



**UPLANDS ELEMENTARY
SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL
FINAL DRAFT REPORT**
January 2024

PREPARED FOR:

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Appendix A: Classroom and Community Survey Forms

1 Safe Routes to School Plan

1.1 Overview

In 2021, the City of Penticton adopted a Transportation Master Plan (TMP) that seeks to create and manage a safe transportation system that supports all ages, abilities and modes of transportation. A key goal identified in the TMP is to ensure residents and workers throughout Penticton have the opportunity to walk to parks, schools, shopping, jobs and other destinations in safety and comfort.

The City of Penticton partnered with Carmi Elementary and Uplands Elementary on a pilot project to help identify safe routes to school using active transportation. Informed through best practices and community engagement, this plan establishes a safe and best routes map and action plan that supports safe and comfortable environments for students to walk, wheel and roll to school, wherever possible. The Safe Routes to School Plan is a joint effort to implement infrastructure, programs and educational materials. An action plan is included in this Safe Routes to School Plan that identifies responsibilities for action by various stakeholders including the City of Penticton, School District 67, school administration and the Parent Advisory Committee. The plan is intended to serve as a living document that will be reviewed annually by the City with input from the school and will be used to develop an action and management plan for infrastructure upgrades identified through this process.

The purpose of this planning process has been to empower individuals and groups to work with their school community to plan initiatives that increase safety for students traveling to school, and to increase the number of students traveling to school in a physically active manner (walking, cycling, riding a scooter, etc.).



1.2 Benefits of Active Transportation

There are several reasons why promoting active transportation to and from school is important, including:

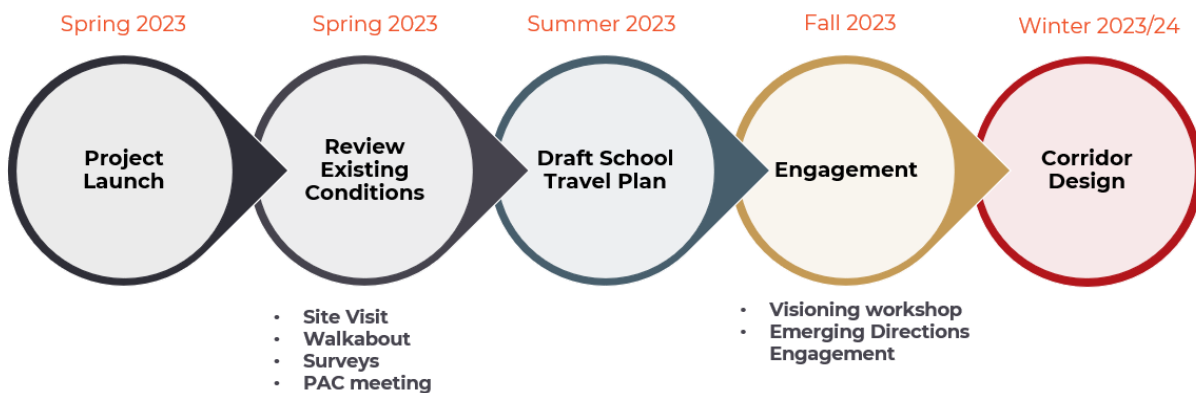
- **Health:** The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) recommends children and youth aged 5-17 get at least one hour of physical activity a day. Walking, rolling, or cycling to school can help students become more active and create good habits for an active lifestyle.
- **Friends, Family, and Community:** Active travel promotes social connections with friends, family, and neighbours and creates safer communities.
- **Academic Performance:** Students that walk or roll to school arrive more alert and ready to learn, have better concentration in class, and are happier. Active transportation has also been shown to increase alertness and grades at school.
- **Environment:** Reducing the number of car trips to school decreases greenhouse gas emissions. Reducing emissions is a step in the right direction for climate action in our community.
- **Reduced traffic impacts:** Getting more people out of their vehicles helps to reduce motor vehicle congestion, parking problems, and safety concerns, which are especially evident at pick-up and drop-off times around schools. Large numbers of motor vehicles entering and exiting school sites can create safety and congestion issues that affect not only the school community, but the neighbourhood at large.
- **Lifelong Skills:** Walking, rolling, and cycling is fun for students and helps promote positive perspectives towards physical activity and teaches the importance of individual health.
- **Independence:** Active travel builds confidence and promotes independence. Travelling actively allows students to reach destinations on their own, encourages students to navigate and explore the City, and helps foster independence.



1.3 Process

Uplands Elementary was identified as a candidate to pilot a Safe Routes to School Plan by the City of Penticton and the process was officially launched in March 2023. The City of Penticton oversaw the process at Uplands Elementary with support from consultants, whose team included professional transportation planners and engineers. The project team worked closely with school administration, staff, and students to gather information and coordinate events.

The project process that was conducted is summarized in the following graphic and described in further detail below:



- **Kick-Off Meeting (April 17, 2023):** The project team met with Uplands Elementary administration to kick-off the project and identify initial transportation issues.
- **Site Visit (May 24, 2023):** The project team examined the school site during drop-off and pick up to better understand transportation challenges and opportunities. The surrounding catchment area was also examined for its current state of infrastructure.
- **Community Walkabout (May 24, 2023):** A community walkabout was conducted following PM pick-up. The walkabout explored the immediate school neighborhood, looked at well-used routes, and brainstormed opportunities to address travel issues. Attendees included the project team (consultants and the City of Penticton staff), school administration, caregivers and students. Key stakeholders were also invited to attend which included representatives from the School District and School Trustees.
- **Parent Advisory Committee Meeting (May 24, 2023):** The project team met with the Uplands Elementary Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) to introduce the Safe Routes to School process and gather input regarding transportation issues and opportunities.
- **Community Survey (May 2023):** An online family survey was conducted on the City's *Shape Your City* platform and promoted to the school community to better understand students and their family's travel to school (mode share), as well as travel behaviours and attitudes and overall traffic safety concerns that affect parents' decision to allow children to walk or bicycle to school.

- **Student Survey (May 2023):** In addition to the community survey, students at Uplands Elementary participated in a classroom ‘hands-up’ survey where they were asked what mode of transportation they used to go to and from school that day.
- **Draft Safe Routes to School Plan (Summer / Fall 2023):** Based on the findings during Phase 1 of engagement, a draft School Safe Routes to School Plan was developed by the project team.
- **Student Visioning Workshop (January 2024):** Students were also engaged by the school administration to participate in a visioning workshop. Students were asked to share what they love and dislike about how they get to school and to share ideas about what they would like to do differently. Their input was incorporated into the draft School Travel Plan Vision and Goals.
- **Parent Advisory Committee Meeting (January 22, 2024):** The project team met with the Uplands Elementary Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) to present a summary of the engagement findings and the draft Plan actions and recommendations.

2 Uplands Elementary School Overview

Uplands Elementary School is located at 145 Middle Bench Ave in the City of Penticton, BC. Uplands Elementary is a public school for kindergarten to Grade 5 students. During the 2023-2024 school year, 253 students were enrolled at Uplands Elementary, with capacity for 300-350 students.

Uplands Elementary School can be accessed along Middle Bench Road. A parking lot is provided south of the school entrance that is configured to have vehicles enter to the south and exit to the north. Further north to the parking lot is a gravel lot along the school frontage that is reserved for school bus parking during school hours and one accessible loading stall. Bicycle parking is also provided on-site along the school frontage. During pick-up and drop-off, vehicles are observed using the shoulders of Middle Bench Road for short-term parking.

The school can also be accessed at the rear along Uplands Place, where students can connect to a walking path. Vehicles are known to use this entrance for pick-up and drop-off of students.

On-site bike parking



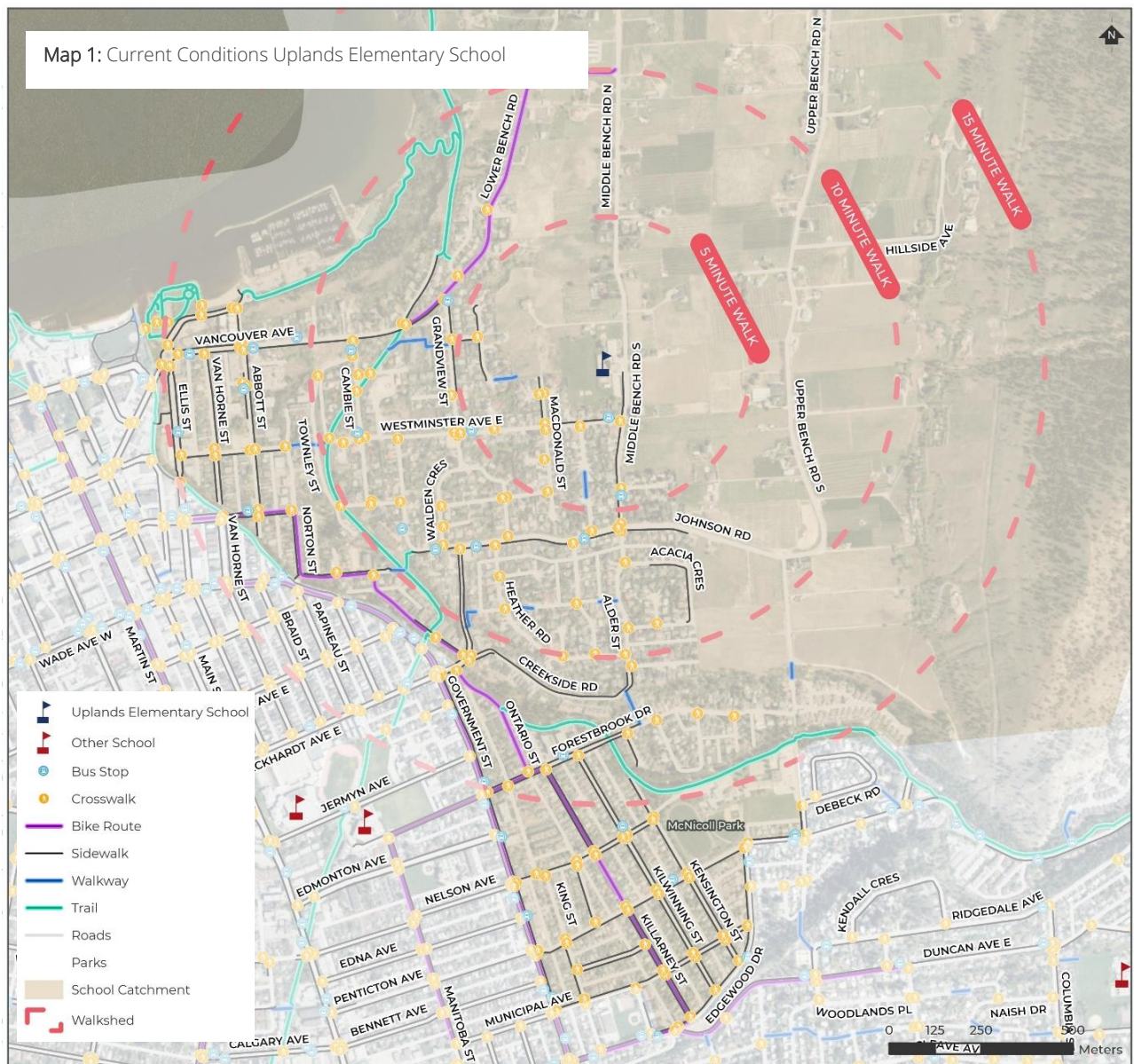
Middle Bench Road during PM pick-up



Uplands Elementary School is situated north of the City's centre and is located approximately 2 kilometres from Okanagan Lake. Uplands Elementary is located on the perimeter of an urban/rural interface, with the catchment area of students also attending from urban and rural contexts, which presents challenges to active

