

1.

ABOUT THIS EVENT

We are updating catchment boundaries in the downtown area to accommodate the new school in Coal Harbour.

Before the Board makes a decision in November 2025, we want to hear from you as a community member in downtown.

Staff are here to answer questions and we encourage you to take the survey.

DOWNTOWN CATCHMENT REVIEW SURVEY



<https://ca.research.net/r/dtcatchment>

BACKGROUND

The new school in Coal Harbour will help meet growing enrolment demand in downtown Vancouver. The proposed catchment options consider catchment changes to downtown schools including:

- ǂx^wwəǂ^wəθət Crosstown Elementary,
- Elsie Roy Elementary,
- Roberts Elementary and
- the new school in Coal Harbour.

These proposed changes are being considered as part of managing enrolment at these schools and throughout the downtown area and take into consideration distance between student residences and catchment schools.



Photos of the new school currently under construction

2. New School at Coal Harbour: History and Catchment Planning

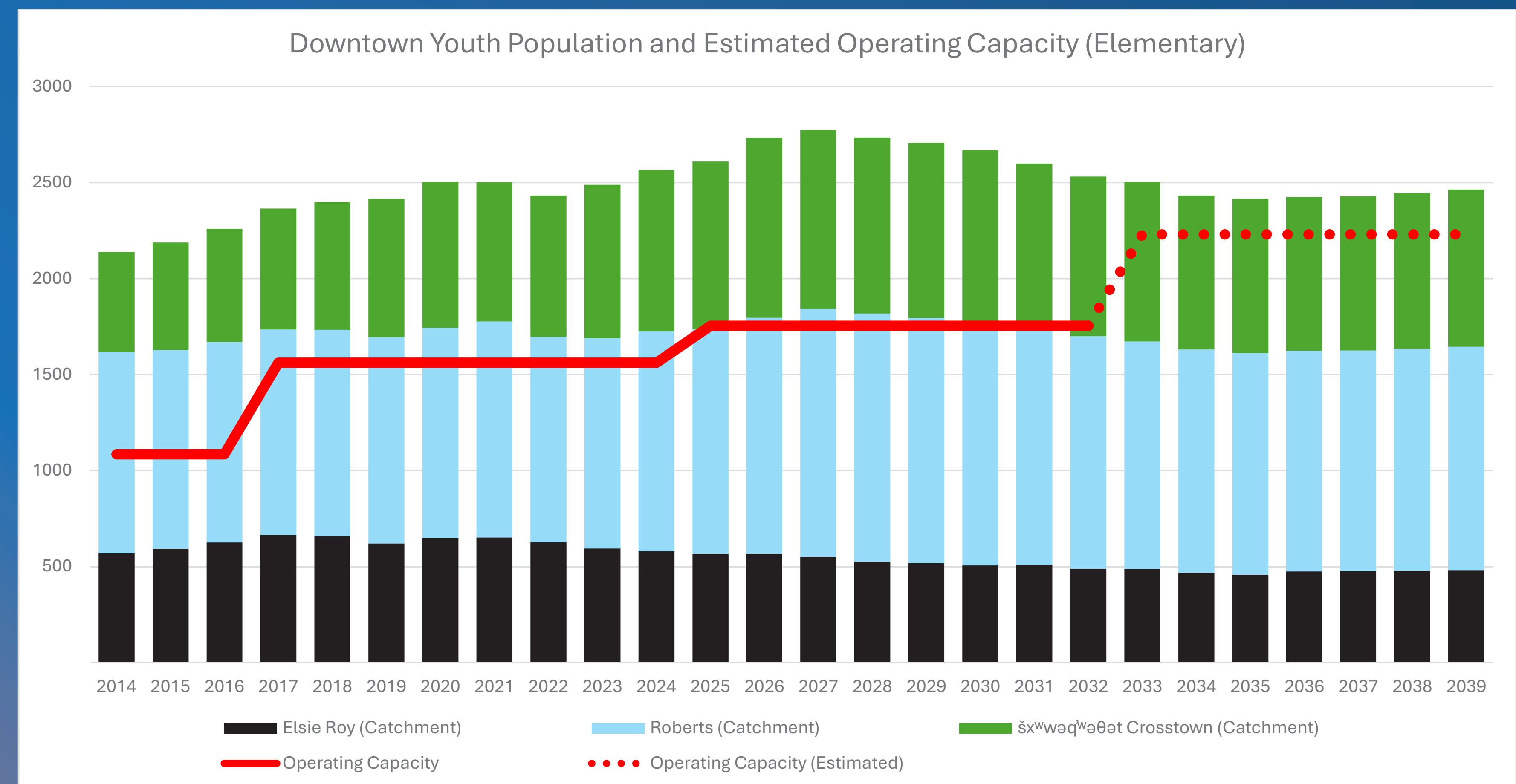
THE NEW SCHOOL AT COAL HARBOUR

The new school is part of a multi-use building that is jointly funded by VSB and the City of Vancouver. The construction is being led by the City. It includes:

- A three-story elementary school with a capacity of 340 students
- 69 school-aged child care before & after school care spaces
- A separate 4th floor child care space for 65 children aged 0-5
- 60 affordable rental homes

Students and staff who will attend the new school at Coal Harbour when it is complete are currently accommodated at both Lord Roberts Elementary and at Lord Roberts Annex. They will move to the new school when the new school building is ready.

