

Coquitlam

For Committee

November 15, 2016
Our File: 16-8690-01/000/2016-1
Doc #: 2384314.v3

To: City Manager
From: Acting General Manager Engineering and Public Works

Subject: **School and Community Walking and Cycling Improvements – 2016 Status Update**

For: **Council-in-Committee**

Recommendation:

That the Committee receive the report of the General Manager Engineering and Public Works dated November 15, 2016, entitled "School and Community Walking and Cycling Improvements – 2016 Status Update" for information.

Report Purpose:

To provide a status report on the walking and cycling improvements for the broader community in the 2016 construction year, as well as an update on the Middle School Walk-Bike Ability Program.

Strategic Goals:

This program supports the following strategic goals: strengthening neighbourhoods, increasing active participation, and enhancing sustainability of City services and infrastructure.

Background:

The City's 2012 Strategic Transportation Plan targets an increase in the mode share for walking, cycling and transit from 18% to 30% of all trips by 2031.

As a way to promote a safer and more inviting environment for sustainable travel modes, the City has a number of Capital and Operating Programs to assist in achieving this target. In addition, the City is in the midst of the multi-year Middle School Walk-Bike Ability Program which follows the successful previous completion of the Elementary School Walkability Program. As part of this Program, the City, in partnership with TransLink's TravelSmart program, has provided outreach and training to students, teachers, administration, and parents about the different options of getting to and from school.

School walkabouts were conducted with key stakeholders and school representatives to identify potential operational and infrastructure improvements to enhance the walking and cycling environments around Coquitlam's eight middle schools. Implementation of the identified operational and infrastructure improvements is well underway and are expected to be completed by the end of 2017.

This report provides an update on the walking and cycling improvements for the broader community for the 2016 construction year, as well as an update on improvements implemented through the Middle School Walk-Bike Ability Program.

Discussion:

Pedestrian and Cycling Improvements

For the 2016 construction year, approximately 1.8 km of new sidewalks and 1.8 km of bike route infrastructure were built through the City's Capital Sidewalk Construction Program (locations shown in Attachment 1). A total of seven sidewalk projects were completed on Blue Mountain Street, Guilby Street, Smith Avenue, Linton Street, King Albert Street and Robinson Street. These sidewalks were selected from a large listing of sidewalk requests using an extensive evaluation matrix which was recently updated and approved by Council. This brings the City's total sidewalk inventory to approximately 550 kms. Bike Facility Projects completed in 2016 included multi-use pathways on Johnson Street and Pinetree Way, bringing the total of bike lanes, multi-use pathways, local bikeways and marked wide curb lanes in the City to approximately 51km.

Improvements were also constructed through other programs to facilitate walking. These improvements include pedestrian signals, walkways and permanent curb extensions and are also shown in Attachment 1.

Middle School Walk-Bike Ability Program

The Middle School Walk-Bike Ability Program for each school is made up of two phases. The first phase involves the needs assessment and outreach activities. This phase has been completed for all eight middle schools. Baseline travel mode surveys were completed and school walkabouts involving participants from the STP Stakeholder Committee (City staff, School District 43, TravelSmart, ICBC, Fraser Health Authority, RCMP, and HUB Cycling) helped identify a variety of actions for each school, including infrastructure needs. The outreach elements of the Middle School Program included the TravelSmart Leadership Program, Ride the Road cycle training and multi-modal Celebration Event.

November 15, 2016

The second phase involves the creation of the School Travel Plan and the implementation of traffic operational (e.g. pedestrian countdown timers) and infrastructural improvements (e.g. new sidewalks) identified through the needs assessments. The second phase is underway for all eight middle schools. School Travel Plans have been completed for the first four schools that underwent the travel planning process in 2014/2015 (Banting, Scott Creek, Summit and Hillcrest) and "Best Routes to School" maps were distributed to these schools in September 2016. For the other four schools (Maillard, Montgomery, Como Lake and Maple Creek), follow-up survey data is currently being collected and their School Travel Plans will be completed by the end of 2016. "Best Routes to School" maps for the latter four schools will be distributed in Spring 2017.

The operational and infrastructure improvements identified through the needs assessments are shown in Attachment 2. These improvements included sidewalks, traffic operation changes and other enhancements (e.g. street lights, curb extensions) that improved walking accessibility and safety. Some of these improvements have already been implemented, while the others are underway and all are expected to be complete by the end of 2017.

More details about the Middle School Walk-Bike Ability Program including an update on the progress of the School Travel Planning (STP) process for each middle school are provided in Attachment 3.

A School Travel Plan Stakeholder Committee wrap-up meeting was held in late October 2016. At this meeting, the contributions of all stakeholders were acknowledged and it was noted that there was strong support from parents for school travel planning. The cycling education component of the program was also well received by the schools and led to increased confidence and likelihood of cycling for students. Furthermore, during the Bike to School Week held from May 30 to June 6, 2016, Maple Creek Middle School emerged as the top school in Metro Vancouver in terms of participation rate for the middle school category (which had a total of eight registered middle schools). More information on the Middle Schools Cycling Education component can be found in the attached 2015-16 Final Report by HUB, our contracted cycling educators (see Attachment 4).