transportation uptake given the distances and topography some families travel to access the school. Additionally, the historical residential subdivisions in the area surrounding the school were built during a time when sidewalks were not constructed on local roads, which continues to limit pedestrian connectivity. **Map 1** shows the existing characteristics of the transportation network surrounding Uplands Elementary School.

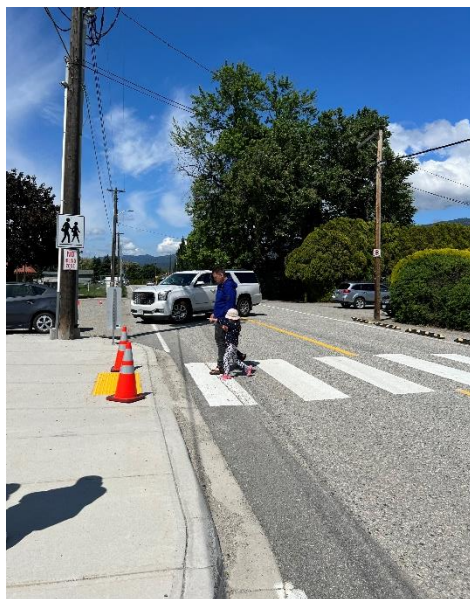
Facilities to the south and east of the school include pedestrian crosswalks at most intersections, in addition to sidewalk infrastructure along corridors including Middle Bench Road, Johnson Road and Grandview Street, although there are still many sidewalk gaps in proximity to the school, including Westminster Avenue, MacDonald Street, Alder Street and the north side of Johnson Road east of Middle Bench Road. The City of Penticton has recently made improvements to Middle Bench Road, installing sidewalks on the school frontage. Further improvements along Middle Bench Road are currently in the design phase and will include



sidewalks on the west side, a raised pedestrian crossing and parallel parking opportunities for pick-up, drop-off. The work is scheduled for summer 2024.

The Kettle Valley Rail Trail is accessible from the back entrance of Uplands Elementary School along Grandview Street. The Kettle Valley Rail Trail provides a dedicated off-street pathway for cyclists and pedestrians to travel along Okanagan Lake to the north and to Penticton Plaza in the city centre, with connections to other walking and cycling infrastructure.

Towards the north and east side of the school, the land use is predominantly rural with a lack of infrastructure to safely accommodate pedestrians and cyclists. Roadway conditions provide two lanes of vehicle traffic with a painted shoulder. Efforts to encourage slower vehicle speeds along Middle Bench Road have been made, including incorporating speed humps at the school and speed reader boards.



Pedestrian crosswalk at school entrance



Pedestrian pathway at rear entrance



Kettle Valley Rail Trail facilities

School District 67's transportation system provides buses to students in Grades K-3 who reside more than 4km from school. Uplands Elementary School also has access to public transit through Route #3, with a bus stop located at Middle Bench Road and Westminster Avenue. Service is hourly and provides access to the city's centre and to neighbourhoods south of the downtown.

The City of Penticton will continue to invest and prioritize in transportation infrastructure and programs that support all ages, abilities and modes of transportation as directed through its Transportation Master Plan, relevant projects include:

- Traffic calming studies on Middle Bench Road (Tupper Avenue to Munson Avenue), Upper Bench Road (Johnson Road to McMillan Avenue) and Lower Bench Road (Bankview Road to Tupper Avenue)
- Intersection upgrades at Eckhardt Avenue at Government Street (high priority) and Middle Bench Road at Johnson Road (medium priority)

3 Engagement & Key Findings

3.1 Process

Key findings from the engagement process are detailed below. Engagement activities included:

- **Community Survey:** The Community Survey was conducted on the City's *Shape Your City* engagement platform and promoted to the school community for completion. The Community Survey focused on gathering background data, measure attitudes about active transportation, identifying the key issues and opportunities for walking and cycling to school, and discovering opportunities for long-term behavior changes. The survey received **60 responses**. Detailed responses from the survey are provided in the following section.
- **PAC Presentation and Discussion:** The project team met with the Uplands Elementary Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) to introduce the Safe Routes to School process and gather input regarding transportation issues and opportunities.
- **Community Walkabout:** A community walkabout was conducted following PM pick-up. The walkabout explored the immediate school neighborhood, looked at well-used routes, and brainstormed opportunities to address travel issues. Attendees included the project team (consultants and the City of Penticton staff), school administration, caregivers and students. Key stakeholders were also invited to attend which included representatives from the School District and School Trustees.
- **Student Visioning Workshop:** School administration facilitated a workshop with students to gather information on what they like about their route to school and if they have ideas to include in the plan. Findings from the workshop helped to inform the vision statement and action plan.

Findings from the engagement process are identified below and will help to inform recommendations for the emerging Best Routes to School Map and Action Plan. Detailed findings from the Community Survey are provided later in this report.

3.2 Key Themes

Travel Behaviours

- Driving is the primary mode choice for students and families at Uplands Elementary School, followed by walking.
- Age, distance from the school and schedules are the primary factors for mode choice.
- Having safer facilities including sidewalks, pathways and crossings would encourage families to choose more active modes of transportation to access the school.

Infrastructure

- Topography and distance are key challenges for active transportation uptake.
- There is a desire for intersection improvements at:
 - Grandview Street at Lower Bench Road
 - Uplands Avenue at Grandview Street
- There is a desire for pathway improvements at Kettle Valley Rail Trail connection off Grandview Street to slow cyclists down and to add lighting and ensure maintenance over winter.

- Identification of wayfinding opportunity for Kettle Valley Rail Trail walkway connector at Grandview Street.
- There is a desire from community to provide sidewalks and/or safe walking connections from the northern catchment area to access the school.
- The cul-de-sac at the end of MacDonald Street is tight to turn around with other vehicles completing pick-up drop-off.
- Generally, improved lighting along major corridors and connections was mentioned by the community.
- Some students use the steep staircase from Forestbrook Drive to Creekside Road/Alder Street and a sidewalk is needed on Alder Street to fill gap to Middle Bench Road.
- Note that students walk along Truro Street to access the school.

Road Safety

- Concerns exist for speeding vehicles and congestion along Middle Bench Road.
- There is a desire for traffic calming (flashing lights, speed humps, etc.) to improve road safety, prevent unsafe U-turns and speeding.
- Middle Bench Road becomes narrower in the winter due to snow ploughing.
- The community expressed desire to extend the school zone boundary and/or reduce speed limits near the school.
- The community identified concerns of vehicles not complying at the pedestrian activated signal on Johnson Road at Alder Street.

Pick Up/Drop Off Behaviours

- Concerns exist for few parking opportunities for pick-up and drop-off (PUDO). Most PUDO vehicles travel from the south and desire to leave to the south, resulting in U-turns north of the school.
- Detour along Tupper Ave/Lower Bench Road is too long and inconvenient for parents.
- Concerns were expressed about road safety risks of the current parking lot's layout and use. When using the parking lot, parents will pull into the lot and let a child out in the middle of the drive aisle.
- There are poor sight lines when turning right out of the parking lot when street parking is utilized.
- There is demand for at least 2 accessible parking stalls on-site.
- School community had positive feedback using Uplands Avenue/Uplands Place to access the school via back path but commented on the need for stairs or a paved pathway.

School Travel Programs

- There is a community desire for Walking School Bus program from the school community and to have road safety volunteers organized, similar to a crossing guard.

Bus Routes

- The community is not well served by public transit and is a less dependable mode choice for most.
- There is a desire for bus service in the winter months.