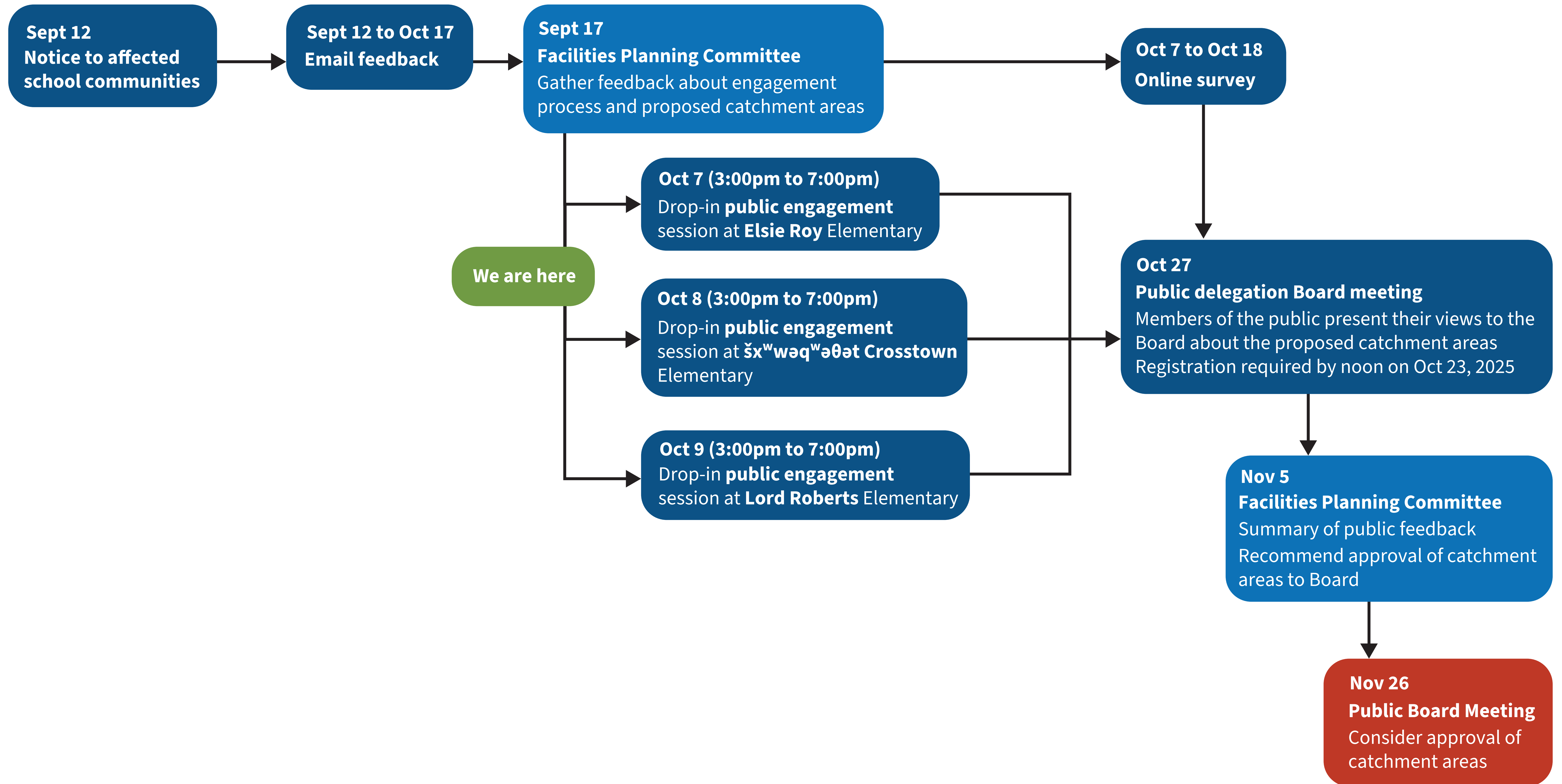
ENROLMENT & CAPACITY



The new school at Coal Harbour has been constructed to address enrolment needs in the local area. The graph above shows the increase in operating capacity in 2017 with the opening of ʂxʷwəqʷəθət Crosstown, followed by an additional increase in 2025 with the opening of the new school at Coal Harbour. The projected operating capacity for the downtown area is also shown upon the completion of a new school building at the Lord Roberts Annex site.

Youth population is represented by area of residence based on current catchment boundaries. As the new school at Coal Harbour does not yet have an established catchment, students enrolled there are recorded on the graph under one of the existing downtown school catchments.

