

**REPORT TO PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2020**

SUBJECT **Active School Travel Planning 2020-21 Selected Schools - Committee Update**

ISSUE SUMMARY

To report on the schools selected to participate in the 2020-21 Ready Step Roll initiative.

BACKGROUND

The Capital Regional District (CRD) Board approved ongoing funding for Ready Step Roll – the CRD's active school travel planning initiative – in the 2019 budget.

In January 2019, the Transportation Committee approved a set of school selection criteria to prioritize applications to the Ready Step Roll initiative. School selection criteria include school eligibility (i.e., school composition and regional distribution), required support (i.e., municipal / local government staff support and school administration and PAC support) and prioritization criteria related to school characteristics.

A total of seven applications were received in the 2020-21 application process. Regional and Strategic Planning staff evaluated the applications using the school selection criteria. See Appendix A for a summary of the evaluation.

Based on an evaluation of the applications, the following schools have been selected to participate in the 2020-21 Ready Step Roll initiative:

School	Local Government	School District
Quadra Elementary	City of Victoria	61
Hillcrest Elementary	District of Saanich	61
Marigold Elementary	District of Saanich	61
Sooke Elementary	Sooke	62
Salt Spring Elementary	Salt Spring Island Electoral Area	64

In addition to the above schools, the District of Saanich opted to include Gordon Head Middle School (School District 61), as a pay-for-service school.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

The Planning, Transportation and Protective Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

That the Active School Travel Planning 2020-21 Selected Schools - Committee Update report be received for information.

Alternative 2

That the Active School Travel Planning 2020-21 Selected Schools - Committee Update report be referred back to staff for additional information based on Planning, Transportation and Protective Services Committee direction.

IMPLICATIONS

Environmental & Climate Implications

The Ready Step Roll initiative supports a shift to active travel modes, which helps reduce community greenhouse gas emissions related to transportation.

Intergovernmental Implications

The five schools selected for the 2020-21 Ready Step Roll initiative provide for a regional distribution among school districts that roughly aligns to the regional population distribution.

The City of Victoria, District of Saanich, District of Sooke and the Salt Spring Island Electoral Area have indicated interest and capacity to participate in the Ready Step Roll program in cooperation with the selected schools. The local government commitment includes, but is not limited to:

- attending up to five meetings over the course of the 18-month program;
- communicating with Councils as needed;
- providing GIS mapping data;
- attending neighbourhood walkabouts;
- providing feedback on the School Travel Planning documents; and,
- considering infrastructure improvements proposed through the consultation process, as part of the respective local government's capital planning process.

Service Delivery Implications

2020-21 is the second year of the region-wide delivery of the Ready Step Roll initiative. Board funding provides active school travel planning for up to five schools per year, with an option of additional pay-for-service schools at the request of a local government and dependent on CRD staff availability. Since the initial CRD pilot program, 34 schools have participated in active school travel planning initiatives. There are approximately 68 eligible schools left to complete across the capital region.

Alignment with Board & Corporate Priorities

The Ready Step Roll initiative delivers on Corporate Priority 2b-2, delivery of active and safe routes to school planning services. This corporate priority is in support of the *Transportation Community Need* and aligned to the Board priority for *Community Wellbeing – Transportation and Housing*. Ready Step Roll helps provide residents with access to convenient, green and affordable multi-modal transportation systems that enhance community wellbeing.

CONCLUSION

In 2019, the CRD Board approved active school travel planning funding for up to five schools per year, with a set of school selection criteria to evaluate and prioritize applications. Selected schools for the 2020-21 Ready Step Roll initiative are: Quadra Elementary; Hillcrest Elementary; Marigold Elementary; Sooke Elementary; and Salt Spring Elementary. The selected schools meet all the criteria and provide for a regional distribution among school districts that roughly aligns to the regional population.

RECOMMENDATION

The Planning, Transportation and Protective Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

That the Active School Travel Planning 2020-21 Selected Schools - Committee Update report be received for information.

Submitted by:	Emily Sinclair, MCIP, RPP, Senior Manager, Regional & Strategic Planning
Concurrence:	Kevin Lorette, P. Eng., MBA, General Manager, Planning & Protective Services

ATTACHMENT(S)

Appendix A: Applied School Selection Criteria for the 2020-21 Ready Step Roll program (table)