



City of
Courtenay

Safe & Active School Program - Engagement Results



Presented by:
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Introduction

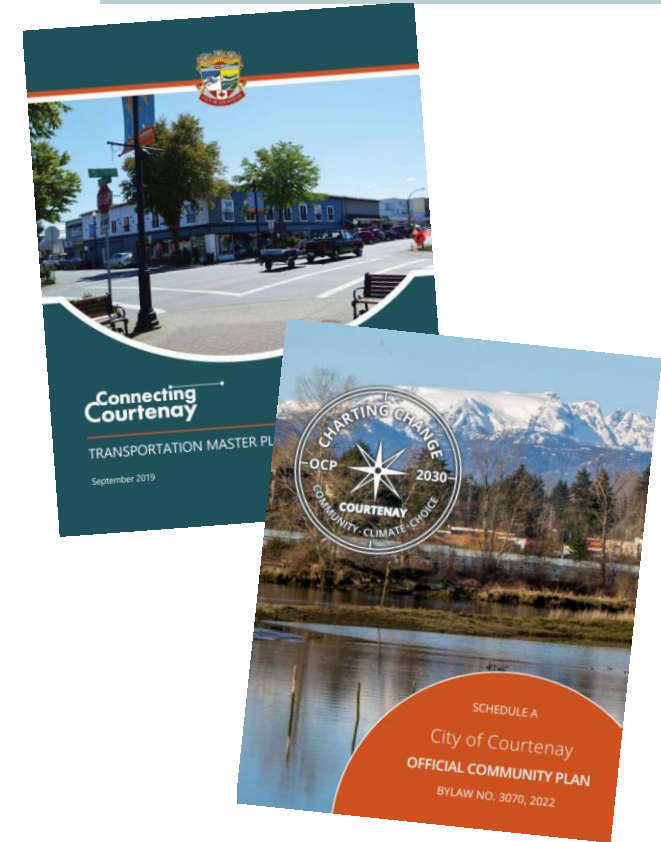


Project Overview

Safe and Active School (SAS) Program

- Recently launched SAS program in partnership with SD71.
- The program aims to:
 - Improve the safety of students travelling to/from school
 - Increase the number of students using active travel modes
- Supports City-wide goals set out in the *Official Community Plan*, *Downtown Vitalization Local Area Plan* and the *Strategic Transportation Plan*.

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Project Details

What is the SAS Program?

Program Overview

- Over the coming months schools in Courtenay will develop School Travel Plans.
- Collaboration with students, administration, and families.
- Identify barriers to safe and active school travel.
- Propose actions to address concerns through programs, built environment improvements, and policies.

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Benefits of Active School Travel

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Academic Performance

Improved brain function and cognitive development

- Better concentration and classroom behaviour
- Higher test scores and academic achievement



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Reducing car trips to school:

- Improves air quality
- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions
- Supports climate goals like British Columbia's 40% reduction target below 2007 levels by 2030
- Reduces Traffic Related Air Pollution (TRAP) in the vicinity of schools



Health and Wellbeing

- Improved cardiovascular health
- Reduced stress, anxiety, and depression
- Increased happiness and mental resilience
- Helps students develop healthy transportation habits



COMMUNITY AND EQUITY



Builds lifelong habits of independent mobility
Providing an opportunity for children to connect

with each other as well as the communities they live in by walking and cycling to and from school

- Encourages community engagement and shared responsibility
- Promotes equity by making school access safer and more inclusive for all families



TRAFFIC SAFETY



Fewer cars at drop-off and pick-up times mean safer school zones

- Reduced congestion and improved sightlines
- Improved infrastructure (crosswalks, signage, bike lanes) enhances safety for all road users
- Slower vehicle speeds reduce the severity of collisions for all road users