3. Timeline for Engagement + Process



4a. Guiding AP + Consideration

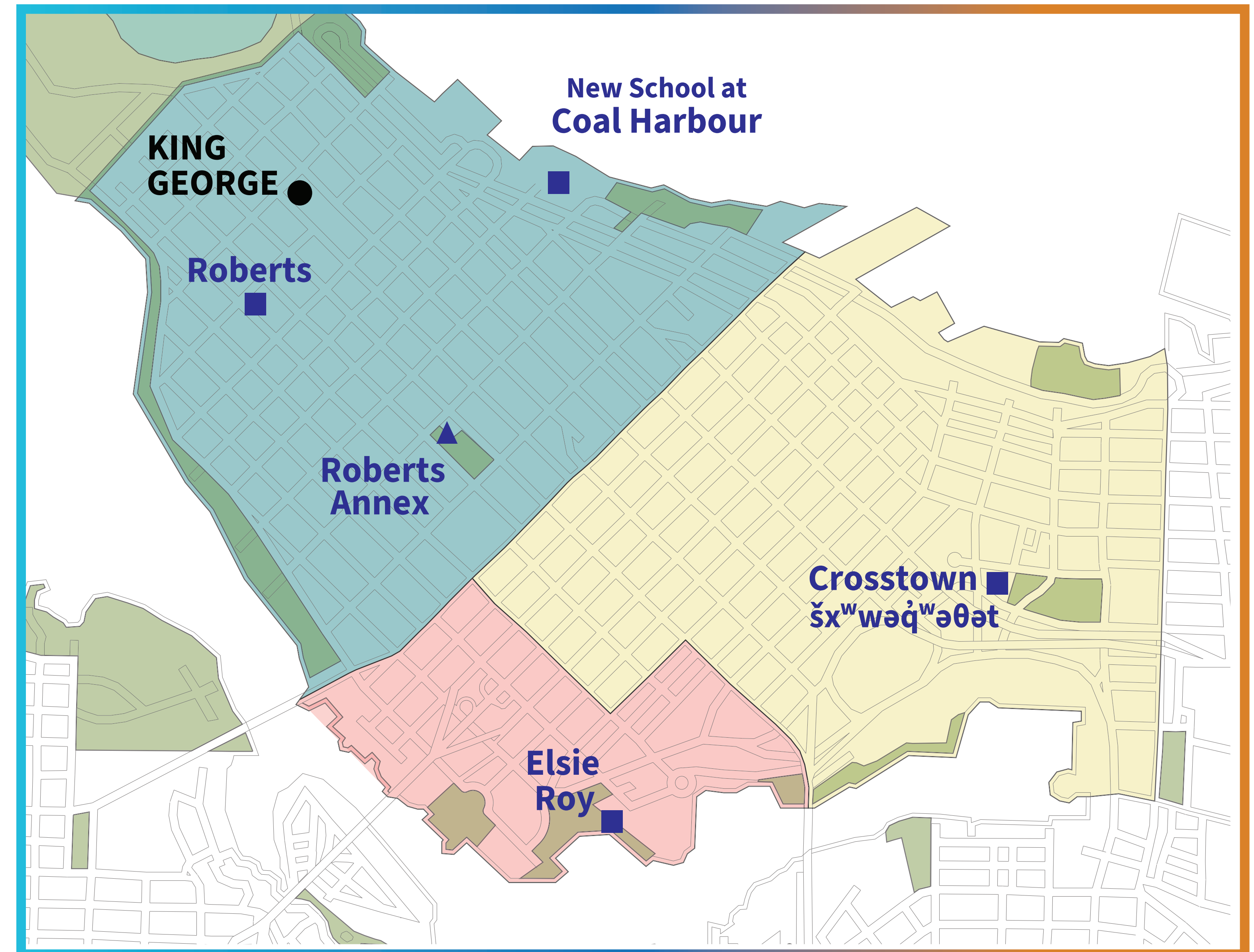
SCHOOL ACT AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE 305

A student may enrol in an educational program at any school in our school district, providing that the application to enrol is received by a specified date and there is space.

Changes to school catchment boundaries are approved by the Board of Education.

Several factors were considered when establishing proposed new catchments including:

- Population distribution and corresponding capacity at schools
- Natural boundaries
- Walking distances
- Neighbourhood connectivity and continuity
- Student safety - including major roads and bike lanes



