

"Our kids look forward to coming to school!"



Hamilton

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School Streets Feasibility Study

What are School Streets?

A school street is a vehicle-free street alongside a school that is open to pedestrians, cyclists, and other active travel mode users during school drop-off and pick-up.

Why have a School Street?

There is growing evidence from around the world that a school street can improve:



**Roadway
Safety** ^{1,2}



**Air
Quality** ³

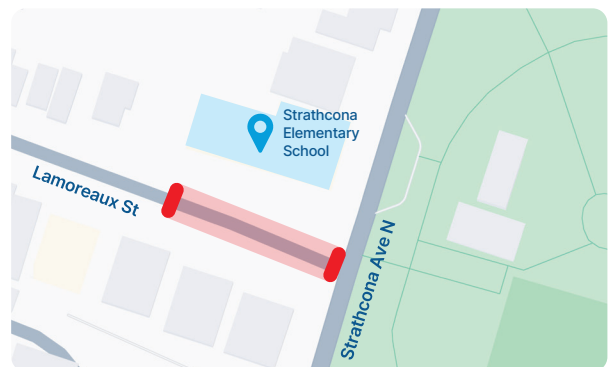


**Physical & Mental
Well-Being** ¹

Strathcona Elementary School

Strathcona Elementary School is a K – 5 school in Hamilton's Ward 1. ⁴ Strathcona hosts numerous before and after school programs as well as the Scholastics, Arts, and Global Education (SAGE) program within the HWDSB.

Every morning from April 2 – June 27, 2024, a 70m stretch of Lamoreaux St was opened to students, families, and active travel users between 8:30 – 9:00am. City of Hamilton staff used temporary road barriers to block the roadway. Families, including the Home and School Association, brought formal and informal activities for the students to use before the morning bell.



¹ 8 80 Cities. (2019). School Streets Guidebook. Victoria, BC: 8 80 Cities.

Retrieved from <https://880cities.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/school-streets-guidebook-2019.pdf>

² Transport for London. (2022). School Streets Qualitative Research.

Retrieved from <https://content.tfl.gov.uk/school-streets-qualitative-research-2022.pdf>

³ Bloomberg Philanthropies. (2021, 3 9). New studies show School Streets improve air quality.

Retrieved from Bloomberg Philanthropies: <https://www.bloomberg.org/press/new-studies-show-school-streets-improve-air-quality/>

⁴ Hamilton Wentworth District School Board. (2024). Strathcona Elementary School.

Retrieved from <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/strathcona/>

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Feasibility Study

The City of Hamilton asked families, students, school staff, and neighbours about their travel and feelings around the school during bell times. Online surveys, students voting boards, traffic counts, feedback cards, discussions, and social media comments were collected throughout the study period: March – June 2024.



Impact of the School Street

Highlights

70%



Reduction in traffic during implementation.

≈10%



Increase in families reporting active travel use to school.

20%



Increase in perceived safety on the school commute.

What We Heard

"During drop off time multiple cars are pulling up to the curb in front of the school. There is no shoulder to separate the sidewalk crowded with kids starting school from the road. My daughter was almost hit by a car that mounted up onto the sidewalk while parking in front of the school one morning [prior to the School Street]."

(PARENT/CAREGIVER)

"I drive my kids from out of catchment, and it adds a couple minutes to the drop-off (park at Victoria Park and walk over) - but it seems nicer for families that walk/bike to school, so I'm supportive. Plus, it's lovely to see my kids meet their friends and have a chance to play before the bell."

(PARENT/CAREGIVER)

"What's now happy commotion used to be 'traffic chaos,' with cars lining either side of the narrow street — neither enjoyable nor safe for students and their families."

(PRINCIPAL IN THE SPEC)

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Next Steps

School streets are one option to create a safer school commute and support active travel to school. The City of Hamilton is considering both **temporary & permanent infrastructure models** for future school streets. A **screening tool** is being developed by the City of Hamilton for the Fall of 2024. The tool will be used to identify other schools that could benefit from a school street. This tool, along with **engagement and staffing considerations**, will guide future implementation.



Create **Temporary & Permanent Infrastructure Models** for future school streets.



Use a **Screening Tool** to identify other schools that can benefit from this.



Use **Engagement & Staffing Considerations** for future implementation.



For more information visit ActiveSchoolTravelHamilton.ca or email ActiveSchoolTravel@Hamilton.ca

