

Coquitlam

For Committee

October 21, 2014

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To: City Manager

From: General Manager Engineering and Public Works

Subject: **Middle School Walk-Bike Ability Program, Phase 1**

For: **Council-in-Committee**

Recommendation:

That the Committee receive the report of the General Manager Engineering and Public Works dated October 21, 2014, entitled "Middle School Walk-Bike Ability Program, Phase 1" for information.

Report Purpose:

To provide an overview of the first phase of the Middle School Walk-Bike Ability Work Program.

Strategic Goals:

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

Background:

As part of last year's capital budget deliberations, Council initiated a multi-year Middle School Walk-Bike Ability program. This program follows the successful completion of the Elementary School Walkability program that saw a variety of improvements implemented on streets adjacent the 27 elementary schools across the City.

Discussion:

The initial objectives of the first phase of the Middle School Program include:

- Needs Assessment - engaging students, parents and school administrators in the process to develop a School Travel Planning - Action Plan to help identify potential barriers to walking and / or cycling (or use of transit) on streets to and from the schools leading to the identification of potential package of infrastructure improvements;
- Outreach - training to students, teachers, school administration and parents about the different travel options of getting to and from schools.

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To address first phase objectives, TravelSmart, in partnership with the City are providing a program that includes four elements for each of the eight Middle Schools:

- School Travel Planning – a collaborative approach involving relevant stakeholders to identify issues and develop an action plan that may include but is not exclusive to infrastructure improvements on adjacent streets. For example the Action Plan may also include recommendations regarding the need for on-site school infrastructure facilities (e.g. bike racks), education, community mobilization and encouragement (HASTE – organization and City staff).
- Leadership Program – working with a group of student leaders, a facilitator will facilitate two sessions with the student leaders to develop an outreach strategy to promote sustainable transportation for each school (TravelSmart).
- Ride the Road – An intermediate course for grades 6 – 10, Ride the Road introduces middle school students to the responsibilities of cycling in an urban setting through in-class theory and on-road training. (HUB organization).
- Cycling Celebration – A one hour event featuring cycle games and a safety review at each school (HUB organization with TravelSmart staff)

TravelSmart is an arm of TransLink, whereas HASTE and HUB are contractors retained by TransLink (TravelSmart) for this work program. The City is contributing a portion of the costs to TransLink. A more detailed description of the program is provided in the Attachment.

As there are eight middle schools, four will be done in the 2014/2015 school year (Hillcrest, Summit, Como Lake and Sir Frederick Banting) and the other four schools will be done in the 2015/2016 school year (Scott Creek, Maillard, Montgomery and Maple Creek). The selection of schools was done in consultation with staff from SD#43.

At the end of the first school year (i.e. once four schools have been completed), the potential infrastructure improvements identified in the School Travel Planning - Action Plans for each school will be compiled and prioritized, with implementation of potential improvements scheduled to begin for the following year. At the end of the 2015/2016 school year the results from the other four schools will also go through a similar process. Staff will report back to Council with periodic updates once the needs assessment results have been identified and costing completed.

It is anticipated that once infrastructure needs for the schools have been prioritized they will be categorized into: a) traffic operational improvements, and b) sidewalk and bike route construction (capital) improvements. The operational improvement items typically include the provision or replacement of traffic signage, pavement markings, temporary curb extensions, letdowns, and minor traffic signal enhancements.

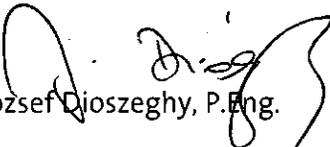
The improvements will be further examined to yield the first stream of traffic operational improvements that could be implemented at the earliest opportunity within any existing operating funds/programs.

Financial Implications:

The City's current 5-year Capital Plan (2014 – 2018) includes provisions for the City to conduct a needs assessment for each school as well a funding for potential infrastructure improvements during the five years. Costs associated with the first phase of the Middle School Walk-Bike Program are being shared with TransLink's TravelSmart Program. First phase costs for the eight schools are \$147,200, with TransLink covering 57% of the amount (\$83,600) and the City 43% (\$61,600 or \$7,700 per school). TransLink will invoice the City for their portion of the costs. Once Phase 2 improvements are known, staff will look for partnership opportunities with ICBC as well as TransLink under other cost-sharing programs for implementation purposes. It is also noted that any improvements identified as on-site school infrastructure improvements would be the responsibility of the School District to consider and fund.

Conclusion:

The improvement of the walking and cycling environment around middle schools will facilitate and encourage active transportation for Coquitlam students. The promotion of active and sustainable transportation is a key goal of the Strategic Transportation Plan as approved by Council. Once the needs assessment process has been completed and priorities identified, staff will report back to Council prior to implementation.


Jozsef Dioszeghy, P.Eng.

Attachment: City of Coquitlam /TravelSmart Middle School Program

This report was prepared by Catherine Mohoruk, Manager Transportation Planning and reviewed by Dan Mooney, Manager Roads and Traffic Operations.

City of Coquitlam/TravelSmart Middle School Walk-Bike Program, Phase 1

The City, in partnership with TransLink's TravelSmart, is providing a program for middle schools. With students' and parents' engagement, 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 eight middle schools participating in the City of Coquitlam are:

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

Description of Elements (Phase 1):

School Travel Planning (HASTe organization with City staff)

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 a STP school committee
- A HASTe STP facilitator
- Family household survey
- Development of STP action plan (in consultation with City staff)
- Action plan implementation (projects might include but not exclusive to introduction of school infrastructure (bike rack etc.), education, community mobilization, and encouragement.
- Follow up data collection

Leadership Program (TravelSmart)

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 (HUB organization)

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 how to cycle safely within neighbourhoods and on city streets, and basics on bike maintenance. The Ride the Road curriculum is provided to schools in a 5-unit Physical Education program and includes in-class traffic theory and on-road training. The program provides:

- Course information and advice sent to parents and school staff prior to course date
- Experienced cycling instructors trained and certified by HUB in course instruction, and student engagement and facilitation (encouraging, friendly and helpful!)
- All necessary equipment, including loaner bikes and helmets
- Liability coverage

Bike Celebration (HUB/TravelSmart)

A one-hour fun and engaging event featuring cycling games, safety review, bike decorating, parade, and giveaways! HUB will come to each school to set up, but the students are required to bring their own bikes.

Middle School Program Deliverables:

- TravelSmart Leadership Program
- School Travel Planning - Survey Results from Family Take Home Surveys
- School Travel Planning Report on Walkabout Findings
- TravelSmart School Map
- TravelSmart Final Report
- Cycle Training
- Cycling Celebration Event

TravelSmart – an arm of TransLink assisting people in working toward sustainable travel choices made by walking, carpooling, cycling and taking transit across Metro Vancouver

HASTE – an Vancouver based resource centre specialized in reducing school transportation emissions in British Columbia

HUB – a charitable organization providing bicycle education across Metro Vancouver