The current downtown catchment map

4b. Guiding AP + Consideration

BUILDING NEW CATCHMENTS

An “all programs” metric is used to determine the approximate VSB student population and can be broken by sub areas to create new catchments.

Students in “all programs” include all VSB students living within the catchment area including those attending the designated catchment school, those attending alternative schools and students participating in District choice programs or District learning services programs located at other schools.

NATURAL BOUNDARIES



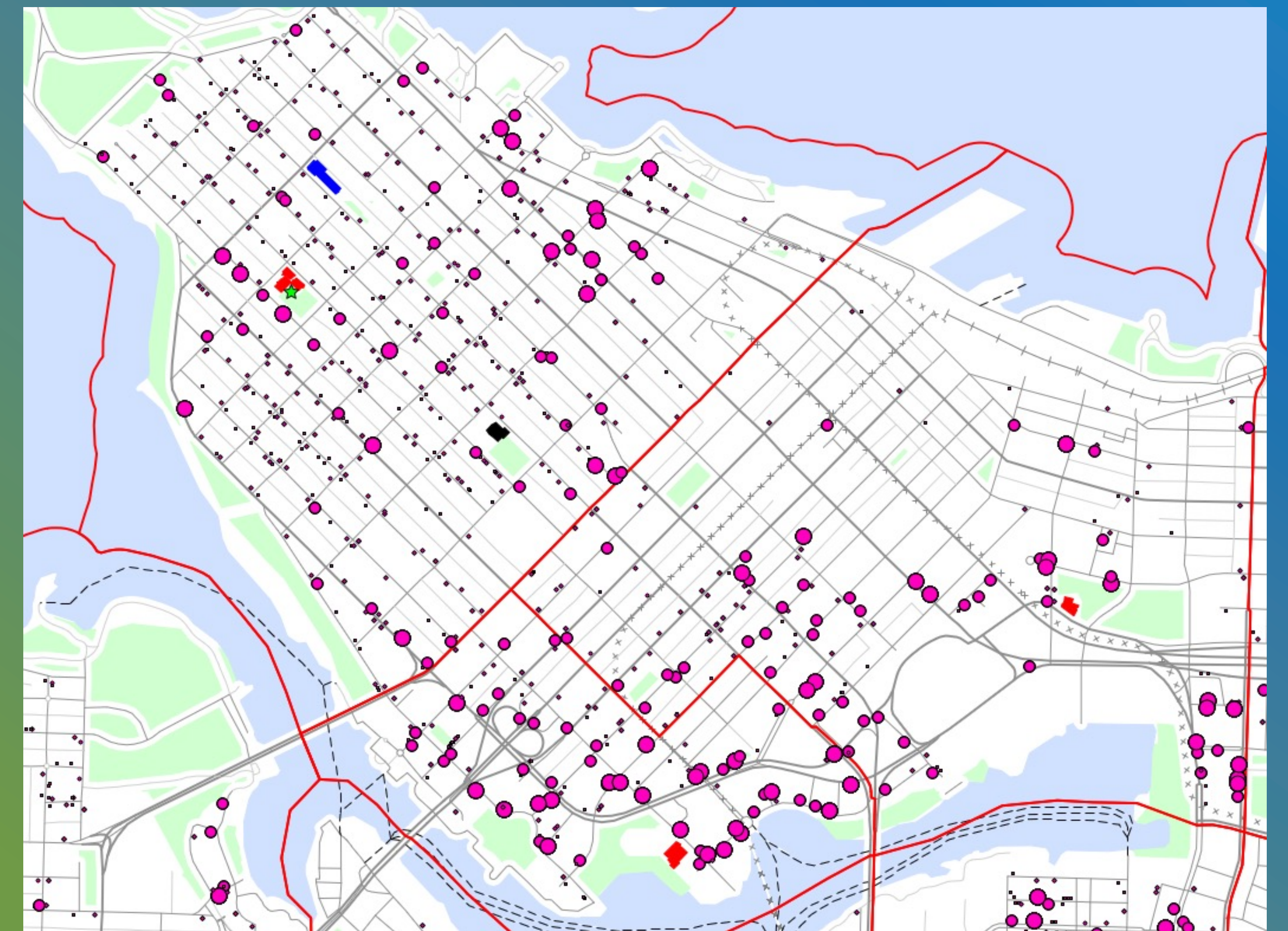
The downtown schools are located on a peninsula bounded by English Bay, False Creek, Coal Harbour and Stanley Park.