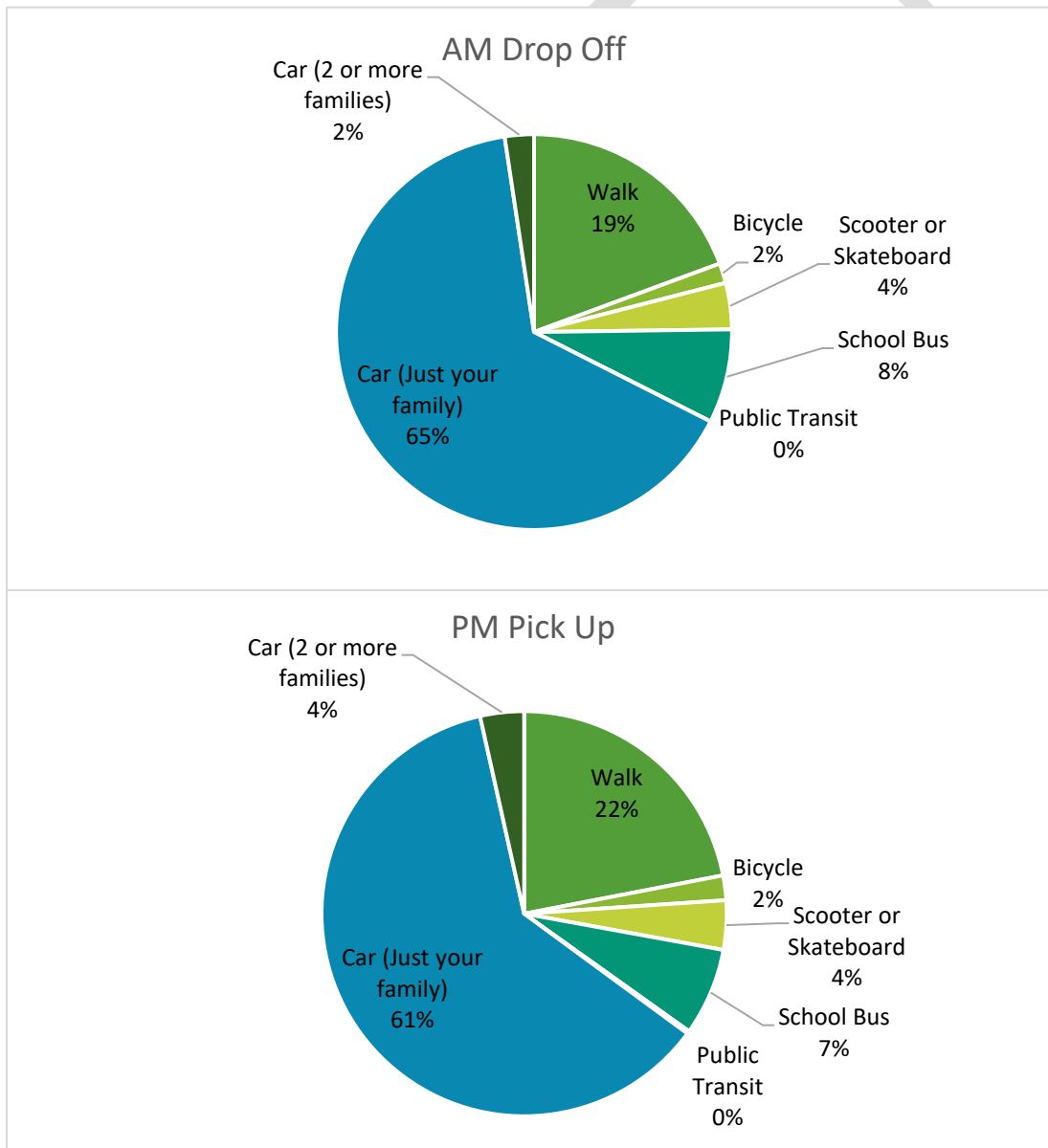
4 Survey Analysis

To better understand transportation patterns, challenges, and opportunities at Uplands Elementary, two surveys were conducted in May 2023. One directed at students (Hands Up Classroom Survey) and one directed at parents/caregivers (Community Survey). The survey results are summarized in this section.

4.1 Classroom Survey Results

The Hands Up Classroom Survey collected mode share data by having teachers ask their students everyday for one week, how they got to school that day and how they will get home. This information provides baseline mode share data, and is an interactive way for students to be involved in the process.

The survey was conducted from May 23 to May 26th and the results are shown below:



The Classroom Survey results show that driving just as a family is the primary mode choice for accessing Uplands Elementary, with 65% of families driving in the AM and 61% driving in the PM. Walking is also a popular choice with 19% of students walking to school in the morning and 22% walking from school in the evening. The school bus is reported as being used by 7-8% of students.

4.2 Community Survey Results

The Community Survey was conducted on the City's *Shape Your City* engagement platform and promoted to the school community for completion.

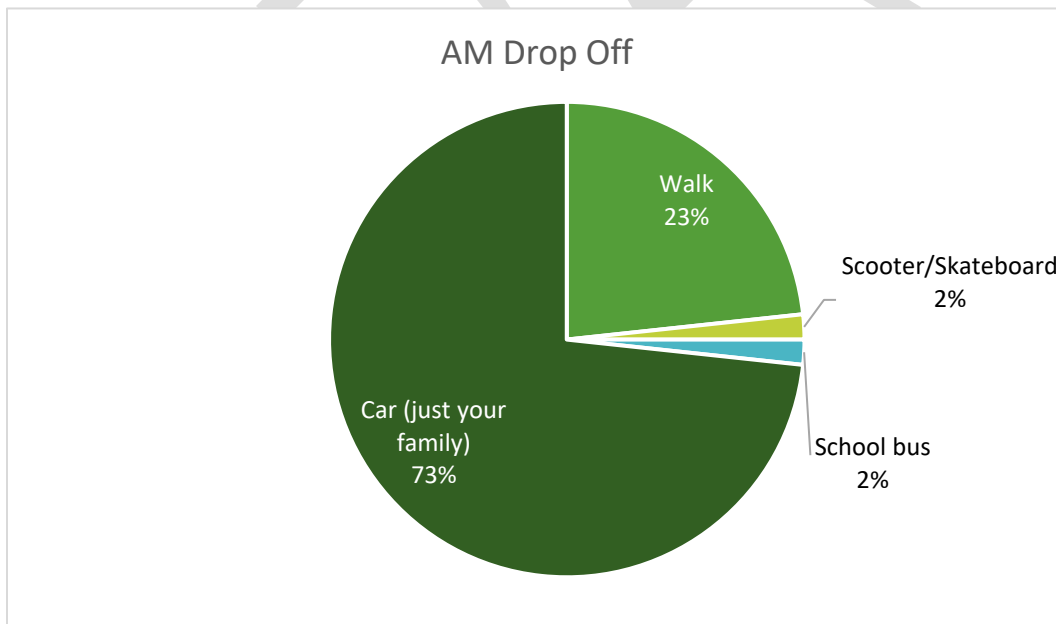
The Community Survey focused on gathering background data, measure attitudes about active transportation, identifying the key issues and opportunities for walking and cycling to school, and discovering opportunities for long-term behavior changes.

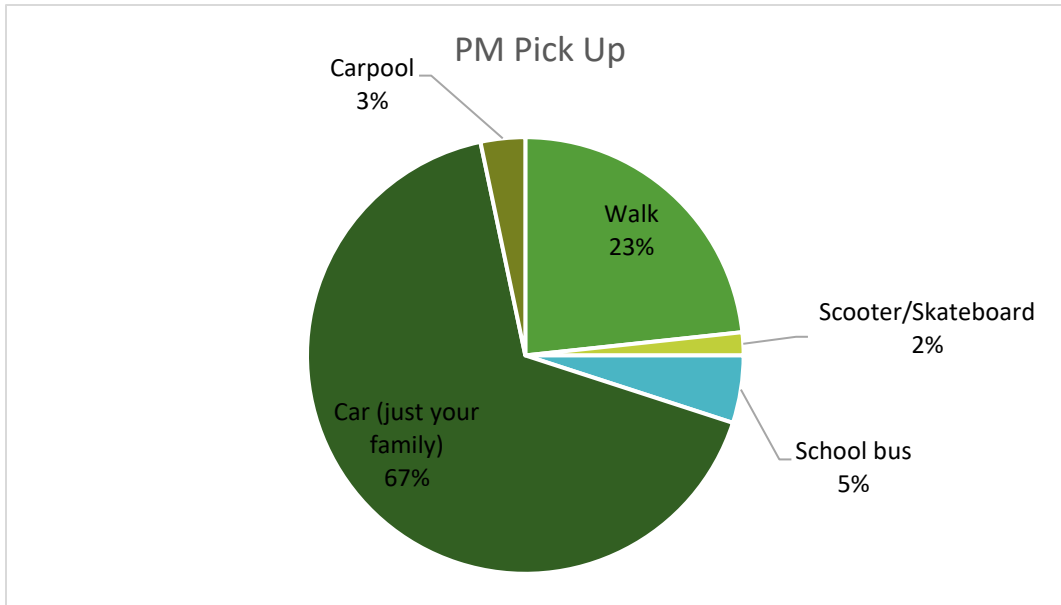
The baseline family survey received **60 responses**. The survey responses are summarized below.

4.2.1 Mode Share (Average)

Mode share results from the Community Survey identify driving just as a family is the primary mode choice at 73% in the AM and 67% in the PM. This is slightly higher than the results of the Classroom Survey that identified driving as a family at 65% in the AM and 61% in the PM.

The community survey also demonstrates that 23% of students are walking to school in the AM and PM. Taking the school bus, rolling (scooters/skateboards) and carpooling are other modes identified but with low results. No one responded by cycling or taking public transit to access the school.