The City staff noted its commitment to continue its efforts to improve the walking and cycling infrastructure for the community and challenged the others to ensure they are doing what they can to promote its utilization. In particular, it was noted the City currently invests approximately \$600,000 of its annual budget for new sidewalk infrastructure and maximizes the use of grants from the Province and TransLink to deliver new walking and cycling facilities

Financial Implications:

Funding for the traffic operational reviews/infrastructure improvements identified in the Middle School Program is provided for in the five-year capital program and was phased over a five-year period until 2018. Improvements for sidewalk and bike facilities are funded under the City's capital plan on an annual basis. Grants from the Province and TransLink are also used where possible to maximize the delivery of new walking and cycling facilities on a cost-sharing basis.

Conclusion:

Within the broader community, numerous infrastructure improvements have been undertaken to improve the walking and cycling environment of the community. Some of these improvements were delivered through the Middle School Walk-Bike Ability Program that has also provided sustainable transportation to students. The delivery of these new improvements will facilitate and encourage active transportation for Coquitlam residents which is a key goal of the Council-approved Strategic Transportation Plan.



Dana Soong, P.Eng.

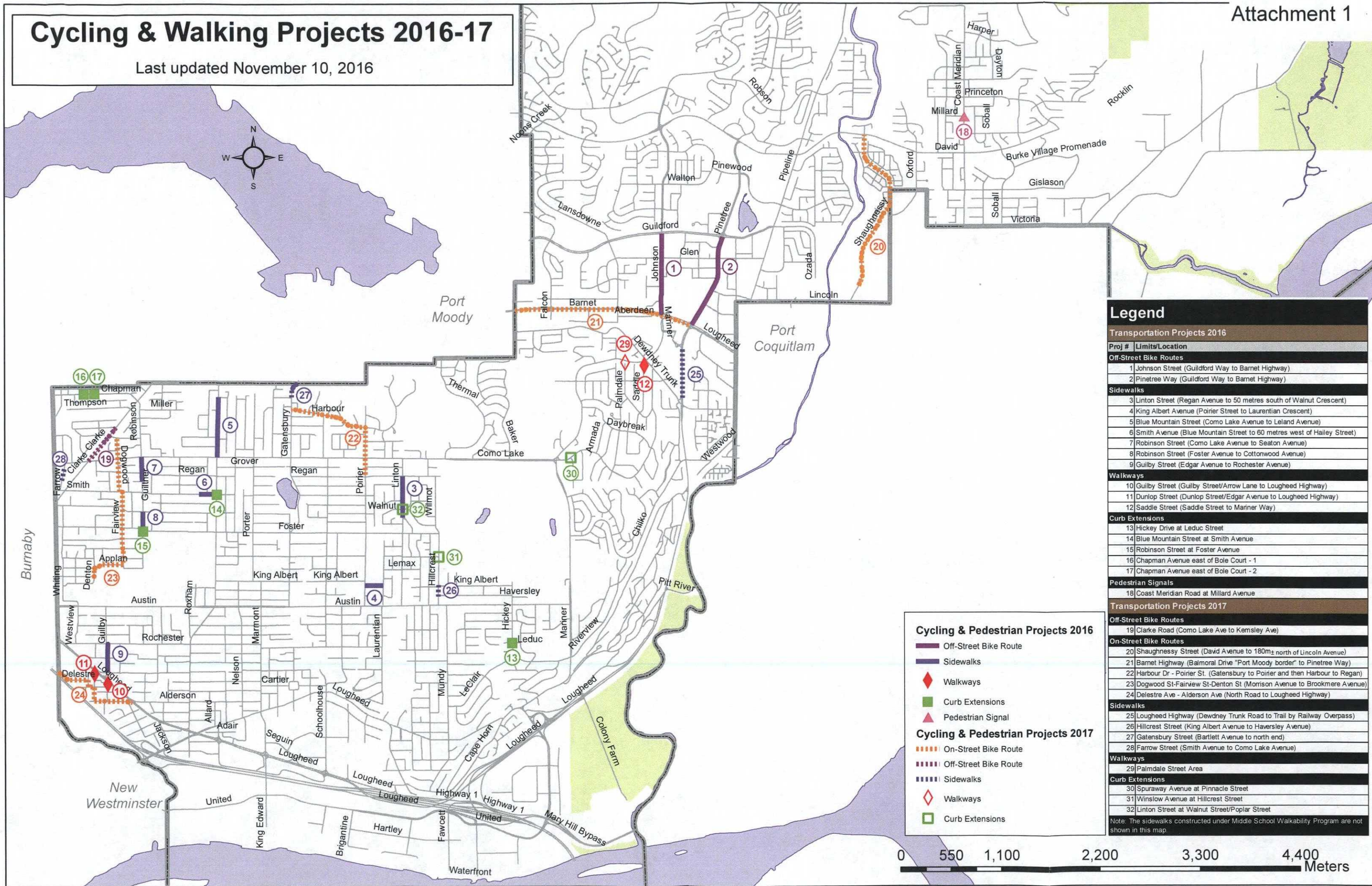
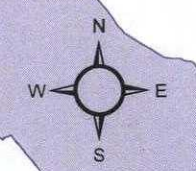
Attachments:

1. Cycling & Walking Projects (2016 & 2017)
2. Middle School Walkability Projects (2016 & 2017)
3. City of Coquitlam / TravelSmart Middle School Walk-Bike Program
4. 2015-16 Final Report – HUB Coquitlam Middle Schools Cycling Education

This report was prepared by Glen Chua, Transportation Planning Technologist and Carlos Perez, Manager Transportation Planning with input from Traffic Operations and Design and Construction staff and reviewed by Dan G. Mooney, Manager Transportation.