Although it is possible to cross False Creek via the Burrard, Granville or Cambie bridges, proposed catchments in this study maintain the existing consideration of False Creek as a natural boundary line.

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AND CORRESPONDING CAPACITY

The new catchments must consider existing school capacities in the distribution of students in the catchment areas, through the lens of optimizing school capacity utilization where possible.

In addition, future potential changes in student populations in the study areas that could result from local residential development must be considered.



Current student population clusters in the downtown area

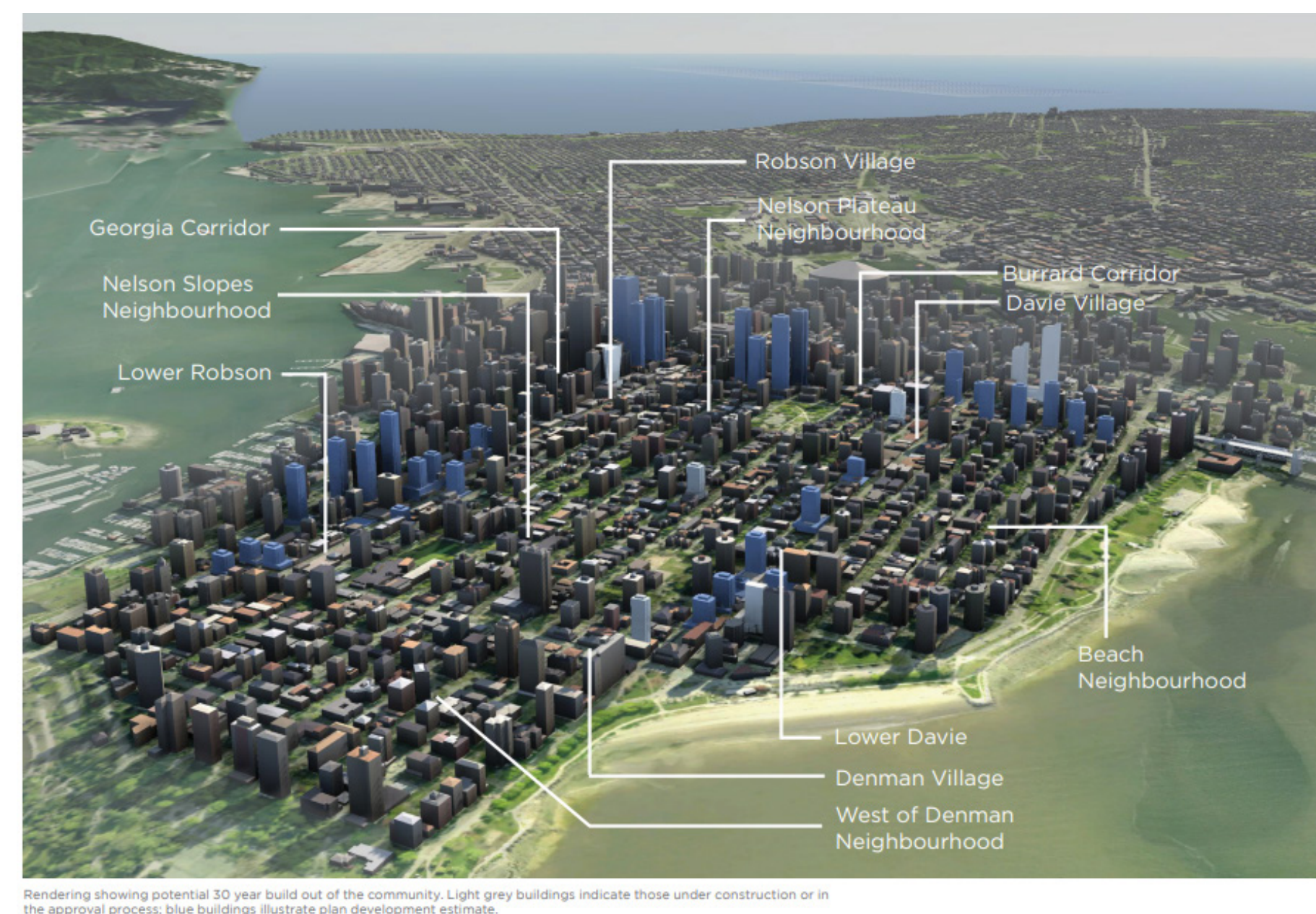
4c. Guiding AP + Consideration

NEIGHBOURHOOD CONTINUITY AND CONNECTIVITY

The downtown area is made up of many neighbourhoods. These are identified in City of Vancouver planning documents as well as observed in the ways residents relate to their immediate area. The