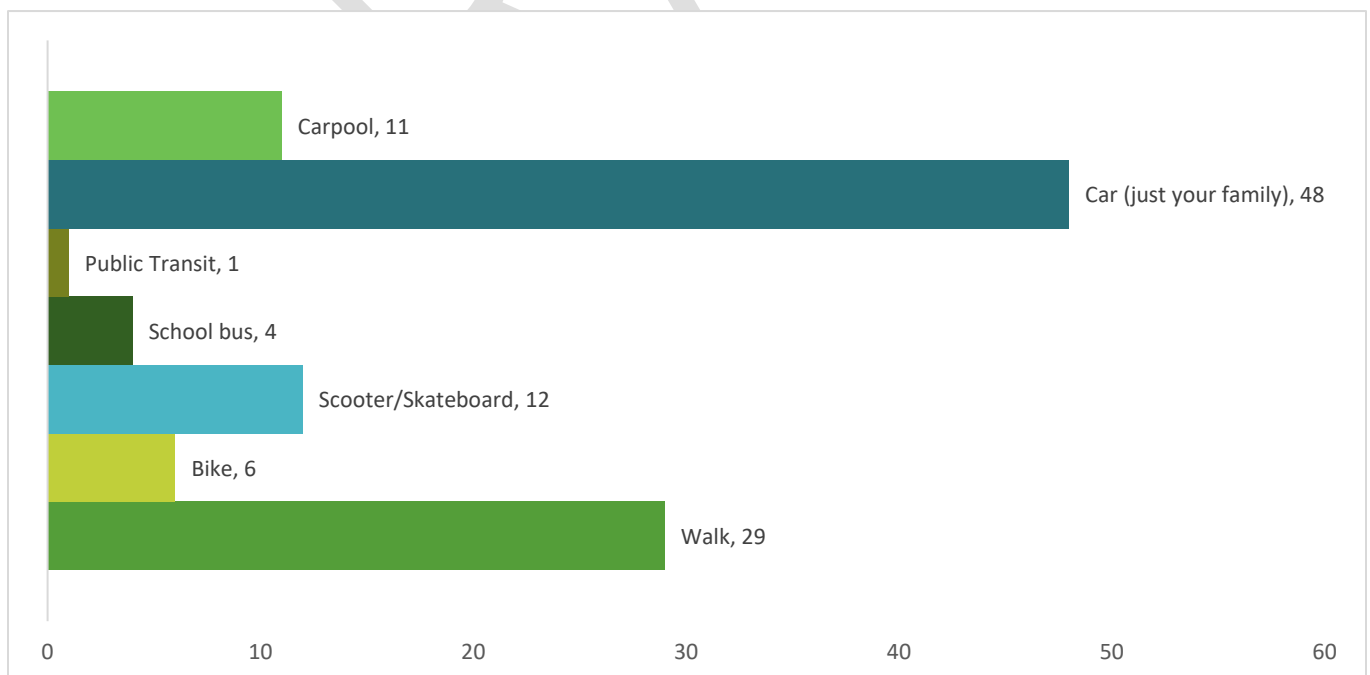




4.3 Mode Share (Options)

Respondents were asked to identify all the modes of transportation they have used to travel or from school in the last year. Participants were able to select all options that applied. This question helps to complement the question above and understand the variety of transportation options the school community uses and the potential to encourage more sustainable modes of transportation.

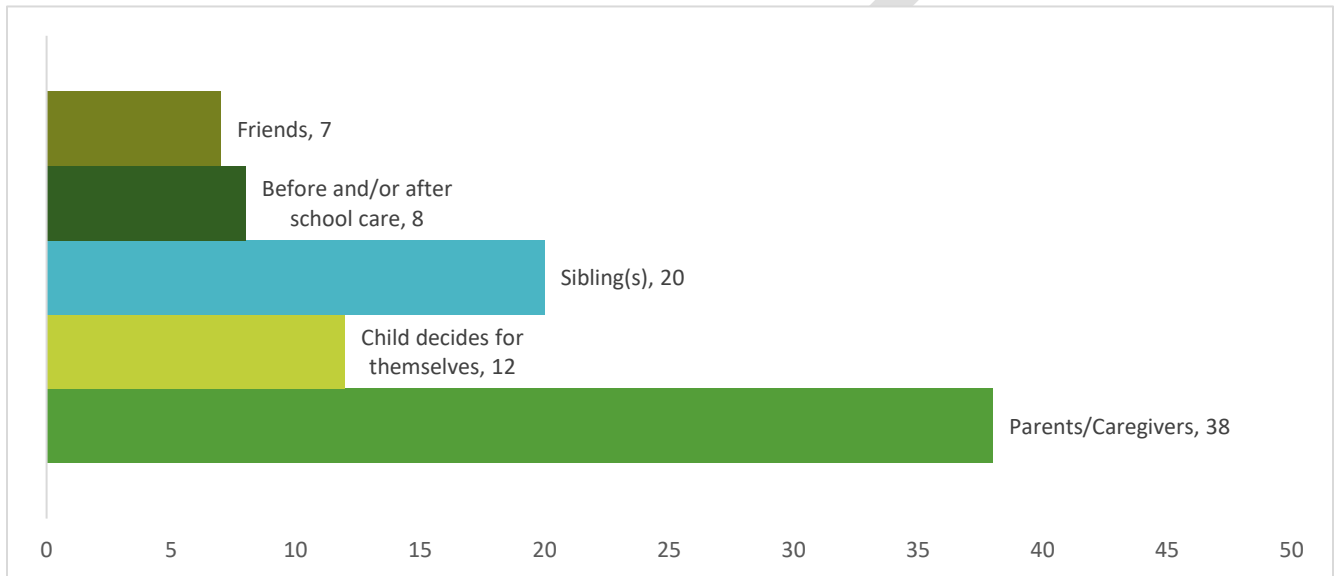
From the results in the chart below, driving just as a family (48 responses), walking (29 responses), rolling such as scooters and skateboards (12 responses) and carpooling (11 responses) are the main forms of transportation used by the school community.



4.4 Travel Companions

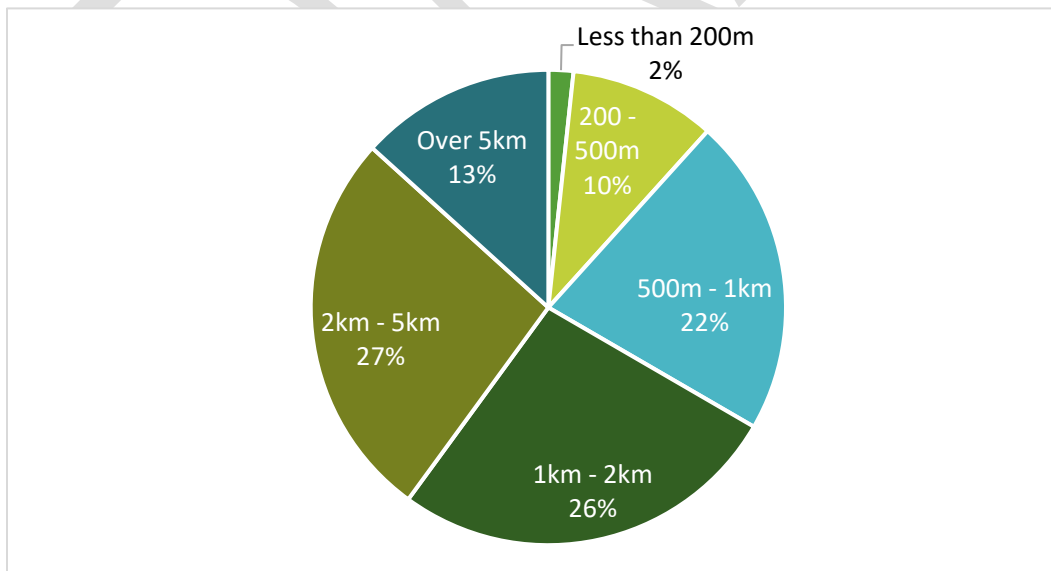
Respondents were asked to identify who is involved in their child/children's journey to school. This could include who is responsible for deciding their mode choice, who accompanies them on the journey and/or coordinates their journey etc.) Participants were able to select all options that applied.

Results in the chart below show that parents/caregivers (38 responses) siblings (20 responses) and the child decides for themselves (12 responses) are the main travel companions and organizers.



Distance from School

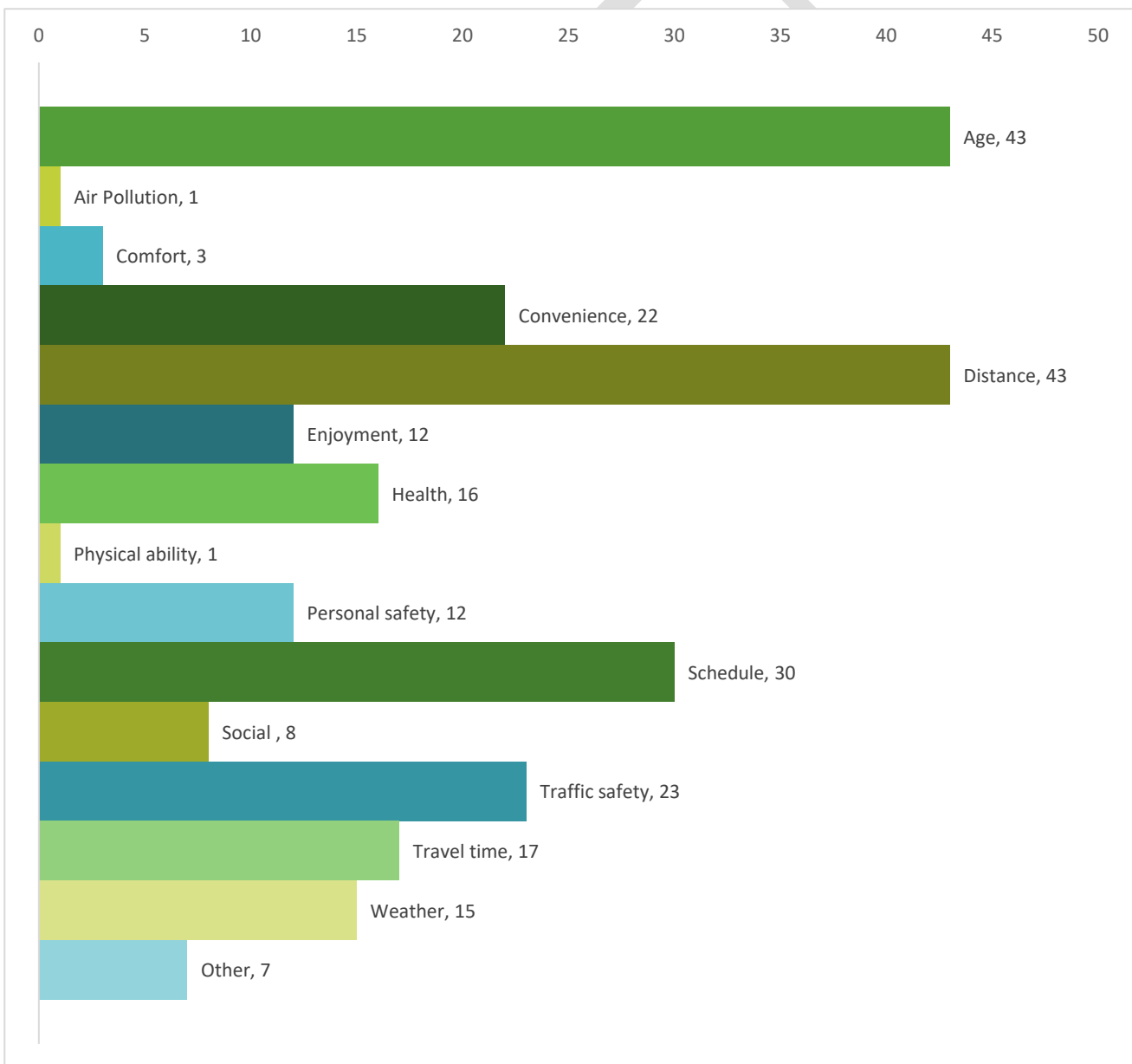
Respondents were asked to identify how far (in metres or kilometres) they live from Uplands Elementary. 40% of respondents live over 2km away from Uplands Elementary. 26% of respondents are within 1 – 2km away and 34% of respondents are less than a kilometre away.



