarah, Grade 1)

Data Analysis

Student Distribution and Existing Travel Mode Used to get to School

285 children were registered at Yarrow Elementary at the time of the study. Each family received one questionnaire, and 100 families returned surveys (35% of school population). Please note that the table totals exceed 100% because some students use multiple modes to travel to and from school.

Modes %	Good Weather		Adverse Weather	
	A.M	P.M	A.M.	P.M.
Car	39	33	62	58
Walk	41	42	15	17
Cycle	11	9	1	1
School Bus	33	38	30	35
Transit	0	0	0	0
Car Pool	1	2	3	4
Total	125	124	111	115

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 Yarrow and 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 the school district maintenance and transportation departments, municipal engineering, the RCMP, ICBC, school principal, SST team leader, concerned parents, and local community association.

Final List of Issues

This final list of issues was endorsed by the stakeholder group at a meeting on March 22nd, 2006. These issues reflect the key concerns of the school community.

Issue #1: Behavior Issues on Yarrow Central Rd:

- Speeding on Yarrow Central
- Cars are not stopping at the crosswalk at Yarrow Central and Community (Cars are parking on Yarrow Central and blocking the pedestrian sign).



Issue #1: Behavior Issues on Wilson Rd. and Prairie:

- Speeding on Wilson
- Cars are not stopping at the crosswalk at Wilson and Prairie



**Issue #2: Infrastructure
Issues on Yarrow Central
Rd:**

- Unsafe crosswalk
- Bike lanes do not continue all along this road.
- The word school is fading on the road.



**Issue #2: Infrastructure
Issues on Wilson Rd:**

- The word school is fading on the road.
- The crosswalk is also fading on Wilson Rd.
- It is currently not safe for children to cycle on Wilson.



**Issue #3: Infrastructure
Issues on School Property:
Pick up/Drop off area:**

- There are no lines or arrows at the entrance and exit of the school to indicate direction of traffic flow.



**Issue #3: Infrastructure
Issues on School Property:
Back Field**

- The back field gets muddy and wet.



Identified Measures

Issue #1	Vehicles speed along this arterial road on their way to HWY #1. There is no school zone sign restricting motorists speed to 30 km/hr. There are students that walk alongside this road on their way to and from school. Students also cross Yarrow Central Rd. at Wilson, and Yarrow Central at Community to get to school. At Yarrow Central and Community cars are not stopping at the crosswalk and cars are parking and blocking the pedestrian sign.				
Strategy Details	Priority	Action By	Funding Source	Projected Timing	Progress
EDUCATION					
The Best Walking Routes map was sent out to students and parents alerting them that Yarrow Central Rd. is an area of concern. The Best Walking Routes map also alerts students and parents that they should cross at Yarrow Central and Wilson where adult crossing guards are monitoring the crosswalk.	High	SST Team	Safer City	Immediate	Completed 2006
ENGINEERING					
Improve visibility of the crosswalk at Yarrow Central and Community, make crosswalk sign more visible.	High	City of Chilliwack	City of Chilliwack	Immediate	Completed 2006
ENFORCEMENT					
Work with the RCMP and Speed Watch to set strategic dates for 3 Strikes Your Out! Campaigns	High	Safer City RCMP	N/A	On going	

Issue #1	Behavior Issues on Wilson Rd. and Prairie: Concerns were raised about drivers speeding on Wilson Rd. in the 30 km/hr school zone, as well as drivers were not stopping so that children could use the crosswalk at Wilson and Prairie.				
Strategy Details	Priority	Action By	Funding Source	Projected Timing	Progress
EDUCATION					
The Best Walking Routes Map will alert parents and students to be careful on Wilson Rd.	High	SST Team	Safer City	Immediate	Completed 2006
Student Crossing guards will help students cross Wilson Rd.	High	Grade 5 & 6 students	N/A	On going	
ENFORCEMENT					
Speed Watch and Enforcement on Yarrow Central will help slow motorists down on Wilson Rd.	High	RCMP Speed Watch Safer City	N/A	On going	

Issue #2	Issue #2: Infrastructure Issues on Yarrow Central Rd: Concerns were raised that the crosswalk at Yarrow Central and Wilson is unsafe. It is also not safe for students to bike along the road as bike lanes do not continue all along Yarrow Central. Parents were also concerned that the road markings were fading on the road.				
Strategy Details	Priority	Action By	Funding Source	Projected Timing	Progress
EDUCATION					
Distribute Best Walking Routes Map to students to show safe areas to walk	High	SST Team	Safer City	Immediate	Completed 2006
ENGINEERING					
Repaint the word SCHOOL on Yarrow Central	High	City of Chilliwack	City of Chilliwack	Immediate	Completed 2006
Continue to Monitor the crosswalk at Yarrow Central and Wilson Rd.	High	City of Chilliwack	City of Chilliwack	On-going	
ENFORCEMENT					
Enforcement at the Crosswalk	High	Safer City RCMP	N/A	On going	

Issue #2	Infrastructure Issues on Wilson Rd: Concerns were raised that road markings were fading on Wilson Rd. in front of the school. Wilson Rd. is also not wide enough for children to cycle on.				
Strategy Details	Priority	Action By	Funding Source	Projected Timing	Progress
ENGINEERING					
Repaint the word SCHOOL on Wilson Rd.	High	City of Chilliwack	City of Chilliwack	Immediate	Completed 2006
Repaint the crosswalk on Wilson Rd.	High	City of Chilliwack	City of Chilliwack	Immediate	Completed 2006
Widen Wilson Rd. for a bike lane	Medium	City of Chilliwack	City of Chilliwack	Long Term	

Issue #3	Infrastructure Issues on School Property: Pick up/Drop off area: Concerns were raised that there were no lines or arrows at the entrance and exit of the school to indicate the direction of traffic flow which contributed to congestion and confusion on the part of drivers.				
Strategy Details	Priority	Action By	Funding Source	Projected Timing	Progress
SCHOOL DISTRICT					
Distribute Safe Routes Map to show parents proper pick up/drop off behavior	High	SST Team	Safer City	Immediate	Completed 2006
Paint Lines and arrows at entrance and exit points of the school to indicate direction of traffic flow	High	School Principal	School District	Immediate	Completed 2006

Issue #3	Back Field: Concerns were raised that the back field gets muddy and wet in the fall and winter time, making it treacherous for students that walk to school, and also for students playing in this area.				
Strategy Details	Priority	Action By	Funding Source	Projected Timing	Progress
SCHOOL DISTRICT					
Make a gravel path in the back field	High	School District	School District	Immediate	Partially Completed

Summary

Significant effort has been made by the Yarrow Elementary community 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 Yarrow 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 Yarrow Elementary

Appendix 1

Safer School Travel Survey

Road Safety Plan Survey

Dear Parent / Guardian

Yarrow Elementary 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 November 30th, 2005 to your child's homeroom teacher.**

Parent / Guardian name: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone number: _____

Number of children in your household, attending : _____

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 604-702-8181

Wendy Block 604-823-2445