

REQUEST FOR DECISION

Subject: Banff Elementary School Travel Plan



Presented to: Council

Date: June 10, 2019

Submitted by: Colin Harris, Recreation Initiatives Coordinator

Agenda #: 8.1

RECOMMENDATION

That Council accept the BES School Travel Plan (attached Appendix A) to act as a guiding document for future planning purposes in relation to active transportation, and direct administration to take the recommendations into consideration as project implementation plans are developed.

BACKGROUND

Reason for Report

In the 2019-2022 Council Strategic Plan, improving active routes and transportation was identified as a strategic priority, helping the Town of Banff “strive for the highest levels of active transportation in Canada.”

MOVING AHEAD

IMPROVING ACTIVE ROUTES & TRANSPORTATION

The Town of Banff builds, maintains and manages transportation infrastructure, provides public transit, contributes to safety and efficient use of resources through traffic and parking regulations, and strives for the highest levels of active transportation in Canada. The Town is expanding a system of connected routes, with programs to make walking and cycling safe, easy to navigate, and the preferable alternative to motor vehicle travel. This trail, route, and walkway system fosters fitness and connectivity throughout the townsite and links to trails outside town boundaries.

Relevant long-term directional plans:

- [Transportation Master Plan](#)
- [Trails Master Plan](#)
- [Long-term Transportation Study](#)

A limited land base creates opportunities for leadership in areas such as environmental sustainability, active transportation, and a focus on infrastructure renewal and innovation, rather than expansion. Banff should not build our way out of traffic and parking issues. Our community must embrace more creative solutions to mobility in the townsite. Banff’s multi-modal transportation system is economically and environmentally sustainable and enhances the lives of residents and the experience of visitors. Our approach fosters choices that empower our shared responsibility to preserve and enhance the natural and heritage assets of Banff National Park.

Direction from 2008-18 Banff Community Plan

- Provide a transportation system that encourages and complements pedestrian movements and cycling.
- Provide a transportation system that enhances the resident and visitor experience.
- Encourage the integration of local and regional transportation of people and goods.
- Provide a transportation system that is economically and environmentally sustainable.
- Improve pedestrian and cyclist safety and enjoyment by creating a defined and contiguous system of pathways throughout the town.
- Improve trail connectivity to the national park.
- Build a system of open spaces, trails and parks that reinforce connections to the natural environment.
- Increase the use of Banff parks and trails.
- Implement an active-living program that educates and encourages healthy lifestyles.
- Develop and implement a town-wide wayfinding plan that is simple and graphically representative of our sense of place.
- Pursue a regional transportation plan that introduces public transit links between Canmore, Banff, Lake Louise, the surrounding ski areas and popular national park destinations or trailheads.

The Town of Banff contracted Community Cruisers in 2017 to help identify key areas for improvement, directly related to Banff Elementary and the surrounding area for students using active

transportation to get to school. Over the last 18 months, Community Cruisers has done extensive surveying, collected data and compiled recommendations that cover five areas: Engineering, Education, Encouragement, Enforcement and Evaluation. Although this school travel plan is specific to Banff Elementary, it has wider implications relating to the transportation master plan, the trails master plan and the long-term transportation study. There were two committees that helped guide this work: a school committee comprised of teachers, students, administration and parents and a community stakeholder committee, comprised of RCMP, Town of Banff Bylaw, Community Services, Alberta Health Services, CRPS Transportation, Town of Banff Planning, Engineering and Streets.

The School Travel Plan is a nationally recognized initiative through Active and Safe Routes to School. Community Cruisers has implemented such a school travel plan for Lawrence Grassi Middle School in Canmore, and is wrapping up the plan for Banff ES as well as Elizabeth Rummel ES. This Bow Valley organization is committed to promoting active transportation, and this school travel plan is just one part of the work they do as part of their mandate.

In a general sense, the School Travel Plan aims to focus on:

1. Education: Teach students and community members about walking and biking safely.
2. Encouragement: Get students and parents excited about walking and biking by hosting special events, walking school buses and bike trains.
3. Enforcement: Reduce negative behaviours such as speeding, double parking, or disobeying traffic signals by working with local law enforcement.
4. Evaluation: Check to see if strategies are working
5. Engineering: Improve the physical walking and biking environment

Summary of Issue

With a new elementary school being built, an opportunity arose to reassess the traffic infrastructure around BES as well as to examine how students were getting to school. Through the School Travel Plan, opportunities and barriers are identified with recommendations to follow. It is intended that the School Travel Plan advance and guide the implementation of the strategic priority of improving active routes and transportation.

It should be noted that the School Travel Plan is a guidance document, and priorities may need to be altered if changes occur that are beyond the Town's control.

OTHER INFORMATION

Budget

\$7,000 was budgeted for this project in partnership with Banff Elementary. This funding was drawn from Planning and Community Services.

As with other plans, the budgets for individual recommendations will be brought forward for Council consideration in subsequent years as school travel plan implementation progresses.

Internal Resources

An internal Administration team (Environment/Planning, Engineering and Recreation) has guided the Plan to date, and another may be formed to oversee recommendation implementation.

Banff Community Plan

The Banff Community Plan, adopted by Town Council in 2008, was a key guiding document for this draft plan.

Communication

There were a variety of opportunities to provide feedback on the School Travel Plan

Council Strategic Priorities

The School Travel Plan is a key deliverable of the Improving Active Routes and Transportation section of the 2019-2022 Strategic Plan.

Attachments

Final School Travel Plan

Circulation date: May 30, 2019

Submitted By: On original
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Reviewed By: On original
Robert Earl, Town Manager