



British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

February 3, 2021

The Honourable Rob Fleming
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
PO Box 9055 Prov Stn Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

The Honourable Jennifer Whiteside
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Fleming and Minister Whiteside,

Subject: Safe Routes to Schools as part of the Provincial Active Transportation Strategy

At the October 24, 2020 meeting of the BCSTA Provincial Council, representing all 60 boards of education in our province, our members passed the following motion:

“That BCSTA work with the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure on opportunities to include and improve Safe Routes to Schools recommendations as a part of the new provincial Active Transportation Strategy.”

On June 17, 2019, the Province of British Columbia released its Active Transportation Strategy which “provides incentives that encourage safe transportation for all ages and abilities” and encourages “communities, non-profits, health partners and educational institutions to share data with the province and to conduct research and data collection to track increase in mode shift.”

While we appreciate that schools make up only a component of this strategy, it is our objective to highlight the importance of prioritizing safe, active transportation to and from public schools as part of the plan to promote active transportation in B.C.

Transportation to school is already a common concern for many families across the province, and active transportation has the potential to serve as a viable alternative to traditional travel for many. By focusing on addressing options aimed at students, we will also see further benefits related to the strategy come to fruition, including achieving CleanBC goals and improving our students' general health and well-being across the province.



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BCSTA is committed to working together with both the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Transportation to ensure that the planning of safe routes to schools is incorporated and prioritized as part of this new active transportation strategy.

Thank you for considering this request on behalf of our member boards of education and the students they serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Higginson", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Stephanie Higginson
President
British Columbia School Trustees Association

Motion: P120209.3

CC: Deputy Minister of Education Scott MacDonald
BCSTA member boards of education