



Tyson Elementary Safer School Travel Road Safety Plan

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

In cooperation with Safer City



Plan completed in December, 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 Tyson Elementary School
Would not be possible.

Many thanks to.....

Terry Bateman, former Principal, Tyson Elementary
Chuck Bloch, Principal, Tyson Elementary
Debra Kartz, SST Team Leader
Carolyn Sommerville, PAC President
Allison Davison, Tyson Elementary PAC
Doug MacKay, School Board President, School District #33
Dale Churchill, Director of Operations, School District #33
Rod Sanderson, Manager of Transportation and Drainage, City of Chilliwack
Mike Weightman, ICBC Loss Prevention Coordinator
Cpl. Bruce Abbott, NCO i/c of Municipal Traffic Chilliwack RCMP
Ineke Schuurman, Safer City Coordinator, City of Chilliwack

December, 2007

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Executive Summary

The parents and staff at Tyson Elementary 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. Tyson Elementary worked together with key community partners to achieve this goal. Tyson Elementary contacted the Chilliwack Safer City Coordinator, Ineke Schuurman to participate in the Safer School Travel (SST) Program in May 2006.

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, Tyson Elementary strongly advocates healthy lifestyles and fitness, encouraging students to walk and or bike to school.

Tyson Elementary is located on 45170 South Sumas Rd. This school has been open for 24 years. The student population consists of 285 students in grades kindergarten to six. The majority of students are driven or take the school bus 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.

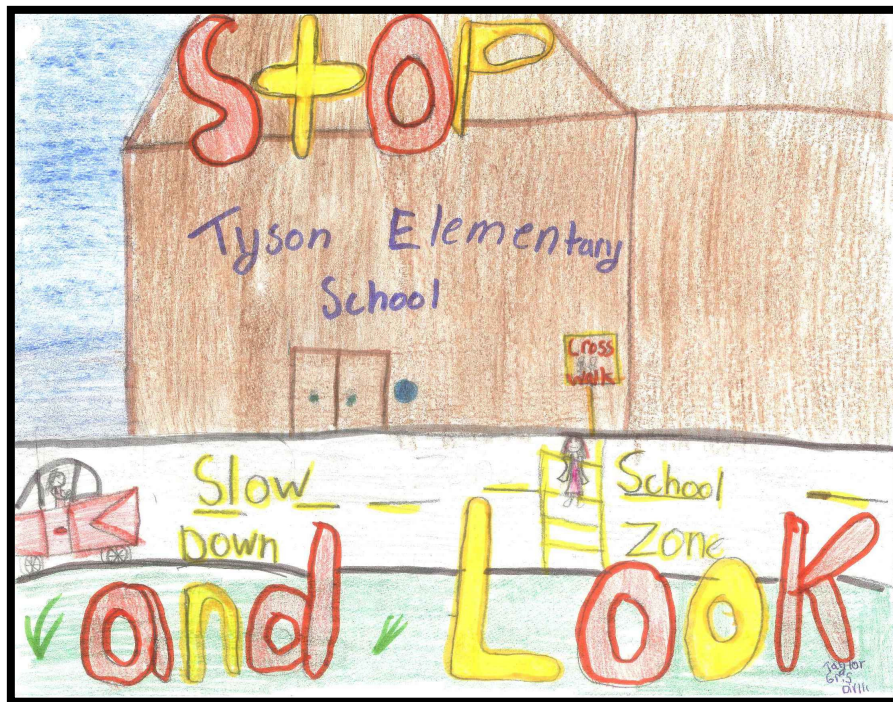
Consultation and Research

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.



New school sign reminds drivers that kids are there, drive with care.



Artwork courtesy of Taylor, Grade 5

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 Nico, Grade 4

Data Analysis

Student Distribution and Existing Travel Mode Used to get to School

285 children were registered at Tyson Elementary at the time of the study. 196 questionnaires were sent out (one per family). 73 students returned surveys (37 per cent of school population). Please note that the table totals exceed 100% because some students use multiple modes to travel to and from school. All the students in each classroom were polled on which mode of travel they use to get to and from school, please see the modes below.

Mode	Good Weather		Adverse Weather	
	AM	PM	AM	PM
Car	55	48	71	71
Walk	52	67	29	33
Cycle	3	3	0	0
School Bus	0	0	0	0
Transit	0	0	0	0
Car Pool	0	0	0	0
Total	110	118	100	104

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, School District, school principal, the PAC and the SST team leader.

Final List of Issues

This final list of issues was endorsed by the stakeholder group at a meeting on June 18th, 2007. These issues reflect the key concerns of the school community.

Issue #1a: Behaviour Issues on South Sumas Rd:

- Drivers are speeding along South Sumas Rd. in the school zone.



