

Dear Mayor and Council

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I would like to highlight what appears to be a recent trend in school transit and one which does not align with Whistler's Climate Action Big Move's Strategy – [Move beyond the car](#).

Our family lives in Alpine and our two children (Gr 7 and 5) go to Myrtle Philip School. According to Google Maps we live 5.3km from school by car (or by a maintained walkway) or 3.2km from school via the Valley Trail (the River of Golden Dreams route, which is unmaintained during Winter). According to [SD48 regulations](#) only Gr 4 plus living >4km from school are eligible for the bus. In our case there is a bus that drives within 100m of our front door (presumably for the K to Gr 3 students); but my children are not eligible. I have applied for an exception under the "hazardous conditions" rule, for which I am awaiting a response. There are a number of families in Alpine whom this will impact, causing more car journeys if unresolved.

There appears to be a driver shortage in SD48 that is causing a tightening up of the regulations, perhaps needing to find additional capacity on the bus. I wanted to highlight this issue to Mayor and Council as I believe resolution of this issue would support the Whistler Climate Action Strategy. Furthermore, upon reading comments on a Facebook post in Whistler Parents this week [REDACTED] there appear to be a number of other issues with school transit such as poor timing of Whistler transit buses with the end of the school day, and other bus routes such as Spring Creek. On the infrequent occasion when I pick up the children from school by car, I note that the parking lot is over-flowing; surely there is an opportunity here to find out why so many parents need to drive, and find a transit solution?

I hope by raising this issue, Mayor and Council are able to co-ordinate with the relevant parties to find a solution that is in line with Whistler's Climate Action Strategy, take more car journeys off the road and encourage young people to develop good habits with respect to the use of mass transit.

Kind regards

Helen Astle