Cycling & Walking Projects 2016-17

Last updated November 10, 2016



Legend

Transportation Projects 2016	
Proj #	Limits/Location
Off-Street Bike Routes	
1	Johnson Street (Guildford Way to Barnet Highway)
2	Pinetree Way (Guildford Way to Barnet Highway)
Sidewalks	
3	Linton Street (Regan Avenue to 50 metres south of Walnut Crescent)
4	King Albert Avenue (Poirier Street to Laurentian Crescent)
5	Blue Mountain Street (Como Lake Avenue to Leland Avenue)
6	Smith Avenue (Blue Mountain Street to 60 metres west of Hailey Street)
7	Robinson Street (Como Lake Avenue to Seaton Avenue)
8	Robinson Street (Foster Avenue to Cottonwood Avenue)
9	Guilby Street (Edgar Avenue to Rochester Avenue)
Walkways	
10	Guilby Street (Guilby Street/Arrow Lane to Lougheed Highway)
11	Dunlop Street (Dunlop Street/Edgar Avenue to Lougheed Highway)
12	Saddle Street (Saddle Street to Mariner Way)
Curb Extensions	
13	Hickey Drive at Leduc Street
14	Blue Mountain Street at Smith Avenue
15	Robinson Street at Foster Avenue
16	Chapman Avenue east of Bole Court - 1
17	Chapman Avenue east of Bole Court - 2
Pedestrian Signals	
18	Coast Meridian Road at Millard Avenue
Transportation Projects 2017	
Off-Street Bike Routes	
19	Clarke Road (Como Lake Ave to Kemsley Ave)
On-Street Bike Routes	
20	Shaughnessy Street (David Avenue to 180m± north of Lincoln Avenue)
21	Barnet Highway (Balmoral Drive "Port Moody border" to Pinetree Way)
22	Harbour Dr - Poirier St. (Gatensbury to Poirier and then Harbour to Regan)
23	Dogwood St-Fairview St-Denton St (Morrison Avenue to Brookmere Avenue)
24	Delestre Ave - Alderson Ave (North Road to Lougheed Highway)
Sidewalks	
25	Lougheed Highway (Dewdney Trunk Road to Trail by Railway Overpass)
26	Hillcrest Street (King Albert Avenue to Haversley Avenue)
27	Gatensbury Street (Bartlett Avenue to north end)
28	Farrow Street (Smith Avenue to Como Lake Avenue)
Walkways	
29	Palmdale Street Area
Curb Extensions	
30	Spurway Avenue at Pinnacle Street
31	Winslow Avenue at Hillcrest Street
32	Linton Street at Walnut Street/Poplar Street

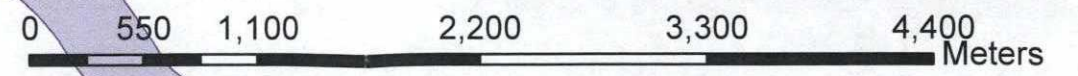
Note: The sidewalks constructed under Middle School Walkability Program are not shown in this map.

Cycling & Pedestrian Projects 2016

- Off-Street Bike Route
- Sidewalks
- ◆ Walkways
- Curb Extensions
- ▲ Pedestrian Signal

