



School Streets

Isaac Brock School Pilot Project Overview

About School Streets

A school street is a road in front of a school that is temporarily made into a walk and bike path at the start and end of the school day, with a short-term restriction on vehicle through-traffic. During this time the street is blocked to cars, taxis, and trucks, creating space for students and parents who are walking, biking and rolling to get to school safely.

School streets support children's health and safety by proactively addressing road safety issues, increasing daily physical activity for kids, and encouraging healthy independence. In addition, the street closures reduce traffic congestion, air pollution, and noise pollution. The result is a safer, healthier and more enjoyable environment for everyone in the school community.

School Streets also function as an important component of a COVID-19 response, and are an innovative way to provide additional space for students, parents and teachers to physical distance at the start and end of the school day. They have been adopted at elementary schools across as an added measure to keep schools open while also keeping communities safe and healthy.

School Street Benefits

1. COVID-19 Response

Winnipeg school divisions have adapted school protocols to help keep everyone safe and healthy. Removing cars from the street at the school will provide more safe outdoor space for students as they arrive at the school, to get information from teachers, to keep class cohorts separate, or host outdoor class.

2. Safety

Traffic volumes and unsafe driver behaviours around schools continue to cause safety risks for students. The 2018 school safety assessment showed risky and dangerous driving behaviours on streets in front of schools. Removing vehicle traffic will provide a safe haven for students in their final block to school.

3. Healthy Lifestyles

Canadian Children received a D+ for overall daily physical activity in the 2020 ParcipACTION Report Card. Due to Covid-19 response measures, daily physical activity has dropped further. School streets can increase physical activity, through active school travel and a chance to play outside before the bell.

4. Independent Mobility

School streets allow for children to be independent, an important aspect of children's development and emotional well-being.

5. Improved neighbourhood environment

School streets reduce air and noise pollution, resulting in a more pleasant environment and neighbourhood.



About the Pilot

The focus area for a pilot was on schools in Winnipeg School Division (WSD), given an expressed a desire to address safety concerns and find opportunities to support active school travel as a solution to transportation limitations. The school streets project is supported by WSD School Trustee Jennifer Chen, Councillor Cindy Gilroy and Councillor Ross Eadie.

Schools were assessed for suitability based on a set of criteria: grades (elementary schools only), rates of active school travel, school's demonstrated commitment to walking and biking, road safety issues and concerns, suitability of location, and capacity of school staff and parents to manage the closures. From a shortlist of schools, Isaac Brock School was selected by a shortlist of schools.*

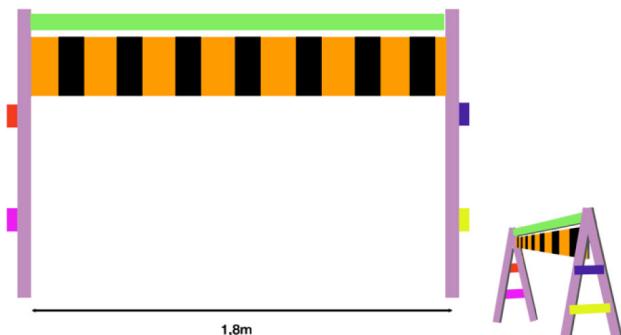
Isaac Brock Closure Details

A 60-day pilot, beginning on the first day of school at Isaac Brock: September 8 - November 7, 2020.

The street closure will be Monday to Friday, 8:30am - 4pm on Barratt. Barricades (being provided by Green Action Centre) will be placed on Barratt by school staff or parent volunteers.

Monitoring with additional barricades will be from 8:30am - 9am, and 3:15pm - 3:45pm.

'Road Closed' signs will be posted on street signs for drivers, and on the barricades with details of the closure.