downtown is formally made up of the following community plan areas:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| » WEST END | » DOWNTOWN SOUTH | » NORTHEAST FALSE CREEK |
| » COAL HARBOUR | » YALETOWN | » GASTOWN |
| » CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT | » FALSE CREEK NORTH | » CHINATOWN |

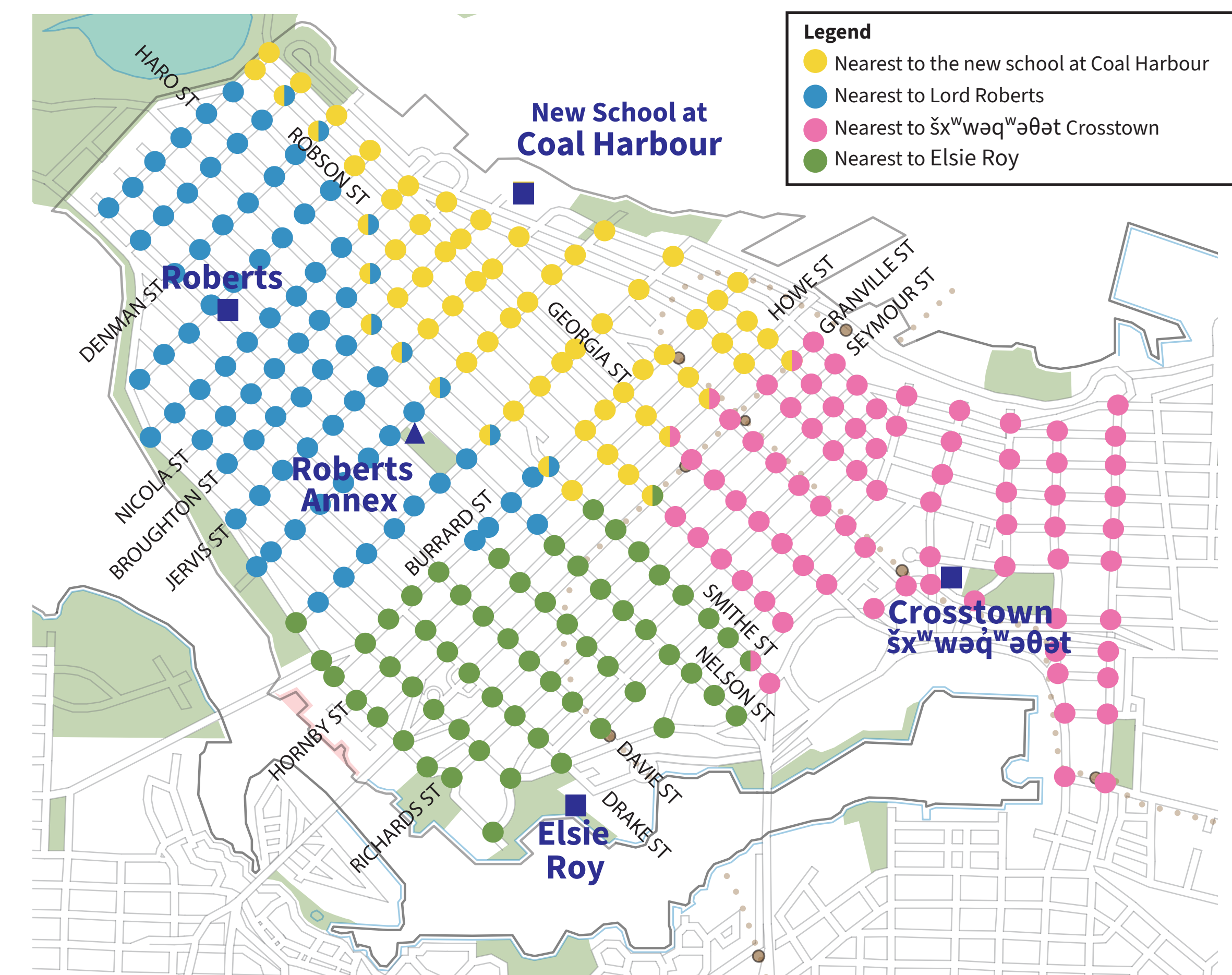
These can be further divided to areas like West of Denman and Georgia Corridor. Each of these areas help inform catchments to better keep related sub-areas together as these often contribute to a sense of community and belonging.



WALKING DISTANCES

Walking distances for all blocks in comparison to the adjacent schools have been mapped to minimize walking distance within catchments.

These distances are established based on the suitable walking path that would likely be taken by a family or student. Although distance is an important measure, barriers along these routes and neighbourhood composition play an equally important role.



