

**From:** [Dale Burgos](#)  
**To:** [Dawn |](#) ; [Consultation](#) RE: Draft  
**Subject:** feedback  
**Date:** October 31, 2023 8:51:23 AM

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Hello Dawn,

Thank you for your feedback, it will be shared with the Board and district senior staff.

Dale Burgos (He/Him)  
Executive Director of Communications, Privacy & Community Engagement  
Direct 250 741-5273 | Cell 250 616-6463

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-----Original Message-----

From: Dawn |  
Sent: October 27, 2023 11:23 AM  
To: Consultation <[consultation@sd68.bc.ca](mailto:consultation@sd68.bc.ca)>  
Subject: Draft feedback

- > To all it may concern,
- >
- > I am writing in regards to item 1.1.2
- > As a mother of 3 and a concerned resident of Gabriola island, I would like to bring to your attention a critical oversight in your draft. The 4km limitation for District provided transportation is failing two Gabriola areas.
- >
- > There is insufficient bus service to Ferne/Hess Road and Harrison Road, where a number of your students reside. We ask that you expand the bus route to accommodate these areas by either reducing the distance criteria or simply making an exception for the following reasons...
- >
- > 1. UNSAFE CONDITIONS
- > These routes have NO SIDEWALKS or safe pathways off of the road and there are NO STREETLIGHTS!
- > Young children are expected to walk in the pitch black winter months, on the side of long steep narrow & winding roads. These conditions pose a very real safety risk and are a constant worry to our children and families.
- >
- > 2. DISTANCE AND ELEVATION CHANGES
- > These routes are not only too long for young children to walk, they have sustained steep hills. It is completely unreasonable to expect young students to be able to walk 4km uphill in a timely manner to get to and from school.
- >
- > 3. NO OTHER ACCESS TO TRANSPORTATION
- > Not all families have access to a vehicle or other modes of transportation. On Gabriola, we do not have public bus services like cities do. The limited service that our "Gertie" provides does not access Ferne/Hess at all. The poverty rate is actually quite high on Gabriola, and many families cannot afford a personal vehicle or taxi ride.
- >
- > If a parent cannot get their child to school and there is no District provided bus, the child cannot get to school. Missing school due to lack of sufficient transportation happens and is unacceptable.
- >
- > The distance criteria must be reduced or an exception made, so that ALL children can safely travel to school.
- >
- > Thank you for considering these factors in your review of the draft.> Dawn and David Adair

**From:** [Dale Burgos](#)  
**To:** [Tavia Cowie](#); [Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** RE: draft Strategic Plan and Policy 3.8 - Transportation response  
**Date:** October 31, 2023 8:40:57 AM

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Hello Tavia,

At this time, there is no plan of adding bus routes for district programs. The feedback we are looking for is only on the changes in the Transportation Policy document. However, if you are suggesting this added service, I can still share this feedback with the Board.

Dale Burgos (He/Him)  
Executive Director of Communications, Privacy & Community Engagement  
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-----Original Message-----

From: Tavia Cowie  
Sent: October 26, 2023 8:50 AM  
To: Consultation <[consultation@sd68.bc.ca](mailto:consultation@sd68.bc.ca)>  
Subject: draft Strategic Plan and Policy 3.8 - Transportation response

To whom it may concern:

Can I clarify, is the school district looking at adding school bus transportation to District program (specifically École Hammond Bay)? I strongly believe this would be a very utilize service as many of the student live farther away then the designated distance, and could have a few designated pick up points for students to get to and from school (similar to Nanaimo Christian School's bus program). For younger children this would be a much more viable and safe option when compared to the city bus (even with older siblings).

Thank you for your clarification and consideration on this important point.

Tavia Cowie

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**From:** [Dale Burgos](#)  
**To:** [Armstrong, Michael](#); [Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Transportation Policy  
**Date:** October 31, 2023 8:49:07 AM  
**Attachments:** [image003.png](#)

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Hello Michael,

Thank you for your feedback, it will be shared with the Board and district senior staff.



### **Dale Burgos (He/Him)**

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**From:** Armstrong, Michael  
**Sent:** October 26, 2023 12:47 PM  
**To:** Consultation <[consultation@sd68.bc.ca](mailto:consultation@sd68.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Transportation Policy

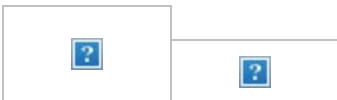
**CAUTION:** External Message

Hello,

Please consider making schools and an idle free zone during pick up and drop off to reduces GHGs, improve air quality and provide a good example to our children.

[Idle Reduction Bylaw - BC Climate Action Toolkit](#)

Thank you,  
[Michael Armstrong](#),



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**From:** [Dale Burgos](#)  
**To:** [Sue Bassett](#)  
**Cc:** [Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Policy 3.8 - Transportation - current policy  
**Date:** October 31, 2023 8:47:57 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Hello Sue,

Apologies for the delay.