Six E's of Active School Travel

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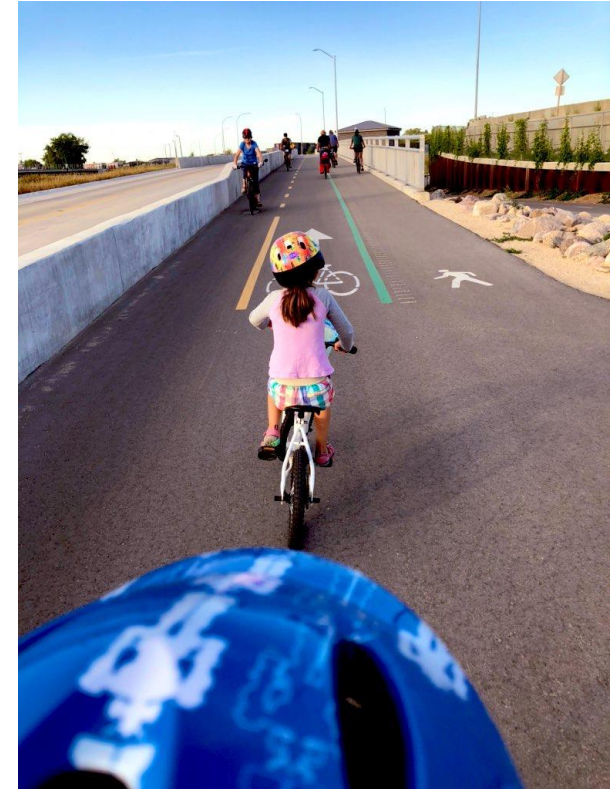
1. **Engineering:** Enhancing safety with crosswalks, bike lanes, and traffic calming measures near schools.
2. **Education:** Teaching students and families safe travel skills through training and workshops.
3. **Encouragement:** Promoting active travel with events like walk-to-school days.
4. **Enforcement:** Ensuring compliance with traffic laws and safety guidelines around schools.
5. **Evaluation:** Tracking progress and measuring the impact of active travel initiatives.
6. **Equity:** Making school travel safe and accessible for all families, removing barriers to participation.

Participating Schools

2025-26 school year:

- École Puntledge Park Elementary
- Courtenay Elementary
- Valley View Elementary Schools

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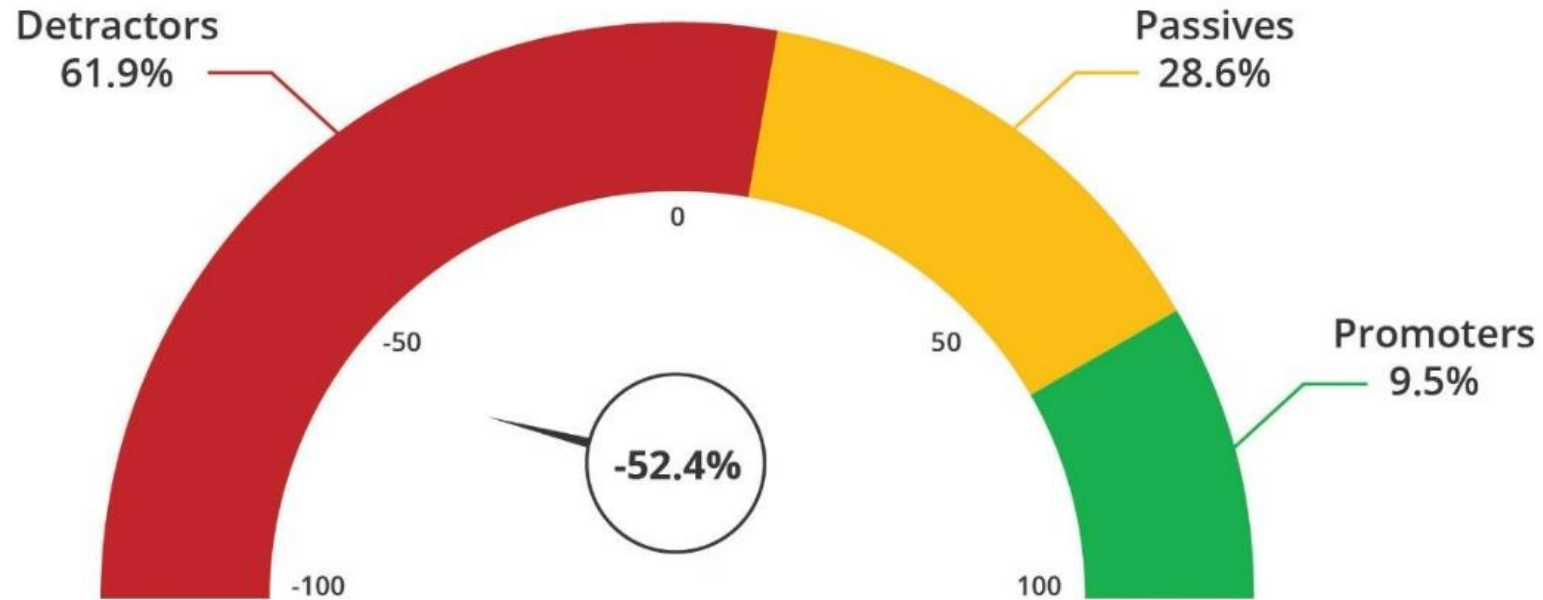
Engagement Results