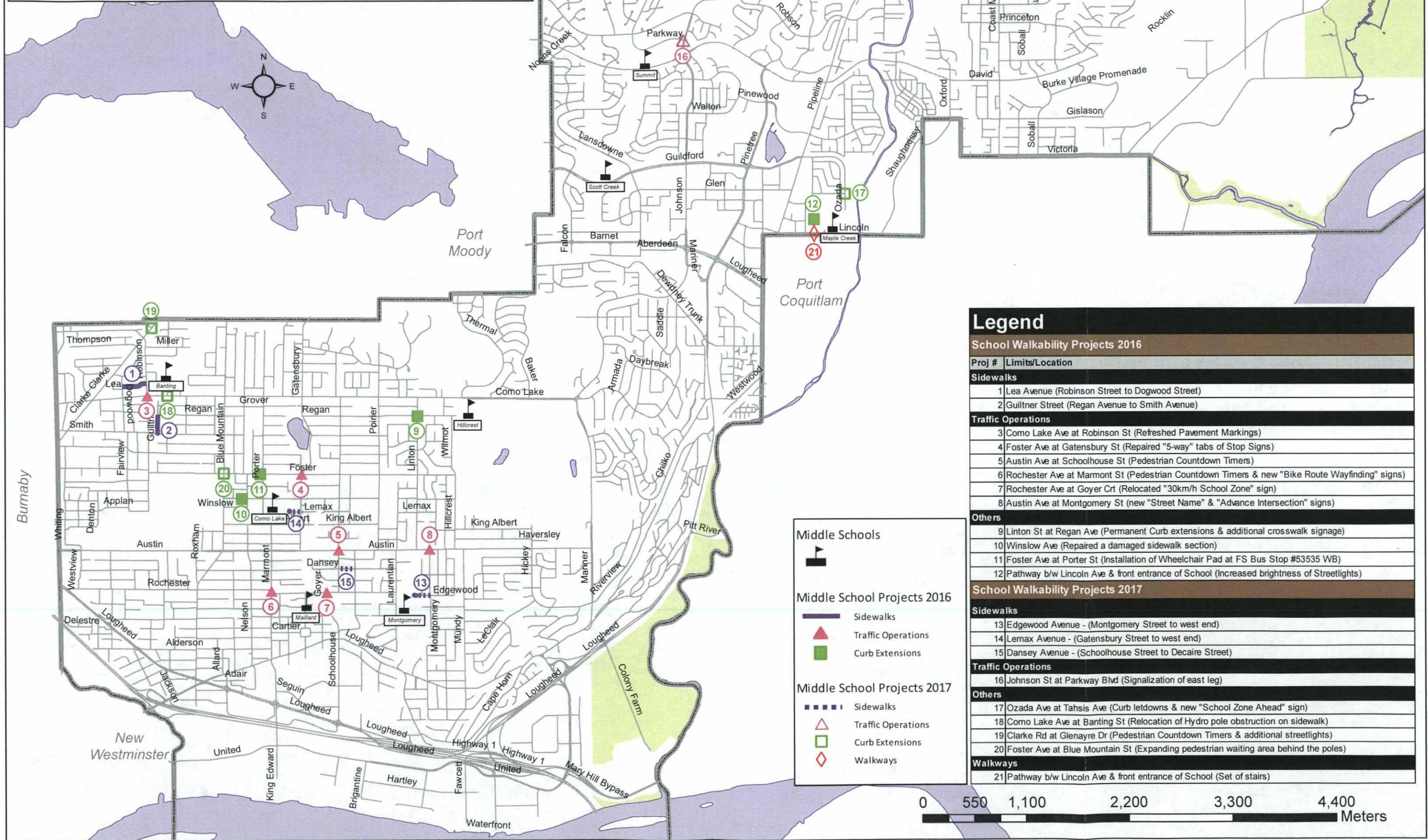
Cycling & Pedestrian Projects 2017

- - - On-Street Bike Route
- - - Off-Street Bike Route
- - - Sidewalks
- ◆ Walkways
- Curb Extensions



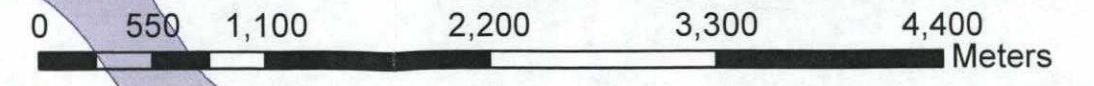
Middle School Walkability Projects 2016-17

Last updated November 14, 2016



Legend

School Walkability Projects 2016	
Proj #	Limits/Location
Sidewalks	
1	Lea Avenue (Robinson Street to Dogwood Street)
2	Guiltner Street (Regan Avenue to Smith Avenue)
Traffic Operations	
3	Como Lake Ave at Robinson St (Refreshed Pavement Markings)
4	Foster Ave at Gatensbury St (Repaired "5-way" tabs of Stop Signs)
5	Austin Ave at Schoolhouse St (Pedestrian Countdown Timers)
6	Rochester Ave at Marmont St (Pedestrian Countdown Timers & new "Bike Route Wayfinding" signs)
7	Rochester Ave at Goyer Cr (Relocated "30km/h School Zone" sign)
8	Austin Ave at Montgomery St (new "Street Name" & "Advance Intersection" signs)
Others	
9	Linton St at Regan Ave (Permanent Curb extensions & additional crosswalk signage)
10	Winslow Ave (Repaired a damaged sidewalk section)
11	Foster Ave at Porter St (Installation of Wheelchair Pad at FS Bus Stop #53535 WB)
12	Pathway b/w Lincoln Ave & front entrance of School (Increased brightness of Streetlights)
School Walkability Projects 2017	
Sidewalks	
13	Edgewood Avenue - (Montgomery Street to west end)
14	Lemax Avenue - (Gatensbury Street to west end)
15	Dansey Avenue - (Schoolhouse Street to Decaire Street)
Traffic Operations	
16	Johnson St at Parkway Blvd (Signalization of east leg)
Others	
17	Ozada Ave at Tahsis Ave (Curb letdowns & new "School Zone Ahead" sign)
18	Como Lake Ave at Banting St (Relocation of Hydro pole obstruction on sidewalk)
19	Clarke Rd at Glenayre Dr (Pedestrian Countdown Timers & additional streetlights)
20	Foster Ave at Blue Mountain St (Expanding pedestrian waiting area behind the poles)
Walkways	
21	Pathway b/w Lincoln Ave & front entrance of School (Set of stairs)



City of Coquitlam/TravelSmart Middle School Walk-Bike Program

The City, in partnership with TransLink's TravelSmart, is providing a program for middle schools. With students' and parents' engagement as well as input from the School Travel Planning Stakeholder Committee, the intent is to help identify potential infrastructure improvements, and provide training to students, teachers, administration, and parents about the different options of getting to and from school.