Factors for Mode Choice

Participants were asked to select from the list of options, all the factors that contribute to their child/children's mode choice to and from school. Participants were able to select all options that applied.

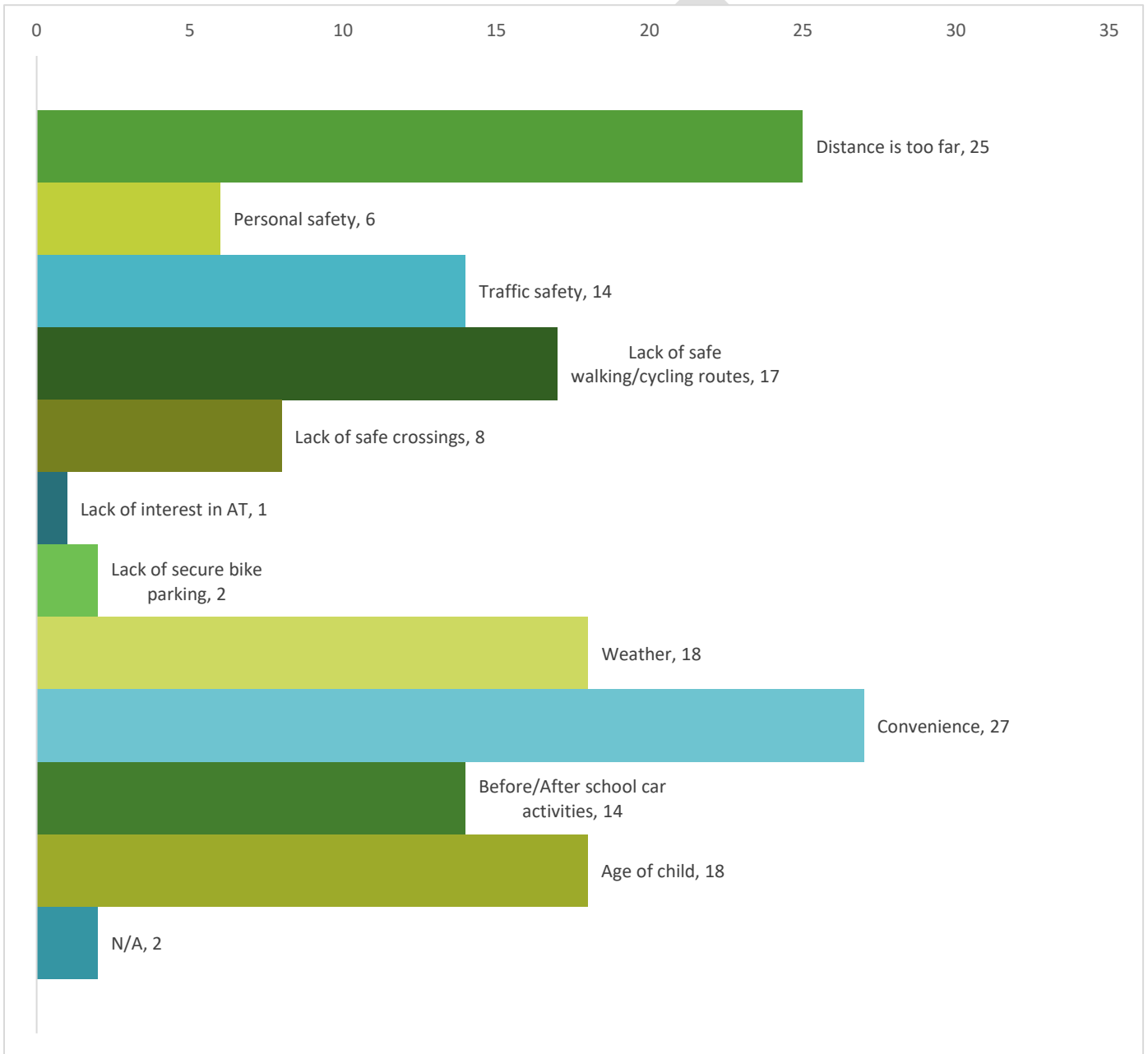
From the results in the chart below, age of the child (43 responses) and convenience (43 responses) were the main factors for choosing their mode choice. When looking at the results of the respondents when asked in the survey what grade their child was in, 22 of the 60 respondents had identified their child was in pre-school or kindergarten. Therefore, age being a main factor for mode choice is understandable. Schedules (30 responses), traffic safety (23 responses), travel time (17 responses) and health and exercise (16 responses) also received high response rates.



Driving Mode Choice (Rationale)

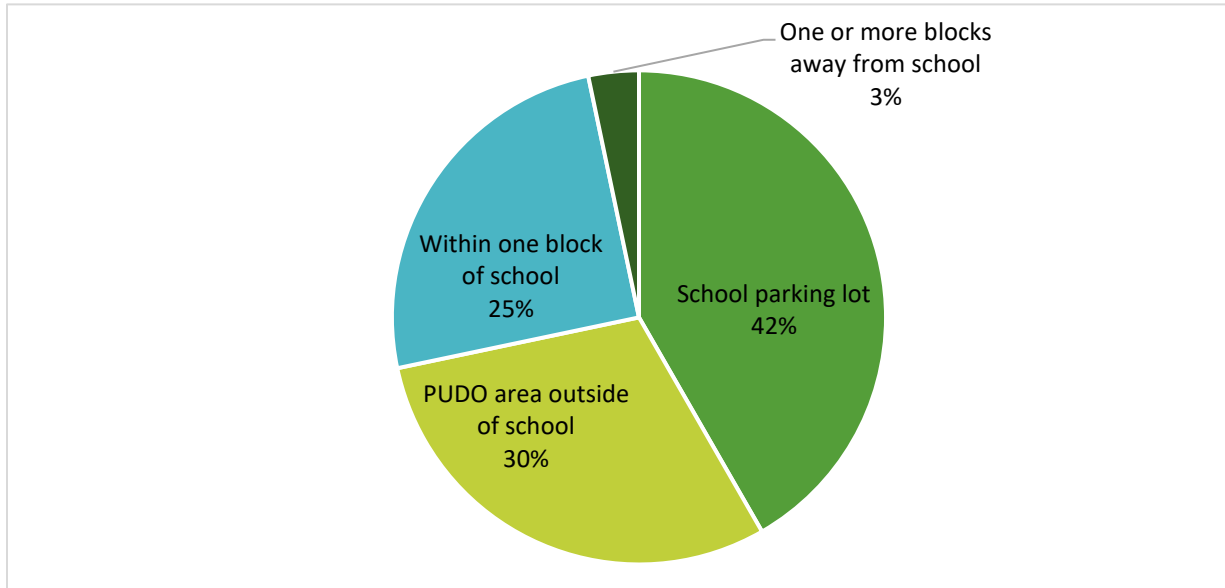
Participants were asked to identify the primary reasons (selecting up to 3 responses) for driving their child/children to school. Convenience/time pressures (27 responses) and distance (25 responses) were the top reasons for driving.

Lack of safe walking and cycling routes (17 responses), traffic safety (14 responses) and lack of equipment (14 responses) were identified as reasons and are relevant to improvements that can be reviewed as part of the Safe Routes to School process.



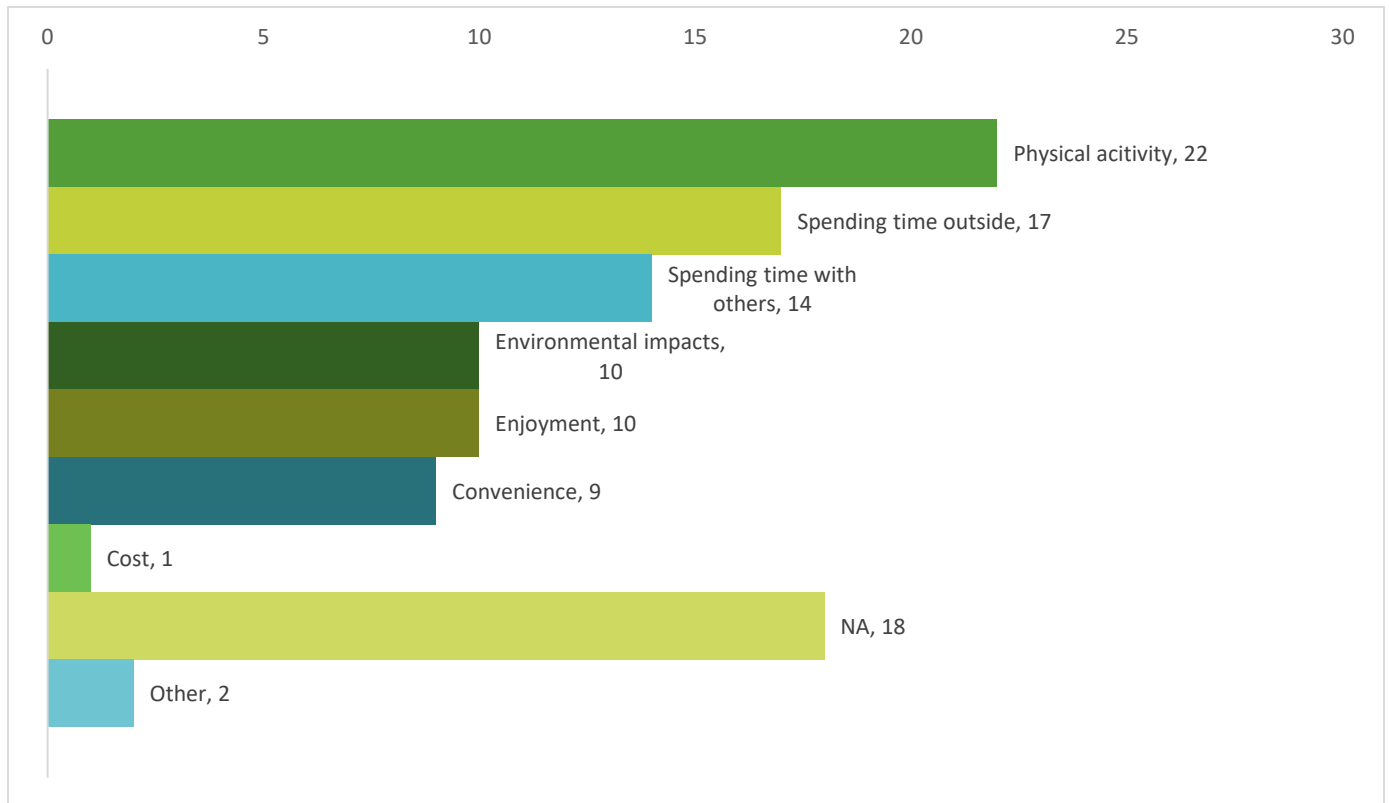
Driving Behaviours (Pick Up / Drop off Locations)

Respondents that drive their child/children to school were asked to identify the pick up and drop off (PUDO) locations they use. As identified in the chart below, 42% of respondents use the school parking lot, 30% of respondents use a PUDO location outside of the school frontage and 25% park within one block of the school. 3% of respondents park further than one block away from the school.