Issue #1b: Behaviour Issues at Tyson & South Sumas:

- At the 4 Way Stop drivers are not stopping
- Drivers are not stopping for pedestrians at the crosswalk



Issue #1c: Behaviour Issues on Reid Rd:

- Speeding between South Sumas & Stevenson



Issue #1d: Behaviour Issues at South Sumas & Dover:

- Drivers are not stopping at the crosswalk.



Issue #1e: Behaviour Issues on Selkirk:

- Drivers are speeding alongside the school.



Issue #1f: Behaviour Issues at Vedder & South Sumas:

- Drivers are running amber and red lights



Issue #1g: Behaviour Issues on Wiltshire:

- Speeding in the 30 km/hr zone between South Sumas and Stevenson



Issue #2a: Infrastructure Issues at Tyson & Evans:

- At the Yield sign poor visibility when turning right



Issue #2b: Infrastructure Issues at Wiltshire & South Sumas:

- In winter- Wiltshire is icy and not cleared
- Crosswalk is unsafe



Issue #2c: Infrastructure Issues on Reid Rd:

- Walking along the road is unsafe.



Issue #2d: Infrastructure Issues on Wiltshire & Stevenson:

- Crosswalk is unsafe.



**Issue #2e: Infrastructure
Issues on South Sumas Rd:**

- Between Vedder Rd. and Vedder Middle School is it unsafe to walk along South Sumas Rd.
- Road markings are fading on South Sumas from Reid Rd. past Tyson Elementary.



**Issue #2f: Infrastructure
Issues at Vedder & South Sumas:**

- Students don't have enough time to cross the street



**Issue #2g: Infrastructure
Issues at Tyson & South Sumas:**

- At the 4 Way Stop pedestrians have difficulties crossing the street at the south leg.



Identified Measures

Issue #1a	Behaviour Issues on South Sumas Rd:				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Drivers are speeding along South Sumas Rd. in the school zone. 				
Strategy Details	Priority	Action By	Funding Source	Projected Timing	Progress
ENFORCEMENT					
-Speed Watch and the Chilliwack RCMP will work together to undertake 3 Strikes campaigns periodically throughout the school year	High	Chilliwack RCMP/ Speed Watch	N/A	Ongoing	

Issue #1b	Behaviour Issues at Tyson & South Sumas:				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ At the 4 Way Stop drivers are not stopping ➤ Drivers are not stopping for pedestrians at the crosswalk. 				
Strategy Details	Priority	Action By	Funding Source	Projected Timing	Progress
ENGINEERING					
City will initiate a site investigation and warrant analysis (for a traffic signal)	High	City of Chilliwack	City of Chilliwack	January 2008	

Issue #1c	Behaviour Issues on Reid Rd:				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Speeding between South Sumas and Stevenson 				
Strategy Details	Priority	Action By	Funding Source	Projected Timing	Progress
SCHOOL DISTRICT					
-RCMP will undertake random patrols	High	Chilliwack RCMP	N/A	Ongoing	

Issue #1d	Behaviour Issues at South Sumas & Dover: ➤ Drivers are not stopping at the crosswalk.				
Strategy Details	Priority	Action By	Funding Source	Projected Timing	Progress
SCHOOL DISTRICT					
A crossing guard is needed	High	School District	School District	?	

Issue #1e	Behaviour Issues on Selkirk: ➤ Drivers are speeding alongside the school.				
Strategy Details	Priority	Action By	Funding Source	Projected Timing	Progress
ENGINEERING					
Restrict motorists to 30 km/hr (school zone) on Selkirk alongside the school	High	City of Chilliwack	City of Chilliwack	Fall 2007	Complete

Issue #1f	Behaviour Issues at Vedder & South Sumas: ➤ Drivers are running amber and red lights.				
Strategy Details	Priority	Action By	Funding Source	Projected Timing	Progress
ENFORCEMENT					
RCMP will address this high crash location through Crash Reduction Projects	High	RCMP	N/A	Ongoing	

Issue #1g	Behaviour Issues on Wiltshire: ➤ Speeding in the 30 km/hr zone between South Sumas & Stevenson.				
Strategy Details	Priority	Action By	Funding Source	Projected Timing	Progress
ENFORCEMENT					
RCMP will undertake random patrols	High	Chilliwack RCMP	N/A	Ongoing	

Issue #2a	Infrastructure Issues at Tyson & Evans: ➤ At the Yield sign poor visibility when turning right				
Strategy Details	Priority	Action By	Funding Source	Projected Timing	Progress
ENGINEERING					
Capital works intersection improvements	High	City of Chilliwack	City of Chilliwack	Improvements will be made in conjunction with or after the Evans Connector Project	

Issue #2b	Infrastructure Issues at Wiltshire & South Sumas: ➤ In winter Wiltshire is icy and not cleared. ➤ Crosswalk is unsafe				
Strategy Details	Priority	Action By	Funding Source	Projected Timing	Progress
ENGINEERING					
Information on City's Snow and Ice Control program was handed out at the meeting	High	City of Chilliwack	City of Chilliwack	Complete	
City will initiate a site investigation and warrant analysis (Pedestrian signal)	High	City of Chilliwack	City of Chilliwack	January 2008	