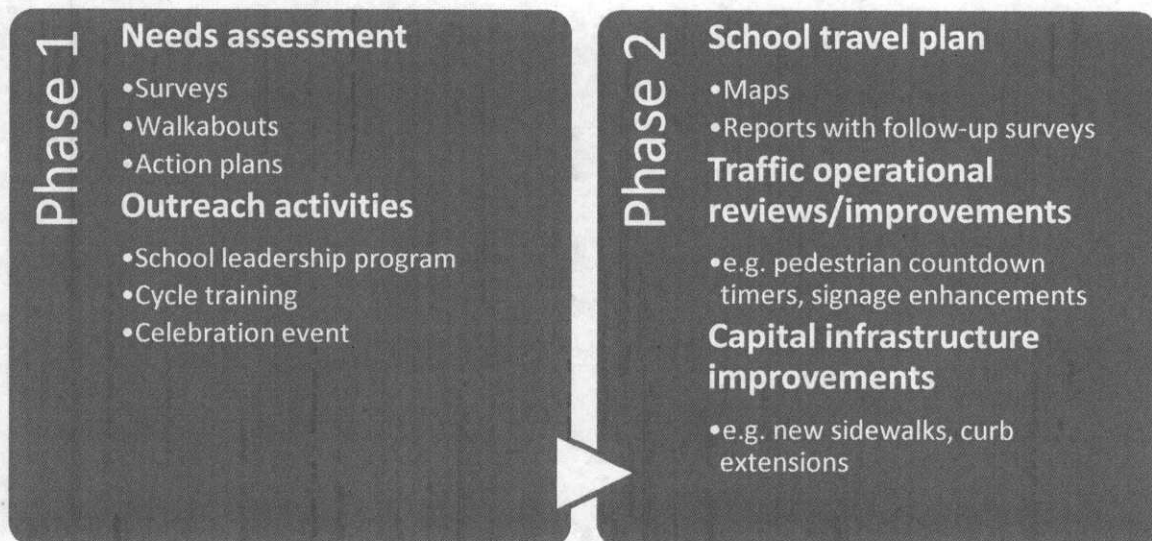
The Stakeholder Committee comprises staff from School District 43, TransLink's TravelSmart, the City of Coquitlam, ICBC, HUB, Fraser Health and RCMP. The City is represented by staff from Transportation Planning, Traffic Operations and Bylaws in this Committee.

The eight middle schools participating in the City of Coquitlam are:

1. Sir Frederick Banting Middle (2014/2015)
2. Scott Creek Middle (2014/2015)*
3. Summit Middle (2014/2015)
4. Hillcrest Middle (2014/2015)
5. Maillard Middle (2015/2016)
6. Montgomery Middle (2015/2016)
7. Como Lake Middle (2015/2016)*
8. Maple Creek Middle (2015/2016)

** originally Como Lake Middle was scheduled for 2014/2015; however, at the request of the school, they were moved to 2015/2016 and Scott Creek Middle was moved to 2014/2015.*

An overview of the typical process for each school included in the Middle School Walk-Bike Program is as follows:



The progress of the School Travel Planning process for each middle school is summarized as follows:

School	Phase 1		Phase 2		
	Needs assessment	Outreach activities	School travel plan report	Review/Implement traffic operations improvements	Review/Implement capital infrastructure improvements
Banting	✓	✓	✓		✓
Scott Creek	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Summit	✓	✓	✓		✓
Hillcrest	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maillard	✓	✓			
Montgomery	✓	✓		✓	
Como Lake	✓	✓		✓	
Maple Creek	✓	✓			

Description of Elements (Phase 1):

School Travel Planning

School Travel Planning (STP) uses a collaborative approach involving all relevant stakeholders to enable communities to tackle the root causes of their schools' transportation issues. School Travel Planning services include:

- Formation of a municipal steering committee
- Formation of an STP school committee
- A HASTe STP facilitator
- Family household survey
- Identification of needs through walkabouts and surveys
- Development of an STP action plan (in consultation with City staff)

Leadership Program

Working with a group of student leaders, a TravelSmart facilitator will facilitate five sessions with these student leaders to develop an outreach strategy to promote sustainable transportation at their school. Component of the program include:

- School map
- Student hands up survey
- TravelSmart facilitator to work with student leaders
- School pledge
- \$200 to spend on events and promotions
- Swag and prizes
- Marketing materials (posters and banners)

Ride the Road

An intermediate course for grades 6 – 10, HUB Ride the Road introduces middle school students to the freedom and responsibilities of cycling in an urban setting. In this course, a fun and positive approach to cycling goes hand in hand with more formal instruction on

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Hillcrest	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maillard	✓	✓			
Montgomery	✓	✓		✓	
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Maple Creek	✓	✓			

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HUB Cycling 2015-16 Final Report:



Coquitlam Middle Schools Cycling Education

City of Coquitlam / TravelSmart • September 2016

Scout Gray • Bike to School Program Manager
scout@bikehub.ca

Alyshia Burak • Bike Education Coordinator
alyshia@bikehub.ca

Timothy Welsh • Director of Programs
tim@bikehub.ca

Coquitlam



Acknowledging Funders, Partners and Service Providers

HUB is pleased to acknowledge joint financial support from the City of Coquitlam's Engineering Department and the TransLink TravelSmart program which allowed us to reach

Coquitlam

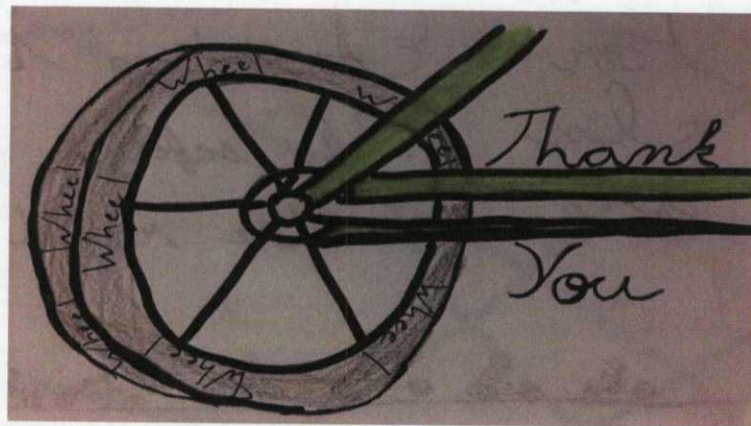
essentially all Coquitlam youth in middle school grades 6 and 7 in 2015 and 2016 to promote safe and joyful urban cycling.