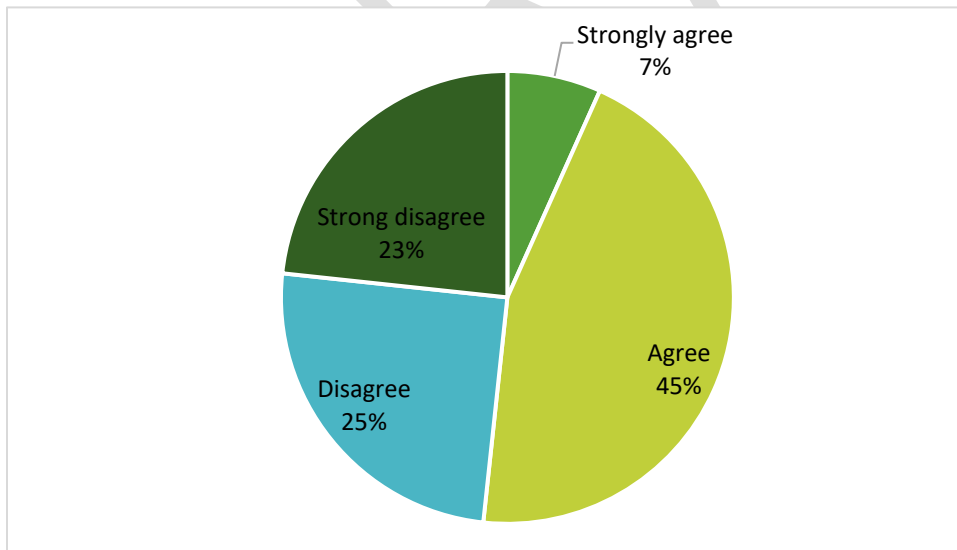
Active Transportation Behaviours (Rationale)

Respondents were asked to identify if/when their child/children uses active transportation (walking, cycling, rolling) to get to school, what motivates them. Respondents were able to select up to 3 answers. As identified in the chart below, the main motivations are getting physical activity (22 responses), opportunity to spend time outside (17 responses) and time to spend with friend and family (14 responses). 18 respondents identified that they do not use active transportation to get to/from school.



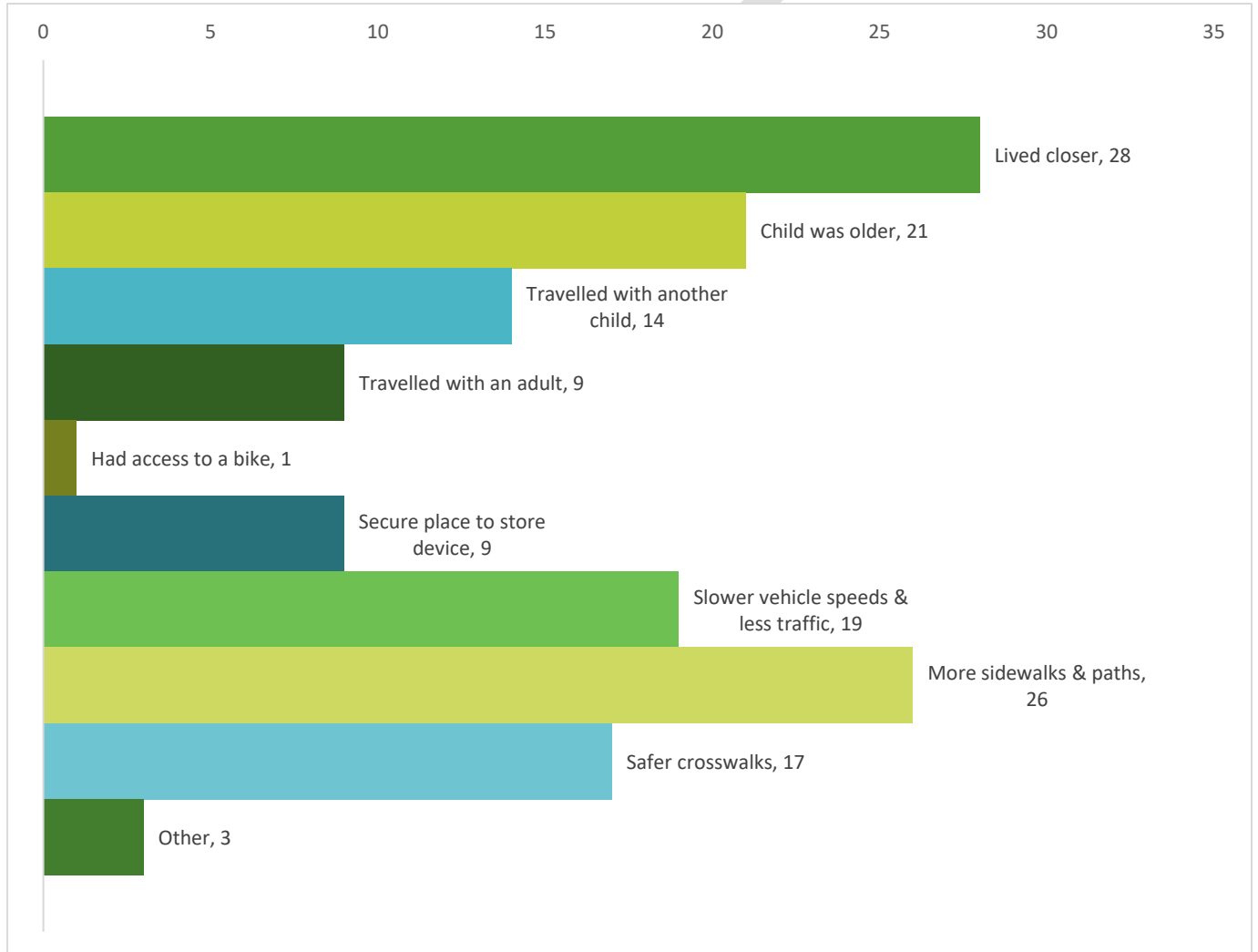
Perceived Safety (Active Transportation)

Respondents were asked their opinion on how safe it is for their child/children to walk, bike or roll to school. As identified in the chart below, the perceived safety is divided. 52% of respondents agree to strongly agree that it is safe, 48% of respondents disagree to strongly disagree that it is safe to walk, bike or roll.



Active Transportation Opportunities

Respondents were asked to identify what they need to encourage their child/children to use active transportation to access school. Participants were able to select their top three options. As identified in the chart below, living closer (28 responses), more sidewalks and pathways (26 responses) and if the child was older (21 responses) received the highest response rate. Slower vehicle speeds (19 responses), safer crosswalks (17 responses) and people to walk/roll with (14 responses) also received high responses and are relevant to potential recommendations through this process. It is important to note that no one responded to the option “I am not willing to encourage them to walk, bike or roll to school”.