Managing Traffic

Student Drop-off and Pick-up

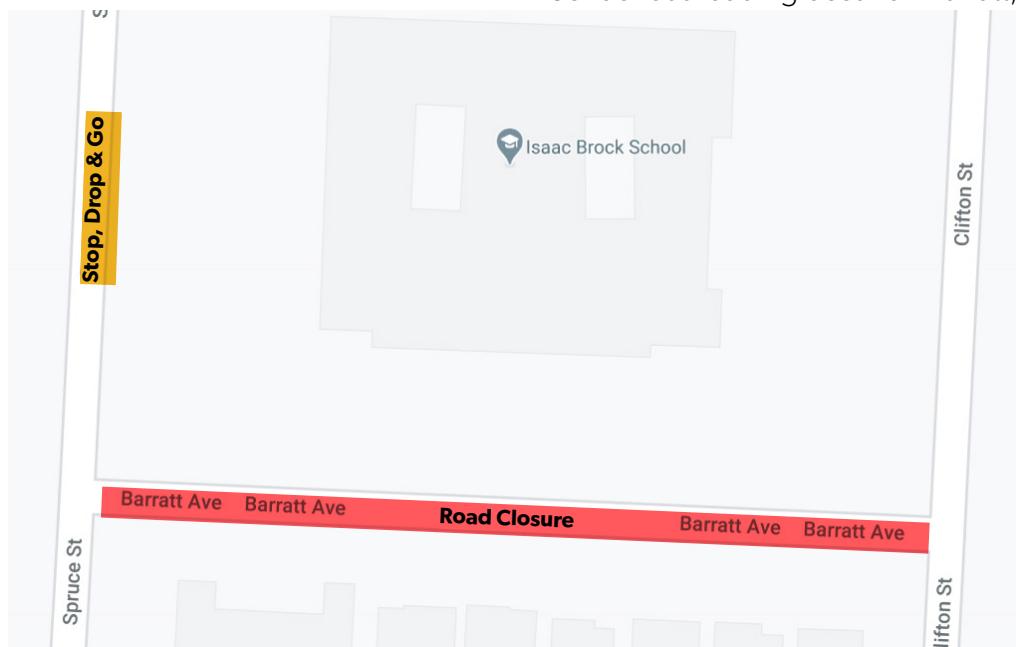
Drop-off and pick-up by car will occur on Spruce, with the addition of a 'Stop, Drop, & Go' zone to reduce traffic issues.

Emergency and Local Traffic

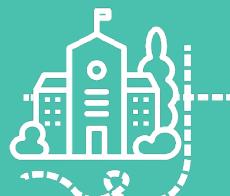
Local traffic (vehicles of residents on the street) and emergency vehicles will be permitted.

School Buses

School bus loading occur on Barratt, as usual.



*assessment of the shortlist to select final candidates was conducted by City of Winnipeg engineers.



Responsibilities

Green Action Centre

Coordinating the school streets pilot, including communications with local residents, development of communications materials to be distributed by the school, promotion, training participating teachers and parents, and coordinating project evaluation. Winnipeg Trails Association and Bike Winnipeg will support with neighbourhood communications such as flyers and posters, and traffic counts.

Winnipeg School Division

Communications with parents and coordinating relevant departments such as buses or facilities management, and project evaluation.

The Schools

Sending communications and details to parents and students, regular BikeWalkRoll surveys to gather school travel data, and setup and removal of barricades each day.

More Reading

[Winnipeg School Division Pandemic Planning](#)

[CAA Manitoba School Safety Assessment](#)

[Hackney School Streets Toolkit](#)

[8-80 School Streets Guidebook - Ontario Active School Travel](#)

About Green Action Centre

Green Action Centre is a Winnipeg-based environmental non-profit that specializes in sustainable transportation and waste reduction programs in Manitoba.

The sustainable transportation programs work at all levels of government to reduce barriers to active and healthy transportation at home, at school, at work, and in the community.

About Active and Safe Routes to School

Active and Safe Routes to School is a program of Green Action Centre that provides resources and supports to schools and families that want to get active.

Walking, biking or rolling on the trip to and from school is an important (and fun!) step towards children and youth getting the necessary daily exercise and time outdoors for physical and mental health.

Working with students, schools, and communities to remove barriers to walking, biking and rolling, Active and Safe Routes to School supports equal access and mobility for everyone.