We cannot deliver our Bike to School programs without the energetic commitment of Coquitlam school teachers and administrators who confirm scheduling,



assist with parent and student communications, and provide evaluative feedback. Youth in our courses also benefit from parent and student volunteers who assist with course delivery. They engage with HUB staff to schedule and organize courses, and with HUB instructors to provide the best possible cycling skill and knowledge development experiences for students who take our courses.

Also central to making HUB's Bike to School courses effective and enjoyable are HUB's dedicated group of instructors. They are out in schools almost every day from April 1 to November 1 in Metro Vancouver teaching youth about cycling safety.



HUB instructors are inspiring a love of bikes for a new generation of Coquitlam residents.

HUB Cycling's Metro Vancouver *Bike to School* Program

The benefits of cycling instruction and promotion for youth are many. They include improving student health and safety, reducing congestion and car traffic in school zones, and building city cycling skills now so future generations of our region's residents are able to make real choices among their urban transportation options.

HUB Cycling designed the *Bike to School* program to enable and encourage youth to cycle safely and joyfully for transportation in Metro Vancouver. Most youth are excited about riding a bike, but some need to build basic cycling skills and nearly all have yet to learn about safe and effective cycling on city streets and bike paths. To meet these needs, HUB has developed leading-edge curricula and resources about urban cycling.



Each year HUB instructs thousands of students in classrooms, on school grounds, and on neighbourhood streets throughout Metro Vancouver. Our courses are customized for varied ages and skill levels. HUB instructors are among the most highly trained cycling instructors in Canada, we maintain a strict 6:1 student to instructor ratio for all on-road instruction. Our *Learn to Ride* program gets grades 4 and 5 students excited about cycling and raising their bike handling skills while introducing road rules and safety. Our ***Ride the Road*** course, delivered at all Coquitlam middle schools in 2015 and 2016, provides more advanced instruction on cycling skills and road rules for grade 6 and 7 students, along with bike care, safe cycling practices, and on-road practice.

About HUB

HUB Cycling is a charitable non-profit organization. We work to make Metro Vancouver happier, healthier and more sustainable by getting more people on bikes for urban transportation.

HUB Cycling's *Bike to School* Program Impacts

Our *Bike to School* program has a demonstrated track record of getting young people safely cycling more in the city. In the past five years, **over 29,500 Metro Vancouver students** have taken a HUB *Learn2Ride* or *Ride the Road* course and related events. Our surveys and school feedback show that students are more likely to continue biking to school after taking a HUB cycling course or participating in HUB's *Bike to School Week*.

HUB 2015 *Bike to School* program results - Metro Vancouver Region

11,273 youth participated in an HUB on-bike course in 2015 and 2016.

3,728 youth participated in a HUB *Ride the Road* course in 2015 and 2016.

2015 School Staff Feedback from 9 participating Metro Van Communities

After a 2015** HUB *Learn2Ride* Course:

- **76.5%** of schools saw **ridership** at least double
- **100%** of respondents **would recommend** a HUB course
- **97%** of **teachers** welcomed and **recognized the value** of HUB's cycling instruction
- **93%** said **parents** welcomed and **recognized the value** of HUB's cycling instruction
- **100%** said **students** enjoyed the cycling education

**2016 evaluation outcomes are not yet available



This short video featuring a HUB *Bike to School* course shows the joy of learning to cycle for one group of grade 4 and 5 students:

<http://bit.ly/HUBlearn2ride>

HUB Cycling 2015-16 Instruction for Coquitlam Youth

The City of Coquitlam and TransLink's TravelSmart program entered into a formal two-year relationship starting in 2015, engaging Coquitlam middle schools to plan for and promote active transportation, and contracting HUB's *Bike to School* instruction for Coquitlam students. The Coquitlam - TravelSmart partnership supported HUB to deliver our *Ride the Road* course to *all 8 Coquitlam middle schools* in the city in 2015 and 2016, providing positive impact for *1,800 Coquitlam grade 6 and 7 youth*.