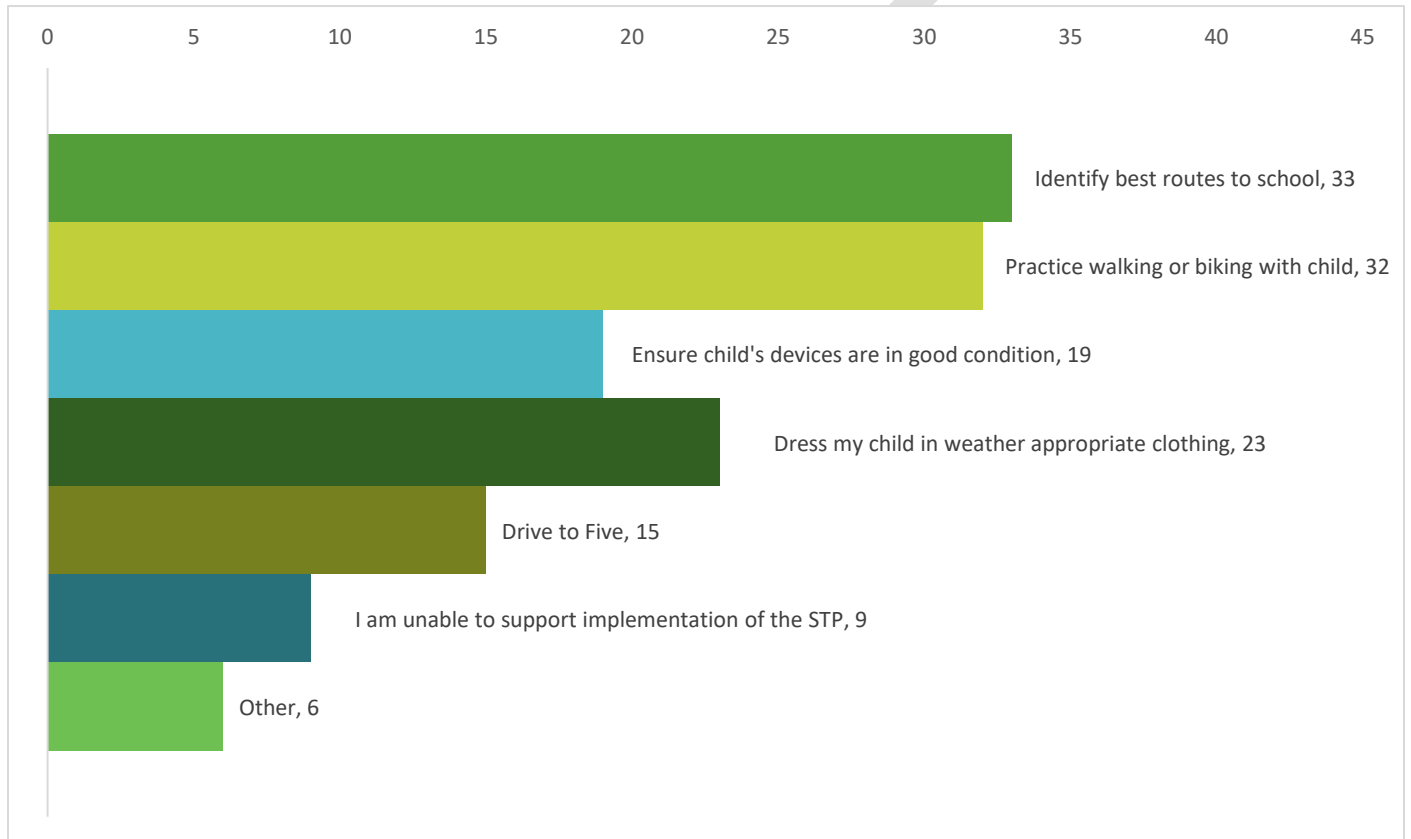
Supporting Active School Travel

Respondents were asked to identify what they are willing to do to help support their child/children in travelling to school by active transportation. Some of the options provided are relevant to the emerging work and recommendations to come from the School Travel Planning process. Participants were able to select as all options that applied to them.

As identified in the chart below, identifying best routes to school (33 responses), practicing walking or biking with their child (32 responses) and ensuring their child is dressed for the weather conditions (23 responses) received the highest responses. 15 respondents identified that they could drive five minutes away and walk their child the rest of the way.

9 respondents identified that they do not have the capacity to support the implementation of the school travel plan.

Of the 6 respondents that identified "other", they explained that they live too far away to travel actively.



5 Vision & Targets

Informed by the school community and the student visioning workshop, Uplands Elementary School has established a vision statement that reflects the school community's priorities, with a focus on making transportation safer and more sustainable in the future.

Uplands Elementary School strives for a safe and accessible environment for everyone to get to and from school with fun and sustainable transportation options. We aspire for a more connected sidewalk network, improved bicycle routes, and improved safety and security that encourage a vibrant and active school community.

The vision statement is complemented by two key goals that support the overall vision of the Safe Routes to School Plan:

Goal 1: Encourage more walking and cycling trips with improved routes to school

This goal considers encouraging active transportation by communicating and enhancing best routes to school, organizing Drive to Five+ locations and local volunteers, and monitoring travel behaviours through annual student and community surveys.

Goal 2: Increase safety by slowing traffic and providing separate spaces for travel modes

This goal considers safety for all modes (walking, cycling, rolling, driving, and transit). Actions to improve safety are outlined in the action plan and include infrastructure improvements (filling sidewalk gaps, adding traffic calming devices), reducing speed limits in the school zone, and providing educational resources to parents, caregivers, students, and teachers.

6 Best Routes to School Map

The Best Routes to School Map shows the network of streets and trails in the neighbourhood surrounding a school, and highlights routes that students can safely walk and cycle. It can also highlight other useful information such as walking times, the location of traffic lights and pedestrian crossings, bike lanes, transit stops and Drive to Five+ locations. The emerging best routes to school map demonstrates proposed routes that have been informed through the community walkabout, survey results and the PAC meeting.

7 Action Plan

The purpose of the Action Plan is to identify steps for addressing identified transportation issues and achieving the school travel vision for Uplands Elementary. It outlines a list of tasks and activities as well as timelines and who is responsible for implementing the actions. The Action Plan is a living document that should be reviewed and updated by project partners on a regular basis to ensure it stays current and relevant.

The Action Plan has been broken down into four sections:

- Engineering
- Education and Encouragement
- Enforcement
- Evaluation

7.1 Engineering Action Items

The City of Penticton's Transportation Master Plan seeks to create and manage a safe transportation system that supports all ages, abilities and modes of transportation. A key goal identified in the TMP is to ensure residents and workers throughout Penticton have the opportunity to walk to parks, schools, shopping, jobs and other destinations in safety and comfort. This means reducing negative impacts of vehicle traffic and encouraging active travel (walking, cycling, rolling). It should be noted that this approach will contribute to the broader aims of the City of Penticton to enhance the health, livability, and sustainability of our community and therefore aims to reduce congestion and improve safety for those travelling by active means. The following actions are focused on infrastructure for students and caregivers travelling to and from school by walking, rolling, or cycling.

The City of Penticton is primarily responsible for implementing the following recommended engineering actions as they mostly fall within road rights of way. Those actions on the school grounds are to be championed by the School District.

Studies to explore the feasibility or warrant processes for each of the actions are considered in the "resources" and "costs" columns. Changes should come with understanding of traffic impacts to support safe and sustainable transportation options for students and caregivers. The actions below should be considered through a City-wide prioritization process, and align with priorities identified in the City's Transportation Master Plan. Actions identified below suggest solutions for long-term improvements that may require capital planning based on the City's budget and resources available.

The City may consider interim rapid implementation solutions to mitigate some existing challenges that still provide safety improvements. Treatments could include pavement marking delineation, physical separation with parking curbs or bollards to provide space for people walking, or placing planters or other objects on local streets for a traffic calming effect. This approach can also allow the community to get involved through public art programs that beautify the temporary infrastructure, such as intersection murals.

Location	Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Cost (\$, \$\$, \$\$\$)
Drive to Five+ Locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uplands Place • MacDonald Street • Acacia Crescent 	Congestion near school frontage during pick-up and drop-off	Implement Drive to Five+ locations to support improved pick-up, drop-off at school and encourage walking.	City of Penticton	\$
Intersections and pedestrian crossings in school proximity	Pedestrian safety at intersection crossings	Review side streets along Best Routes to Uplands Elementary and implement traffic calming, which could include stop signs at all intersections, curb extensions, leading pedestrian interval at major intersections, turn restrictions and speed reductions.	City of Penticton	\$ - \$\$
School Parking Lot	Changes to school parking lot due to new childcare facility and existing concerns related to student safety travelling parking lot.	Conduct a review of the school parking lot once planning childcare facility is advanced to identify paint, signage and infrastructure improvements. Explore opportunities to restrict school parking lot usage for caregivers with students Grades 3 and below.	School District	\$
Middle Bench Road / School Parking Lot frontage	Poor sightlines for vehicles pulling out of parking lot when vehicles are parked along Middle Bench Road	Restrict parking immediately adjacent to exit of parking lot through paint and signage.	City of Penticton	\$
Middle Bench Road	Vehicles u-turning on Middle Bench Road and creating safety concerns.	Install centre median flex posts on Middle Bench Road to prevent U-turning	City of Penticton	\$
Middle Bench Road & Johnson Road	School zone speed limits end too soon.	Review opportunity to reduce speed limit permanently to 30km/hr along major corridors in proximity to school (Middle Bench Road and Johnson Road)	City of Penticton	\$

Location	Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Cost (\$, \$\$, \$\$\$)
Johnson Street	Concerns for pedestrian safety along corridor due to vehicle speeds and lack of separation from modes.	Explore the feasibility to install a sidewalk on the north side that is buffered to protect pedestrians from vehicle traffic.	City of Penticton	\$\$\$
Uplands Place	Pathway from the back of the school connecting to Uplands Place and MacDonald Street requires improvements and regular maintenance	Formalize pathway to improve safety – including a review of feasibility to install stairs/ramp, lighting and railings.	School District	\$\$\$
Westminster Avenue E (Grandview St to Middle Bench)	Concerns of vehicle speeds and visibility due to steep hill approaching intersection.	Conduct review of corridor to explore traffic calming measures. Explore installing a traffic circle/button at Westminster Avenue from Grandview Street to Middle Bench Road to slow traffic.	City of Penticton	\$\$
Westminster Avenue E	Sidewalk gaps along corridor.	Explore feasibility of filling in sidewalk gaps on Westminster Avenue from Townley Street to MacDonald Street.	City of Penticton	\$\$
Uplands Avenue at Grandview Street	Lack of wayfinding and crosswalk at intersection	Support facilitation to Kettle Valley trail by installing a pedestrian crosswalk and wayfinding signage.	City of Penticton	\$ - \$\$
Lower Bench Road at Grandview Street	Concern of safety of crossing	Install a pedestrian crosswalk on Lower Bench Road to improve pedestrian safety.	City of Penticton	\$

Westminster Avenue has been identified as a high-priority that the City will develop a conceptual improvement plan for.

7.2 Education & Encouragement Action Items

The education and encouragement action items provided below are primarily intended to be put into practice by school administration, working in cooperation with essential external collaborators such as the City of Penticton, SD67, and ICBC. Moreover, the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) should play a key role in ensuring that the school community remains engaged and involved.

These action points can be customized to suit the evolving requirements of the school as a culture of active transportation takes root. The subsequent actions are designed to foster awareness, excitement and comprehension of the advantages associated with active transportation, as well as how students and households at Uplands Elementary can seamlessly integrate it into their daily routines.