Here is a direct link to the previous policy: <https://www.sd68.bc.ca/document/3-8-transportation/>

It is now linked on the community engagement page.



### **Dale Burgos (He/Him)**

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**From:** Sue Bassett  
**Sent:** October 26, 2023 9:04 AM  
**To:** Consultation <consultation@sd68.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Policy 3.8 - Transportation - current policy

**CAUTION:** External Message

Good morning,

As stated, the draft policy proposes significant changes to the current policy.

Could you please email a copy of the current policy or direct me to where I can find it on the website.

Also, it might be a great idea to either attach the current policy to the draft page or alternatively rewrite the current policy with highlighted text where the draft policy will change the wording. My apologies if the current policy is attached and I am just not finding it in the link.

Regards,

Sue Bassett

**From:** [Dale Burgos](#)  
**To:** [Marla Fiddick](#); [Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** RE: More 30 and 40 buses need before and after school at NDSS  
**Date:** October 31, 2023 8:48:25 AM

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Thank you for your feedback, it will be shared with the Board and district senior staff.

Dale Burgos (He/Him)  
Executive Director of Communications, Privacy & Community Engagement  
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-----Original Message-----

From: Marla Fiddick  
Sent: October 26, 2023 9:26 AM  
To: Consultation <[consultation@sd68.bc.ca](mailto:consultation@sd68.bc.ca)>  
Subject: More 30 and 40 buses need before and after school at NDSS

Sent from my iPad

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**From:** [Dale Burgos](#)  
**To:** [Melissa Steer](#); [Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Gabriola Bus Routes  
**Date:** October 31, 2023 8:51:39 AM

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Hello Melissa,

Thank you for your feedback, it will be shared with the Board and district senior staff.

Dale Burgos (He/Him)  
Executive Director of Communications, Privacy & Community Engagement  
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-----Original Message-----

From: Melissa Steer  
Sent: October 27, 2023 12:05 PM  
To: Consultation <[consultation@sd68.bc.ca](mailto:consultation@sd68.bc.ca)>  
Subject: Gabriola Bus Routes

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in regards to item 1.1.2 on your draft.

As a mother of 6 and a concerned resident of Gabriola island, I would like to bring to your attention a critical oversight. The 4km limitation for District provided transportation is failing two Gabriola areas.

There is insufficient bus service to Ferne/Hess Road and Harrison Road, where a number of your students reside. We ask that you expand the bus route to accommodate these areas by either reducing the distance criteria or simply making an exception for the following reasons...

#### 1. UNSAFE CONDITIONS

These routes have NO SIDEWALKS or safe pathways off of the road and there are NO STREETLIGHTS! Young children are expected to walk in the pitch black winter months, on the side of long steep narrow & winding roads. These conditions pose a very real safety risk and are a constant worry to our children and families.

#### 2. DISTANCE AND ELEVATION CHANGES

These routes are not only too long for young children to walk, they have sustained steep hills. It is completely unreasonable to expect young students to be able to walk 4km uphill in a timely manner to get to and from school.

#### 3. NO OTHER ACCESS TO TRANSPORTATION

Not all families have access to a vehicle or other modes of transportation. On Gabriola, we do not have public bus services like cities do. The limited service that our "Gertie" provides does not access Ferne/Hess at all. And the schedule does NOT get the children off of Harrison to school on time, nor does it go past the school at the end of the day. The poverty rate is actually quite high on Gabriola, and many families cannot afford a personal vehicle or taxi ride.

All children deserve to be at school on time and receive their full education. They should not have to worry about how late they will be getting to school, or how long they will have to wait to be picked up.

If a parent cannot get their child to school and there is no District provided bus, the child cannot get to school. Missing school due to lack of sufficient transportation happens and is unacceptable.

Parents work. We are Not able to leave work at 2pm 5 days a week to pick up children from school, resulting in children waiting at the school with no supervision OR not going to school because they have no way of getting home.

The distance criteria must be reduced or an exception made, so that ALL children can safely travel to and from school.

Thank you for considering these factors in your review of the draft.

Kind regards  
Melissa Steer

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** [Dale Burgos](#)  
**To:** [Emery Pakos](#); [Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Draft transportation Policy  
**Date:** October 31, 2023 8:52:06 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Hello Emery,

Thank you for your feedback, it will be shared with the Board and district senior staff.



### **Dale Burgos (He/Him)**

Executive Director of Communications, Privacy & Community Engagement  
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**From:** Emery Pakos  
**Sent:** October 29, 2023 11:02 AM  
**To:** Consultation <[consultation@sd68.bc.ca](mailto:consultation@sd68.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Draft transportation Policy

**CAUTION:** External Message

I'd like to provide some feedback for this policy.