Issue #2c	Infrastructure Issues on Reid Rd: ➤ Walking along the road is unsafe				
Strategy Details	Priority	Action By	Funding Source	Projected Timing	Progress
ENGINEERING					
The City will add this site to the 10 year capital plan	High	City of Chilliwack	City of Chilliwack	Medium Term	

Issue #2d	Infrastructure Issues at Wiltshire & Stevenson: ➤ Crosswalk is unsafe				
Strategy Details	Priority	Action By	Funding Source	Projected Timing	Progress
ENFORCEMENT					
RCMP will undertake random patrols	High	Chilliwack RCMP	N/A	Ongoing	
ENGINEERING					
The crosswalk will be repainted	High	City of Chilliwack	City of Chilliwack	Fall 2007	Complete

Issue #2e	Infrastructure Issues on South Sumas: ➤ Between Vedder Rd. and Vedder Middle School it is unsafe to walk along South Sumas ➤ Road markings are fading on South Sumas from Reid Rd. past Tyson Elementary				
Strategy Details	Priority	Action By	Funding Source	Projected Timing	Progress
ENGINEERING					
A sidewalk is needed	High	City of Chilliwack	City of Chilliwack	Mid term	
Road markings will be repainted	High	City of Chilliwack	City of Chilliwack	Fall 2007	Complete

Issue #2f	Infrastructure Issues at Vedder & South Sumas: ➤ Students don't have enough time to cross the street.				
Strategy Details	Priority	Action By	Funding Source	Projected Timing	Progress
ENGINEERING					
Crossing time will be adjusted	High	City of Chilliwack	City of Chilliwack	Fall 2007	Complete
Change pedestrian signal to a countdown timer	High	City of Chilliwack	City of Chilliwack	Short Term	

Issue #2g	Infrastructure Issues at Tyson & South Sumas: ➤ At the 4 Way Stop pedestrians have difficulties crossing the street				
Strategy Details	Priority	Action By	Funding Source	Projected Timing	Progress
ENGINEERING					
Concrete curb and gutter at the southwest corner of the intersection	High	City of Chilliwack	City of Chilliwack	Mid Term	

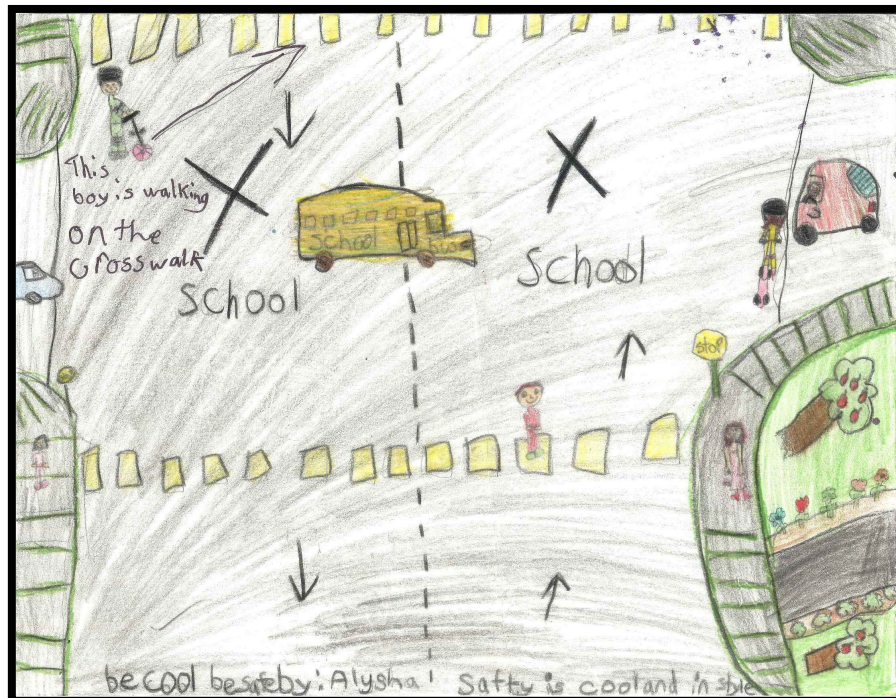
Summary

Significant effort has been made by the Tyson 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 Tyson Elementary seeks to prioritize and identify the strategies that will have the greatest impact on road safety concerns in this community.



Artwork courtesy of Alysha, Grade 4

Appendix 1
Safer School Travel Survey

Tyson Elementary Road Safety Plan Survey

Dear Parent / Guardian

Tyson 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 February 21st, 2007 to your child's homeroom teacher.**

Parent / Guardian name: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone number: _____

Number of children in your household, attending Tyson Elementary:

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 coloured 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:

Debra Kartz 604-824-7447

Ineke Schuurman 604-793-2766