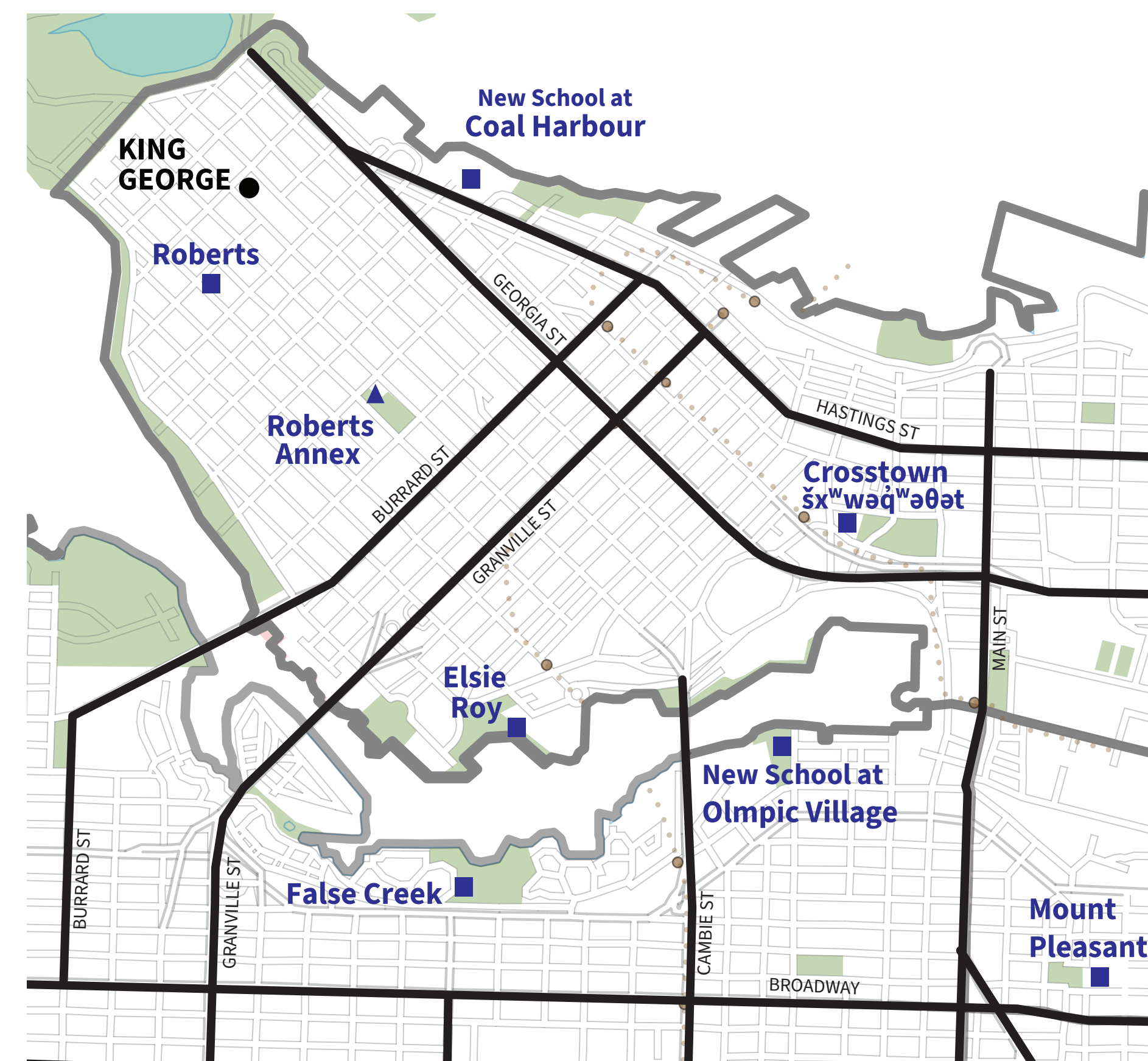
4d. Guiding AP + Consideration

STUDENT SAFETY

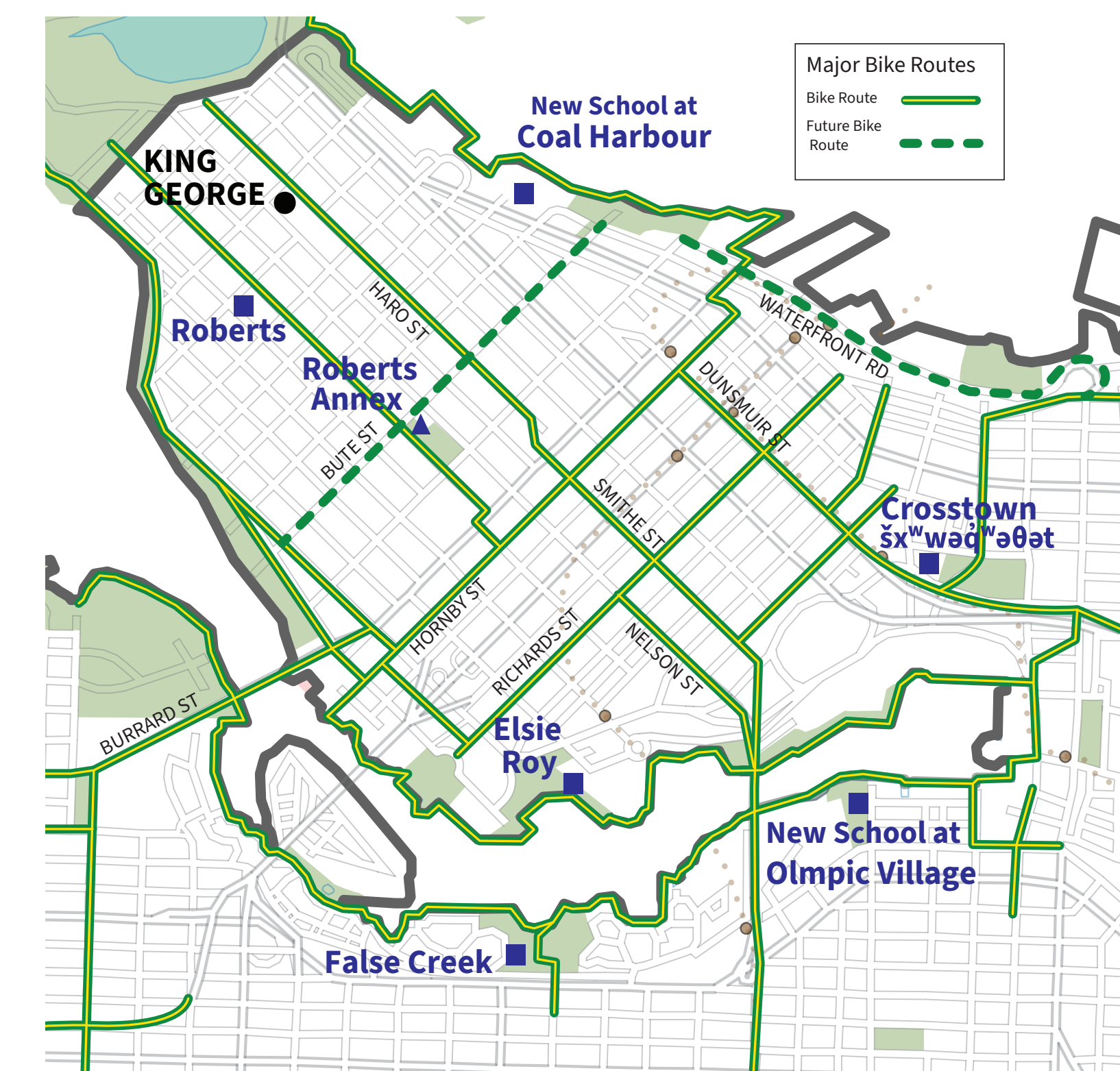
Major roads play an important role in safe travel to and from school. While road and traffic improvements (such as upgraded intersections and adjusted signal timing) can help reduce risks, these factors still need to be considered.

Georgia Street is one of the main roads to consider in this catchment change process as it is the main east-west arterial dividing downtown. The area to the north of Georgia Street does not include a sufficient student population to optimize the use of available capacity at the new school. This arterial crossing will need to be managed in collaboration with the City of Vancouver. Pedestrian crossings to access the new school in Coal Harbour from south of Georgia Street include Cardero Street, Broughton Street and Jervis Street.