Coquitlam Ride the Road Course Delivery 2015:

- **Banting Middle School:**
Instruction to **twelve** classes of grade 6 and 7 students: **~330 students**.
June 4 - 12, 2015
- **Hillcrest Middle School: 2016**
Instruction to **ten** classes of grade 6 and 7 students: **~ 275 students**.
May 11 – 26, 2015
- **Scott Creek Middle School:**
Instruction to **eight** classes of grade 6 and 7 students: **~ 220 Students**.
June 2 - 18, 2015
- **Summit Middle School: 2016**
Instruction to **six** classes of grade 6 and 7 students: **~ 165 students**.
Sept 21 - 16, 2015

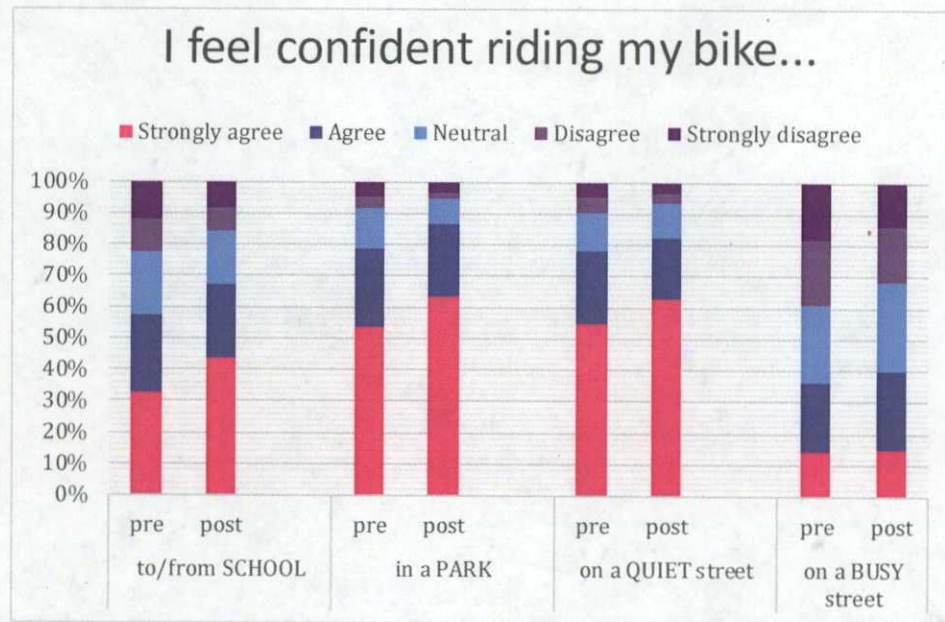
Coquitlam Ride the Road Course Delivery 2016:

- **Maillard Middle School: 2016**
Instruction to **eight** classes of grade 6 and 7 students, **~220 students**.
May 19 – 27, 2016
- **Como Lake Middle School: 2016**
Instruction to **eight** classes of grade 6 and 7 students: **~220 students**.
Apr 29 - May 6, 2016
- **Montgomery Middle School: 2016**
Instruction to **four** classes of grade 6 and 7 students, **~110 students**.
May 25 - Jun 3, 2016
- **Maple Creek Middle School: 2016**
Instruction to **eight** classes of grade 6 and 7 students: **~220 students**.
Jun 1 - 13, 2016

"Many of [the parents] were very grateful for this. They also understood how important it was to have students be comfortable on the road. I really appreciated the (high) ratio of instructors to students on the road. This is a great program for all middle school students!" – *Hillcrest Middle School Teacher*

Coquitlam 2015-16 *Ride the Road* Course Results – What Students Reported

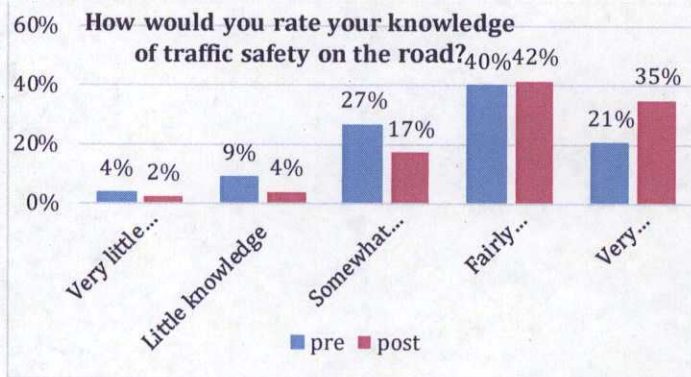
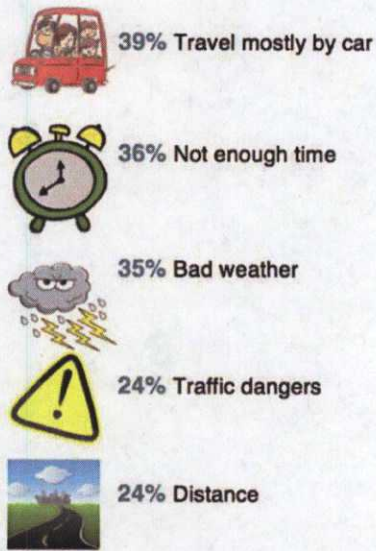
- 50% of students said they were more likely to ride a bike after the course
- 74% of students said the course was effective in teaching them bike safety skills
- Students reported a 33% increase in riding after the course
- 2.8% of students had not previously ridden a bike, *on par with regional average of 3%*