1. The catchment school does not address students (riders) who may have been affected by "housing crisis" and either temporarily or permanently housed just outside the boundaries due to no fault of their own but not so far as to change catchment schools. Many people are having to move (sometimes multiple times), and may need to remain attending the school for consistency.
2. Socioeconomic barriers such as the "housing crisis" where people are evicted frequently, cannot find suitable or permanent housing, or have frequent moves need to be considered when looking at policies that ensure "equitable access to school" and catchment schools.
3. "Transportation assistance-....to families who are outside of the distance criteria to their catchment" Should be amended to add factors in addition to the "outside of distance criteria" such as or other socioeconomic factors that affect ability to access transportation to school. Also (1.1.2) should address how or whom decides that transportation assistance will



be available. If people have to ask their principal, they will not often do it. Have a process that isn't humiliating.

4. Ensuring equitable access to school (1.1.1) "subject to available human and financial resources, and available infrastructure.." pretty much means...they can decide for any reason not to uphold the policy of equitable access. This should be clear, and removed or address on who decides this...people can't just have an employee say "too bad" no available/funds. Children with disabilities have a right to equitable access and the "subjects" remove this right and change it to "we can try to help but..."
5. Yearly route review should ask parents feedback on this, but also include risk assessment (safety, lighting, snow removal at areas for bus stops on roads). Also, review and redo the current list of bus routes that is confusing, and missing relevant information (le/ Routes 11, 12, etc). Have yearly info provided by each students family on bussing, routes, etc.
  - Part a, make shifts to routes...etc....transportation changes should be appropriately communicated to families, and not just told to students who may not communiante it to parents well. le/ changes in early 2023 to bus 11/12 in Ladysmith.

Thanks!

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**From:** [Dale Burgos](#)  
**To:** [Sarah Holmes](#); [Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Draft Transportation Policy input  
**Date:** October 31, 2023 8:50:05 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Hello Sarah,

Thank you for your feedback, it will be shared with the Board and district senior staff.



### **Dale Burgos (He/Him)**

Executive Director of Communications, Privacy & Community Engagement  
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**From:** Sarah Holmes  
**Sent:** October 26, 2023 1:55 PM  
**To:** Consultation <[consultation@sd68.bc.ca](mailto:consultation@sd68.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Draft Transportation Policy input

**CAUTION:** External Message

Hi Board of Trustees and SD68 Communication team,

2 points of input for the Transportation Policy.

- On page 1 Active Transportation definition sentence is duplicated.
- On page 3 1.1.4. Safety and Hazard Concerns I'm wondering where the information resides to alert the district or catchment school of concerns. I'm a parent of Gabriola students and we have routes to school within the 4km distance that do not have sidewalks, street lighting, and have significant elevation changes. Unfortunately changes to these deficits are not expected anytime soon. Is it possible to have a more permanent record of the Bus Route and Hazard Evaluation Form to be held on file for these locations.

I do not know of any families that this impacts currently or if families just figure it out on their own how to get their student to school. It is also unclear how one would confirm if the district is aware of Safety and Hazard Concerns within the 4 and 4.8km radius of Gabriola Elementary

School and the ferry terminal for students accessing highschool.

While in the policy may not be the place to share where to provide information about Safety and Hazard concerns. A reference where to provide information for safety or hazard concern to the school or district would be helpful to a reader.

Thank you for your commitment to SD68 students and their families.

-Sarah Holmes

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**From:** [Dale Burgos](#)  
**To:** [O'Brien, Zach](#); [Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Draft Revised Transportation Policy - Feedback  
**Date:** November 17, 2023 12:59:38 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Hello Zach,

Thank you for your feedback, it will be shared with the Board and district senior staff.



### **Dale Burgos (He/Him)**

Executive Director of Communications, Privacy & Community Engagement  
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**From:** O'Brien, Zach  
**Sent:** November 17, 2023 11:38 AM  
**To:** Consultation <consultation@sd68.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Draft Revised Transportation Policy - Feedback

**CAUTION:** External Message

SD68,

### **Draft Revised Transportation Policy - Feedback**

**Ref:** "1.1.2. Set Distance Criteria Kindergarten to Grade 3 students who live in a residence that is located more than 4 km from their catchment school."

Currently there is approx. 9 children age 5-12 that use the bus stop at Eby and Shangri-la Rd which is 3km from Seaview Elementary. It's a busy stop that's very helpful for all parents of all ages.

Please empower the staff under the "1.2 Yearly Route Review" to consider maintaining this bus stop due to safety issues if they had to walk or bike to school due to lack of bike lane, sidewalk, road shoulder, and boulevard along Lantzville Rd.

Thanks,

Zach O'Brien