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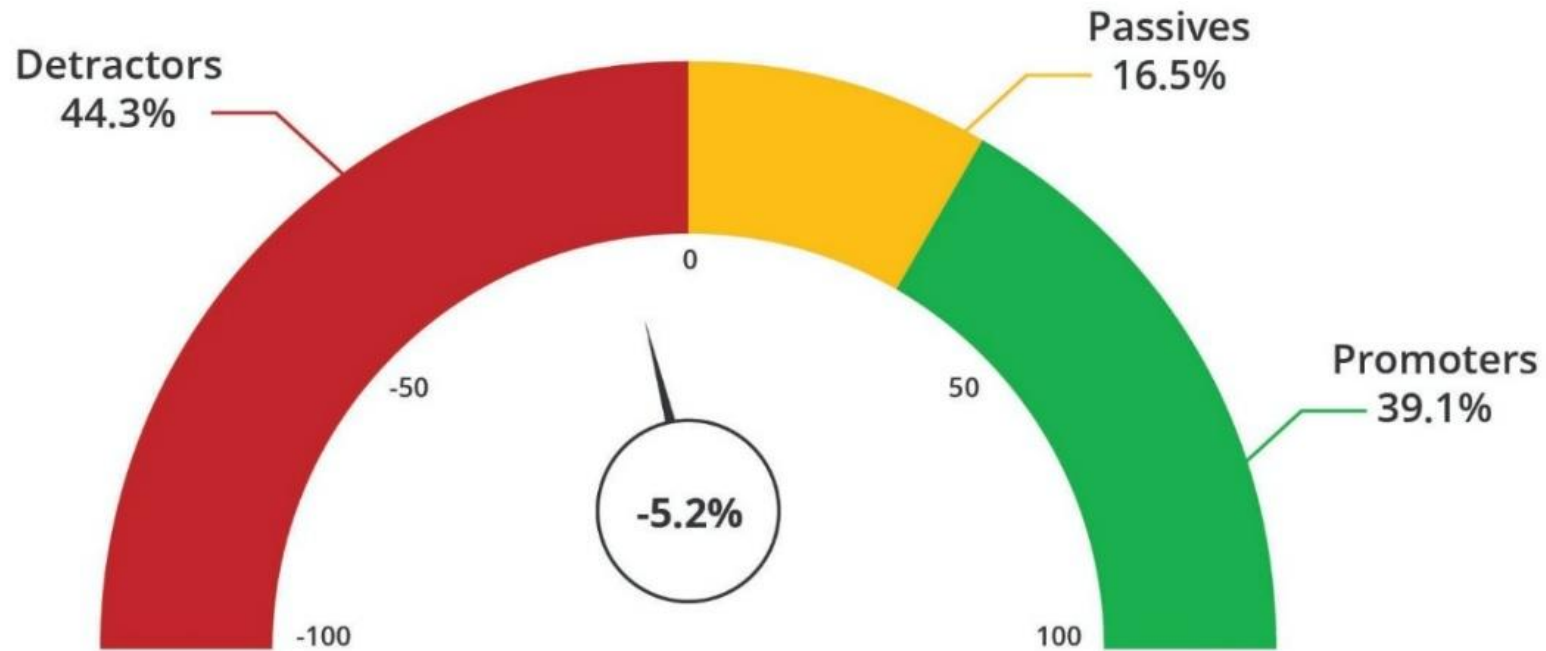
Engagement Results: Road Safety