Increased confidence in all 4 scenarios



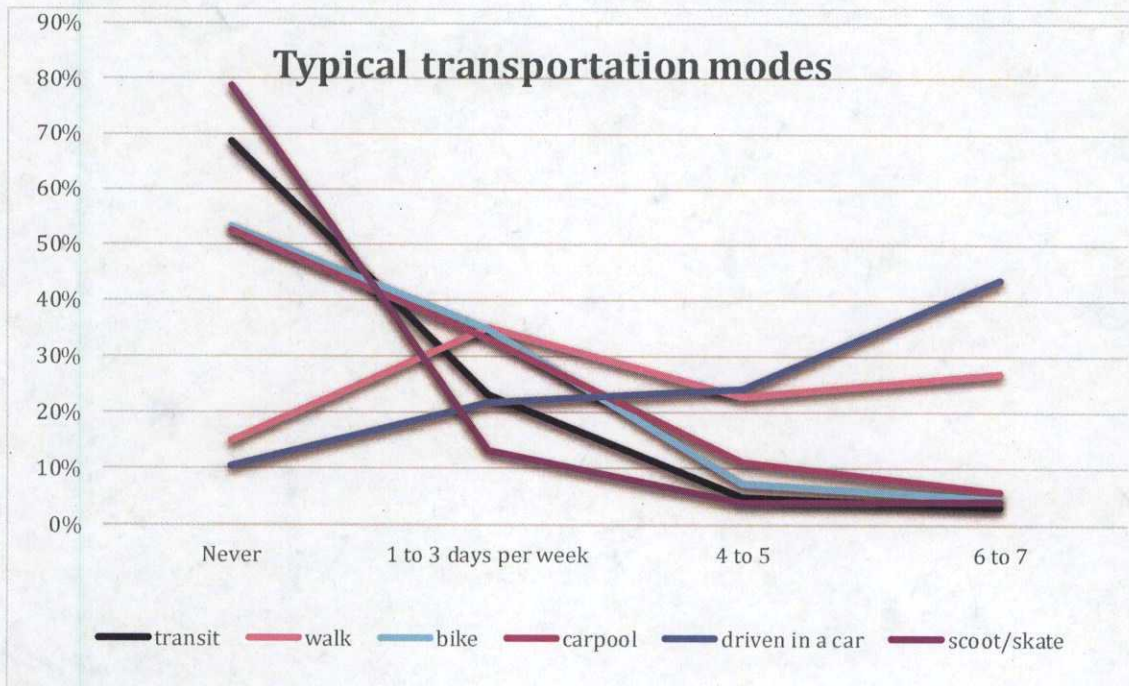
"What stops you from riding a bike?" "How would you rate your cycling knowledge?"



Number of students that said they were fairly or very knowledgeable increased from **58% → 76%**

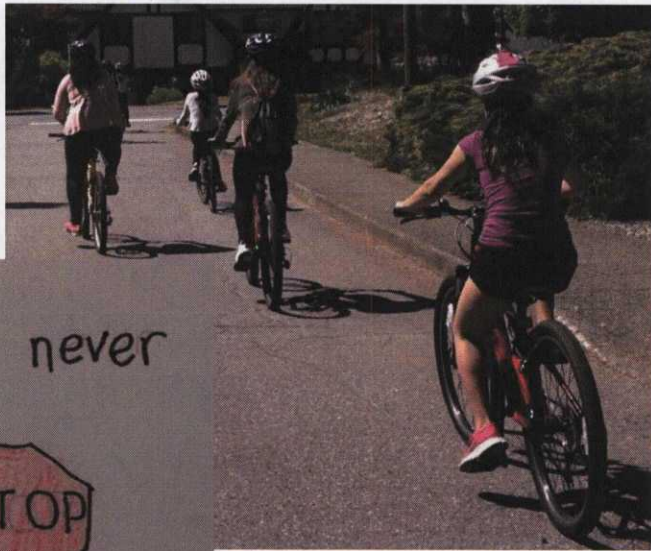


Before taking HUB's Ride the Road course, how do you normally get to school?



Feedback to HUB from Coquitlam Middle School classrooms

Thank you for letting us enjoy this amazing biking program this year! I really enjoyed this program with you all! I hope that we can do it again next year! Have a great day! Bye bye! ☺



I Will never



Biking

Thank you for all the riding,
It was really fun and I love biking,
Thank you so much for training me
how to ride a bike and how
to go uphill and downhill.

Sincerely, (Summit Middle School)

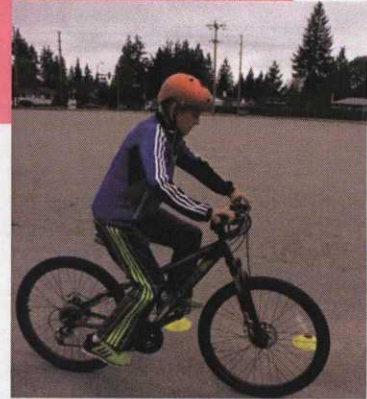
A huge thank you for adding the extra energy, patience and effort it takes to make things great. Thank-you for inspiring so many smiles!

Mr. Arthur
Sanderson

Dear Hub
Thank you so much for coming in, everybody learned at least one thing. And you guys were so joyful even when you had people that were hard to deal with in your group. We were so happy you came to our school- it was an incredible experience. Thanks

Sincerely,
Mr. Hind's class

Taylor B 5/8 Zach Athan Jerome
Jayden & Brianna Halstead
Damian Edwin Emma T
Jeremy Sophia F Jenaya
Emma Sharp Haley
Kiana Edric Derek
Erin Jessica
Sairesh Alexa
Ella
Naiya
Jamie-Lynn



"Many thanks for the program; it was a very positive experience for the school and the students specifically; it was well organised and effectively delivered. I was very impressed with the whole set up and all the instructors" - Maillard Middle School

Thank-you cards HUB received from Metro Vancouver schools in 2015.