Action	Resources	Priority	Responsibility
Explore opportunities to increase uptake in students travelling by school bus through a broader catchment and/or increased communication to caregivers.	N/A	High	School District and School Administration
Organize Walking School Bus groups to facilitate group travel for students walking and cycling along the Kettle Valley Rail Trail.	City of Vancouver Walking School Bus Safe Routes to School National Partnership: How to Start a Walking School Bus at Your School	Medium	School Administration and PAC
Collaborate with ICBC to incorporate educational materials and programs related to active transportation into coursework and school events.	ICBC Road Safety for Educators	Medium	PAC & School Administration
Work with teachers to add active and sustainable transportation-related content into regular coursework and lectures, as well as utilize active and sustainable transportation whenever possible when travelling for school field trips.	City of Toronto - Active and Safe Routes to School: Teachers Kit Metrolinx – Active and Sustainable School Transportation - Lesson Plans for Ontario Curriculum	Medium	School District & School Administration
Work with a third-party provider that specializes in skills training for youth. Provide instruction for the use and benefits of various active modes and road safety lessons as they relate to active transportation.	Safe Routes to School National Partnership: Roll Bicycle Education into your Physical Education Program Safe Routes to School National Partnership: Bike Rodeos	High	City of Penticton, School District & School Administration

Action	Resources	Priority	Responsibility
Incorporate BC Transit's Ready to Roll transit education program into lessons and special events (such as Earth Day or other environmental events)	BC Transit – Bus Ready	High	School Administration
Make regular announcements and mount posters at school encouraging students to walk, bike, and take transit to school and related events to keep active and sustainable transportation top of mind and highlight its benefits.	Green Communities Canada – School Safety Zone I Spy Card School Travel Planning: Sample School Newsletter	High	School Administration and PAC
Participate in active transportation events and programs including Go By Bike Week.	Go By Bike Week	High	City of Penticton, School Administration and PAC

7.3 Enforcement Action Items

The enforcement action items below are primarily meant to be implemented by the RCMP and ICBC. Uplands Elementary administration should coordinate with the RCMP to plan visits and indicate problem locations that should be investigated. It is also important that Uplands emphasize the education component of enforcement by communication with students and parents about enforcement issues.

Action	Status	Responsibility
Work with RCMP to conduct safety blitz to enforce speeds and other road safety concerns in the school area. A safety blitz should be programmed at least twice a year, including at the start of the school year	High	RCMP
Conduct quarterly community safety audits along Best Routes.	High	RCMP & Bylaw
Monitor and collect speed data, motor vehicle volumes, and safety compliance to evaluate engineering improvements annually.	High	City of Penticton & RCMP

7.4 Evaluation Action Items

The evaluation action items below are primarily intended to be implemented by Uplands Elementary in collaboration with the City of Penticton. It is now up to Uplands and the City to champion this process, evaluate progress, and update the Action Plan accordingly.

Action	Responsibility
Establish regular communication check-ins between the school and City staff to discuss implementation efforts and opportunities.	City of Penticton, School District, School Administration
Conduct annual Hands-Up surveys and share results with partners to understand travel behaviour.	School Administration
Participate in annual Bike Walk Roll Week for data collection and benchmarking.	City of Penticton, School Administration
Identify metrics such as speeds, hands up survey results, number of events hosted, resources used by educators, etc. to capture a change, if any, in school travel behaviour initiatives.	School District, School Administration and PAC
Conduct survey with school community after one-year of implementation to understand issues and successes.	City of Penticton
Review and update action plan annually to reflect accomplishments, gaps and new opportunities.	City of Penticton

APPENDIX A:

Classroom and Community Survey Forms

DRAFT

School Travel Survey

INTRODUCTION

We want to hear from you!

Your child's (or children's) school is participating in the City of Penticton's School Travel Planning process. This program works with the City, school district, school administration, caregivers, and students to create a safe and comfortable environment for students to walk, wheel, and roll to school wherever possible.

The purpose of this survey is to better understand your family's school travel choices and identify any existing transportation challenges and opportunities for improvement. The survey results will inform the development of an action plan and help to ensure that this plan considers the needs of all members of the school community.

This survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. Please complete only one survey per family.

Personal Information Notice:

To protect your privacy, all information collected in this survey will remain strictly confidential. You are not required to provide your name or contact information.

ABOUT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

1. Which school does your child (or children) attend?

- Carmi Elementary School
- Uplands Elementary School

2. How many children in your family attend this school?

- One
- Two
- Three or more

3. What grade is your child in?

If you have multiple children at the school, you may select multiple grades.

- Pre-school
- Kindergarten
- Grade 1
- Grade 2
- Grade 3
- Grade 4
- Grade 5

TRAVEL CHOICES

4. How does your child (or children) typically get to and from school?

If the trip involves more than one mode (e.g. drive part way and walk part way), choose the mode that is used for the majority of the trip. Choose one from each column.

To School

- Walk
- Bicycle
- Scooter or skateboard
- School bus
- Public transit
- Car (just your family)
- Carpool (2 or more families)

From School

- Walk
- Bicycle
- Scooter or skateboard
- School bus
- Public transit
- Car (just your family)
- Carpool (2 or more families)

5. During the last year, did your child (or children) at this school travel to/from school at least one time by any of the modes below? Please select all that apply.

- Walk
- Bicycle
- Scooter or skateboard
- School bus
- Public transit
- Car (just your family)
- Carpool (2 or more families)

6. Approximately, how far away do you live from the school?

- Less than 200 metres
- 200 – 500 metres
- 500m – 1km
- 1 – 2km
- 2 – 5km
- Over 5km

7. Who is usually involved in your child(s) journey to school (i.e., deciding on mode, accompanying them on the journey, coordinating their journey, etc.)? Please select all that apply.

- Child decides for themselves
- Sibling(s)
- Parents or caregivers
- Before and/or after school care
- Extended family
- Friends
- Community volunteers
- Other

8. What are the factors that contribute to your child(s) travel mode to/from school?

Check all that apply.

- Age (e.g., child is too young/old enough to travel alone)
- Air pollution (e.g., idling vehicles)
- Comfort (e.g., seating at bus stop, quiet streets, etc.)
- Convenience
- Distance (to school)
- Enjoyment
- Health (e.g., exercise)
- Physical ability (e.g., disability of child and/or caregiver)
- Personal safety (e.g., bullying, crime, etc.)
- Schedule (e.g., extra-curriculars, care, employment, etc.)
- Social (e.g., connecting with your child/neighbours, your child connecting with friends, etc.)
- Traffic safety (e.g., speeding, distracted driving, etc.)
- Travel time
- Weather
- Other

If other, please specify: [open text]

DRIVING TO SCHOOL

9. If/when you drive your child (or children) to/from school, what are your primary reasons? Please select up to three (3) responses.

- Distance is too far for walking or cycling
- Personal safety concerns (e.g. bullying, strangers, crime)
- Traffic safety concerns (e.g. too much traffic or speeding vehicles)
- Lack of safe or accessible walking/cycling routes
- Lack of safe street crossings
- Lack of equipment (bike, bike lock, scooter, or skateboard)
- Lack of interest in walking/cycling
- Lack of secure bike parking and amenities
- Poor weather
- Convenience/time pressures (e.g. parent on the way to work or other activities)

- Student has before or after school activities (e.g. sports, daycare, band)
- Age of child (too young to walk/bike)
- N/A - we do not drive to/from school
- Other (please specify): _____

10. If/when you drive your child (or children) to/from school, where do you typically drop them off and pick them up?

- In a pick-up/drop-off area outside the school
- Within one block of the school
- One or more blocks away from the school

WALKING, BIKING, AND ROLLING TO SCHOOL

11. If/when your child (or children) walk, bike, or roll to school, what motivates them?

Please select up to three (3) responses.

- Getting physical activity and exercise
- Opportunity to spend time outside
- Opportunity to spend time with others (family and/or friends)
- Good for the environment
- More fun than driving or transit
- More convenient than driving or transit (avoid traffic, don't have to park, etc.)
- Cheaper than driving or transit
- Don't have access to a car
- N/A - we do not walk/bike/roll to/from school
- Other (please specify): _____

12. I would encourage my child (or children) to walk, bike or roll (using a scooter, skateboard, or wheelchair) to school if...

Please select up to three (3) responses.

- They lived closer to school
- They were older
- They were with another child
- They were with an adult

- They had a working bike, scooter or skateboard
- They had a secure place to store or lock their bike, scooter or skateboard
- There were slower vehicle speeds and/or less traffic on the route to school
- There were safer places to walk, bike, scoot, and skateboard (more sidewalks or paths)
- There were safer places to cross the street
- There was better street lighting
- I am not willing to encourage them to walk, bike or roll to school
- Other (please specify): _____

13. In your opinion, is your neighbourhood safe for children to walk, bike, or roll (using a scooter, skateboard, or wheelchair) to school?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

14. I am willing to help support my child (or children) to walk, bike, or roll to/from school by...

Please select all that apply.

- Identifying the most appropriate route to school
- Practicing walking or biking with my child to school on a weekend
- Ensuring my child's bike, scooter, or skateboard is in good working condition
- Making sure my child has proper clothing to walk or ride in the rain or cold
- Parking at least five minutes away from school and walking the rest of the way
- Volunteering to organize events such as Walking Wednesdays
- Registering for a bike skills course
- I do not have capacity or am unable to support development and implementation of the School Travel Plan
- Other (please specify): _____

15. Please provide any additional information or concerns that you would like to share or that may not have been mentioned in the previous questions.

THANK YOU!



Uplands Elementary



Classroom Hands-Up Student Survey

Purpose: The City of Penticton is conducting a School Travel Plan at Uplands Elementary. The purpose of a School Travel Planning process is to empower individuals and groups to work with their school community to plan initiatives that increase safety for students traveling to school, and to increase the number of students traveling to school in a physically active manner (e.g. walking, cycling, riding a scooter, etc.). This survey will help gather baseline data to determine how students are currently travelling to school.

School Name: _____

Grade: _____ **Room/Class #:** _____ **# of Students:** _____

Teacher: _____ **Dates:** Day 1 _____ to Day 4 _____

Ask Students: “How did you travel to school this morning?” Ask them to raise their hand if they:

Day	Weather Today's weather (e.g. rainy)	Mode of Transportation								Total
		Walked	Biked	Rolled (Skateboard, scooter, wheelchair, etc.)	School Bus	Public Transit	Car with just my family	Car with my friends	Other? (can include more than one mode)	
1										
2										
3										
4										
Total										



Uplands Elementary



Ask Students: “How will you travel from school today?” Ask them to raise their hand if they:

Day	Weather	Mode of Transportation								Total
		Walked	Biked	Rolled (Skateboard, scooter, wheelchair, etc.)	School Bus	Public Transit	Car with just my family	Car with my friends	Other? (can include more than one mode)	
1	Today's weather									
2										
3										
4										
Total										