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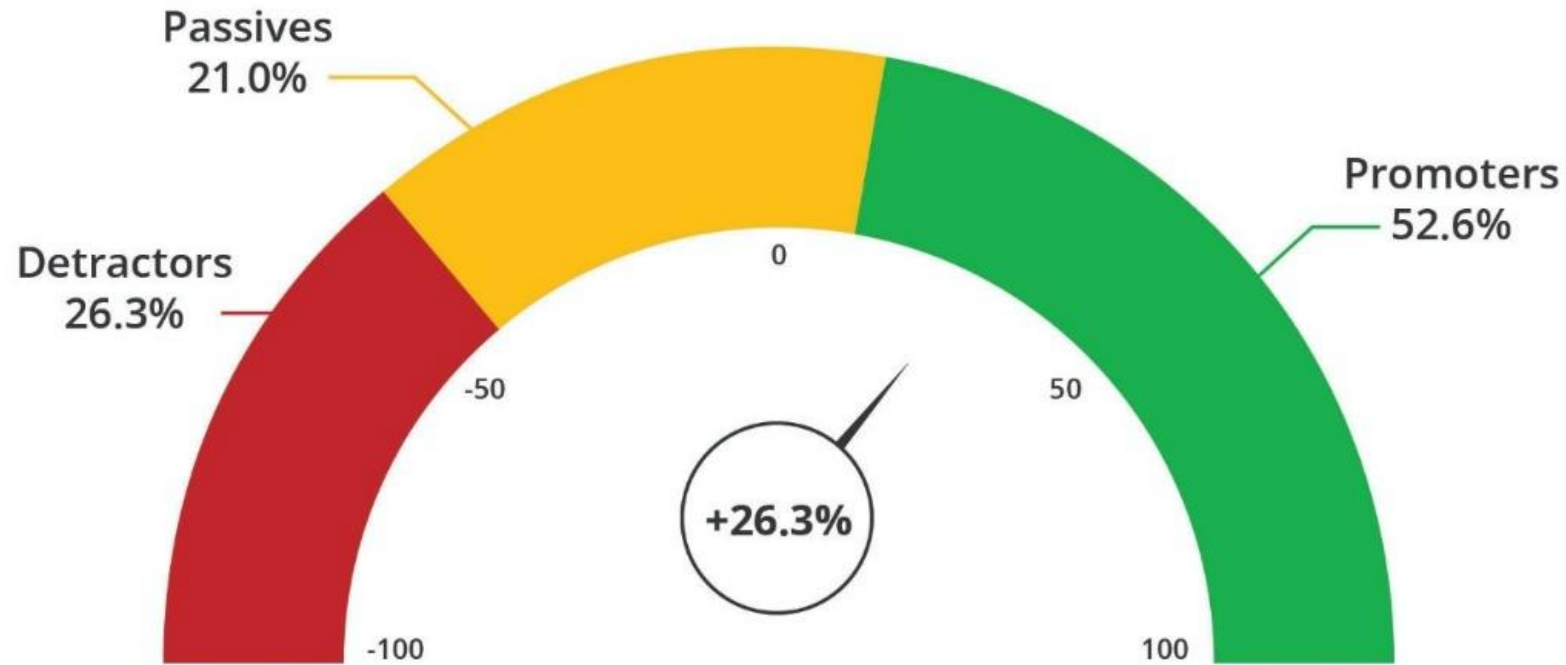
Engagement Results: Level of Comfort

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Engagement Results: Worthwhile Investment

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Early Works



SAS Program Already Completed Tasks

Crosswalk Installations – Summer 2025

- Headquarters Road at Schellinck Drive (Georges P Vanier Secondary School)
- Fitzgerald Ave @ 10th Street (Courtenay Elementary School)
- Malahat Drive @ Brooks Place (Mark R Isfeld Secondary School/Valley View Elementary School)

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SAS Program Already Completed Tasks

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Back to School Messaging Campaign – Summer 2025

- A back-to-school driver awareness campaign,
- Deployment of speed reader boards,
- Completion of infrastructure reviews and repairs around schools, including pavement markings, vegetation trimming, crosswalks, sidewalks, and flashing beacons.
- Staff coordinated with the RCMP on education and enforcement initiatives, including increased patrols during peak drop-off and pick-up times and positive reinforcement programs.

SAS Program Already Completed Tasks

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Intersection Improvements– Fall/Winter 2025

- Pedestrian crossing timing was improved along Lerwick Road at Idiens Way and Malahat Drive through cabinet upgrades and the addition of a leading pedestrian interval, increasing crossing time by five seconds in all directions.

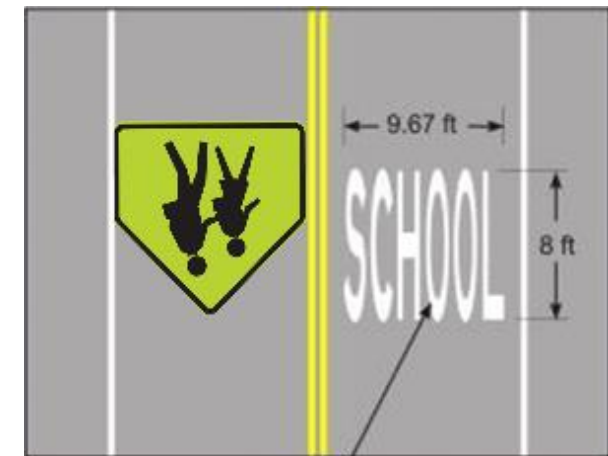


SAS Program Planned Tasks for 2026

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Upcoming Initiatives

- Add “torch down” school zone pavement markings in close proximity to existing schools in the City of Courtenay.



16" x 96" Letters,
4" spacing between letters

courtenay.ca

Next Steps

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Upcoming Initiatives

- Reviewing 589 unique comments received from school communities and interest holders
- Preliminary recommendations will be shared with school communities for consultation in March 2026 through an open house and recommendation survey
- Final safe and active school routes will be recommended with associated implementation planning and for budget discussions.

Thank you for the support and Questions



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