



# LGMS School Travel Plan – Community Report

*December 2017*

## ***The Project Enters a New Phase:***

The Lawrence Grassi Middle School STP project was administered by the Canmore Community Cruisers, with financial support from the Alberta Traffic Safety Fund and the Town of Canmore. Supporting partners included the Bow Valley Primary Care Network, the Biosphere Institute of the Bow Valley, the RCMP, Canmore detachment and Canadian Rockies Public Schools. While the funded STP coordination provided by the Community Cruisers will come to an end this month, the implementation of action items is an ongoing process.



Baseline data collection took place throughout the fall of 2016. Family surveys and classroom surveys were conducted. Parent volunteers completed traffic counts and observations at key points around the school. The Municipal Stakeholder Committee supporting the project participated in a bike-about and walk-about. This provided us with a wealth of information about the active school travel habits of LGMS students and parents as well as identifying improvements that could be made to improve the active school journey, whether that was by walking or wheeling. The full STP plan and executive summary can be found on the Cruisers website under the program tab.

## ***ACTION PLANNING - 2016-2017:***

***By December 2016, we had created our ACTION plan and we were ready to begin implementing action items. What follows is a summary of the major action items that have been completed as well as those that are planned for 2018.***



***ACTION ITEM #1:*** Install quality bike parking at the front of LGMS school. This was the incentive the school earned by having a remarkable 60% return rate on the family surveys completed by parents and students. The bike parking pad and U shaped racks to accommodate 40 bikes was installed by the Town of Canmore over the summer.

***ACTION ITEM #2:*** After a commitment from the Community Cruisers to offer secure bike parking at special events in Centennial Park and an agreement with LGMS to make the bike corral available for special events, the Town of Canmore upgraded the racks in the bike corral which allows for easier & more secure locking of

bikes. The Canmore Cruisers offered bike parking for Plaid Goat Festival, Canada Day, Canmore Folk Festival, Highland Games. The Steel Wheels, a band that played at the Folk Festival were very impressed by the bike parking facilities and the number of LGMS students who bike to school year round. Having toured across several hundred miles across the U.S.A. by bike, towing their musical

instruments and equipment, they challenged the students to keep on riding with their instruments. It can be done!



**ACTION ITEM #3:** The Town of Canmore made infrastructure improvements to 7<sup>th</sup> Ave & 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> streets to calm traffic and improve the safety of the crossings for students walking and biking across 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. Bollards were placed on either side of 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, to put the road on a “diet” (give the road a narrow waistline at that point and slow vehicles down). Artwork designed by grade 8 students and painted by a local artist in the buffered space is also intended to slow traffic and create awareness of the crossing zone. The modifications prevent cars from stopping adjacent to the crosswalks and blocking the view of people trying to cross the street. An additional crosswalk was added at 6<sup>th</sup> street to provide a direct means for students on bikes to cross 7<sup>th</sup> Ave using a marked crosswalk.





**ACTION ITEM #4:** The Town of Canmore improved the active travel route to school for students living in Teepee Town. They can now travel to LGMS by using the new Bow Valley Trail crossing, the improved connection along Bow Valley Trail and the improved access across the CPR tracks. Then they can use the off-road multi-use trail and separated bike track to reach 5<sup>th</sup> Street. Improvements to the crossing of 5<sup>th</sup> Ave and 5<sup>th</sup> Street are planned for early in 2018.

**ACTION ITEM #5:** The Community Cruisers worked hard to help Improve the visibility of students travelling in low-light conditions, especially in the dark winter months.

The Cruisers conducted a visibility campaign in Dec 2016, handing out bike lights and reflective items provided at the school in Dec 2016, as well as holding a “Light my Ride” community workshop which was repeated on Nov 26, this year.

For a limited time this month, new batteries for the bike lights that were handed out to students will be available on a “while supplies last” basis from the LGMS school office.



**ACTION ITEMS #6, #7 & #8:** LGMS staff conducted bike safety training for grade 4 students in June 2016. The school promoted Winter Bike to Work/School Day and the Commuter Challenge and International Walk & Wheel to school day because active school travel provides students with so many benefits. An assembly was held Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> with international guests to celebrate project successes.





## **KEY ACTION ITEMS FOR 2018:**

**ACTION ITEM #1:** The Town of Canmore will undertake infrastructure improvements to the roundabout at the entrance to Spring Creek Gate. In an effort to increase comfort levels for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers the town will:

- Increase space for pedestrians and cyclists to pause in between traffic lanes on the most challenging leg of the roundabout
- In partnership with local volunteers, put in a trail parallel to Bow Valley Trail that allows drivers see kids biking to school and better anticipate when they will be crossing the roadway

**ACTION ITEM #2:** The Town of Canmore will make changes to the intersection of 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. and 5<sup>th</sup> St (near the Stan Rogers stage) to improve the flow of cyclists and pedestrians using 5<sup>th</sup> Street and crossing 5<sup>th</sup> Ave while reducing vehicular speeding along 5<sup>th</sup> Ave.

**ACTION ITEM #3:** The Town of Canmore will make improvements to the connectivity from Bow Bridge to 6<sup>th</sup> Street and make 6<sup>th</sup> Street a bicycle and pedestrian priority street.

**ACTION ITEM #4:** The Town of Canmore will make improvements to both crossings at Rundle Crescent and Bridge Road.

**ACTION ITEM #5:** The Canmore Community Cruisers and LGMS will partner to promote Winter Bike to Work/School Day (Fri Feb 9), Thirty Days of Biking (April) and Commuter Challenge in June.

**ACTION ITEM #6:** LGMS will conduct bike safety training for Grade 4 students in May/June 2018?

**ACTION ITEM #7:** LGMS will support the continuation of the STP process by forming a school committee, re-doing the classroom and family surveys in 2018 and continuing to encourage students and parents to use active school travel through events such as Active School Travel Week (Feb 5 – 9, 2018) and Walk to School Week (Oct 2 – 5). SHAPE

### **HELP WANTED:**

#### **A HANDFUL OF VOLUNTEERS TO SIT ON OUR SCHOOL STP COMMITTEE**

1. A parent or teacher volunteer to act as STP Coordinator – liaise with the Town of Canmore; monitor completion of action items; promote 2 or 3 active school travel events per school year; administer completion of family survey & summarize results; chair 2 or 3 brief meetings/year
2. A student volunteer – to collect classroom survey data & input into Bike Walk Roll website; to be student advisor on committee that meets 2 or 3 x per year; assist with promoting active school travel
3. Two parent/teacher volunteers to attend committee meetings; assist with promoting active school travel; assist with completion of family surveys.

If you are willing to serve on this valuable committee, please speak with: Mme. Trottier; Ms. Quinlan