MAJOR ROADS DOWNTOWN



BIKE LANES DOWNTOWN



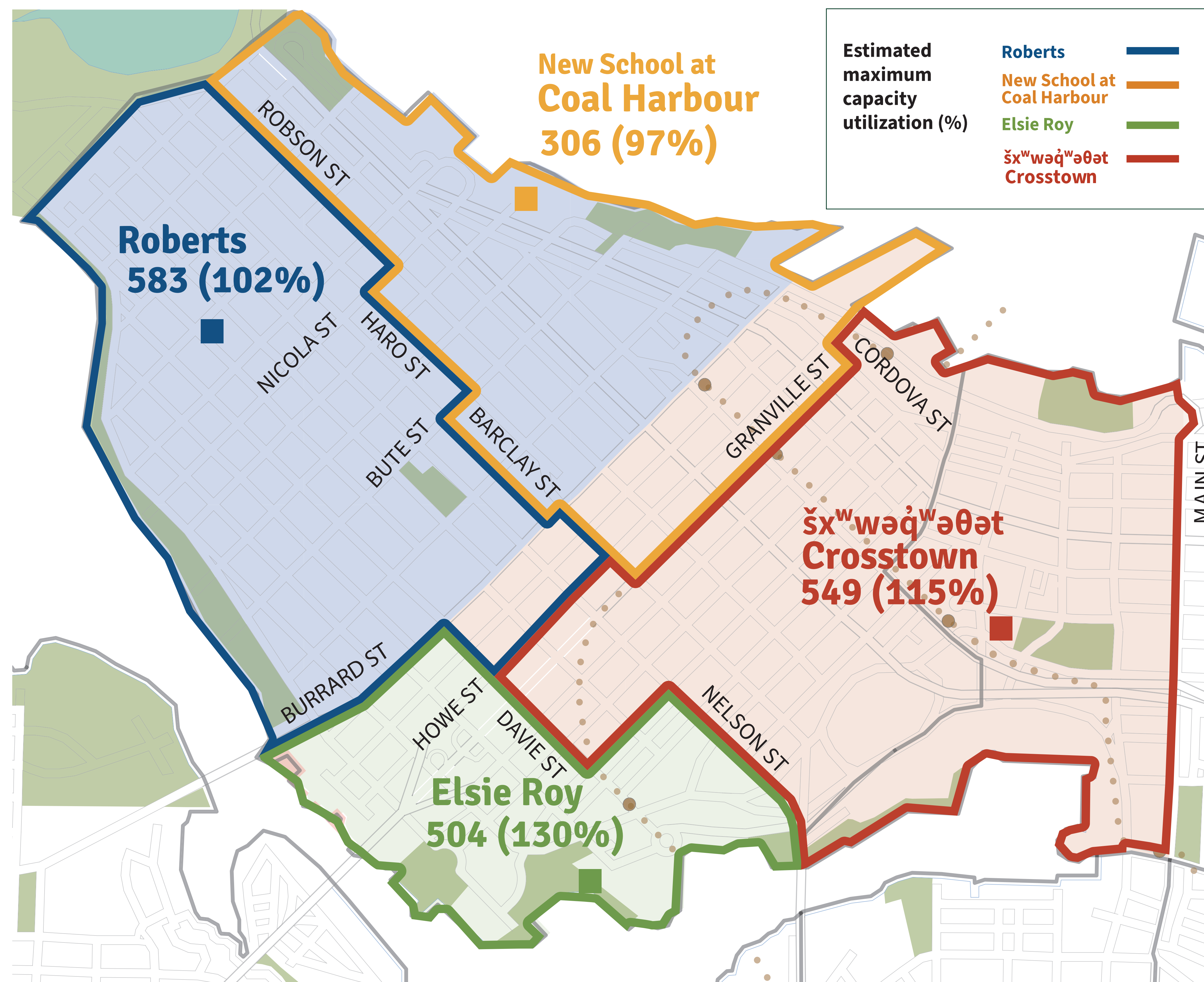
5a. Option A

In this option:

The average number of kindergarten to Grade 7 students living in each proposed catchment is relatively balanced under this option.

Compared to now, more families will live within walking distance of their catchment school.

Please add your comments here!



OPTION A - CATCHMENT PROPOSAL

5b. Option B

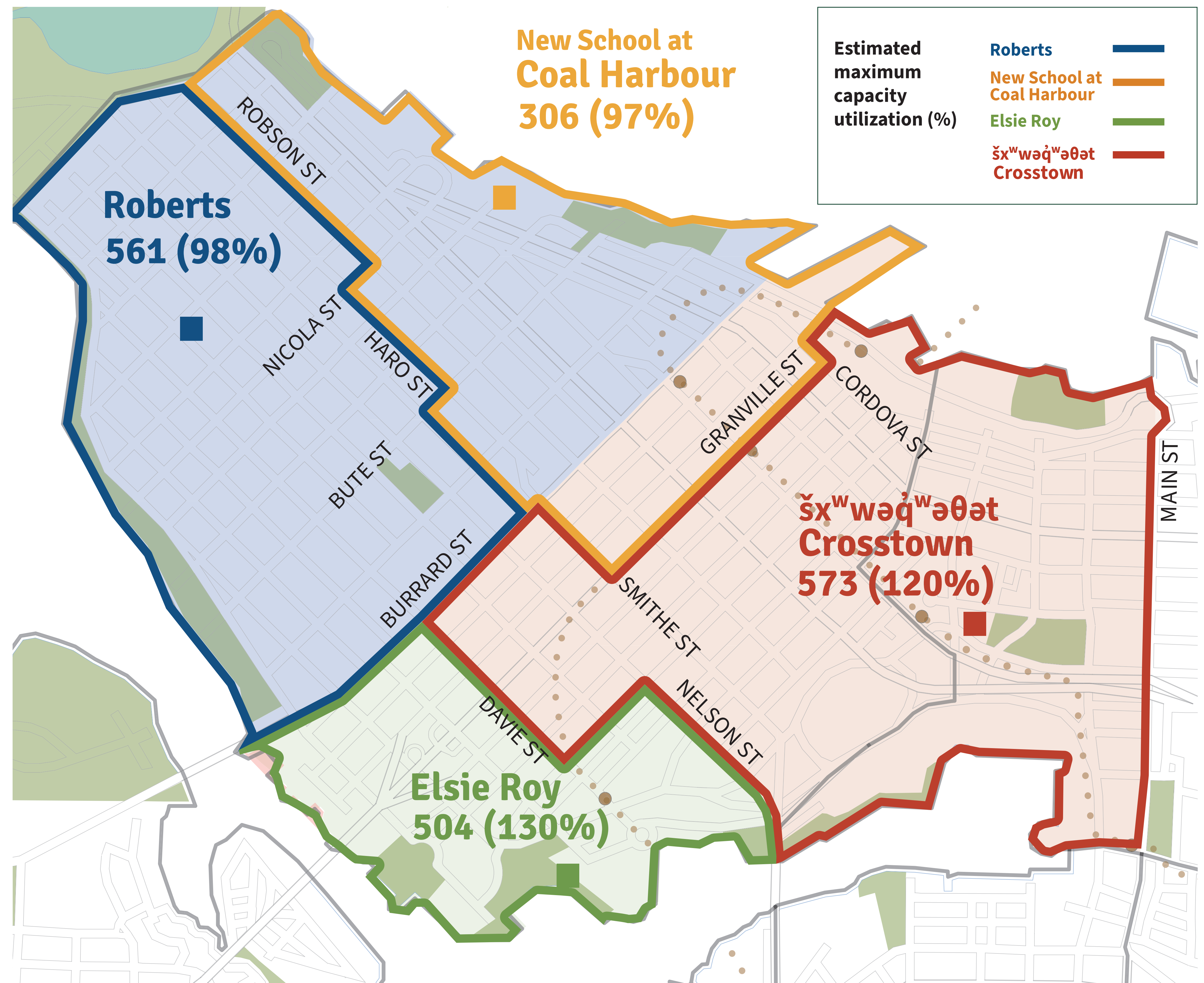
In this option:

The population is relatively balanced.

Roberts Elementary's enrolment is closer to its capacity. However, it results in less balance for šxʷwəq̓ʷəθət Crosstown Elementary.

It does not improve walking distances for some families living in the southwest part of the current Crosstown catchment. However, most families are either closer to or the same distance to their catchment school.

Please add your comments [here!](#)



OPTION B - CATCHMENT PROPOSAL

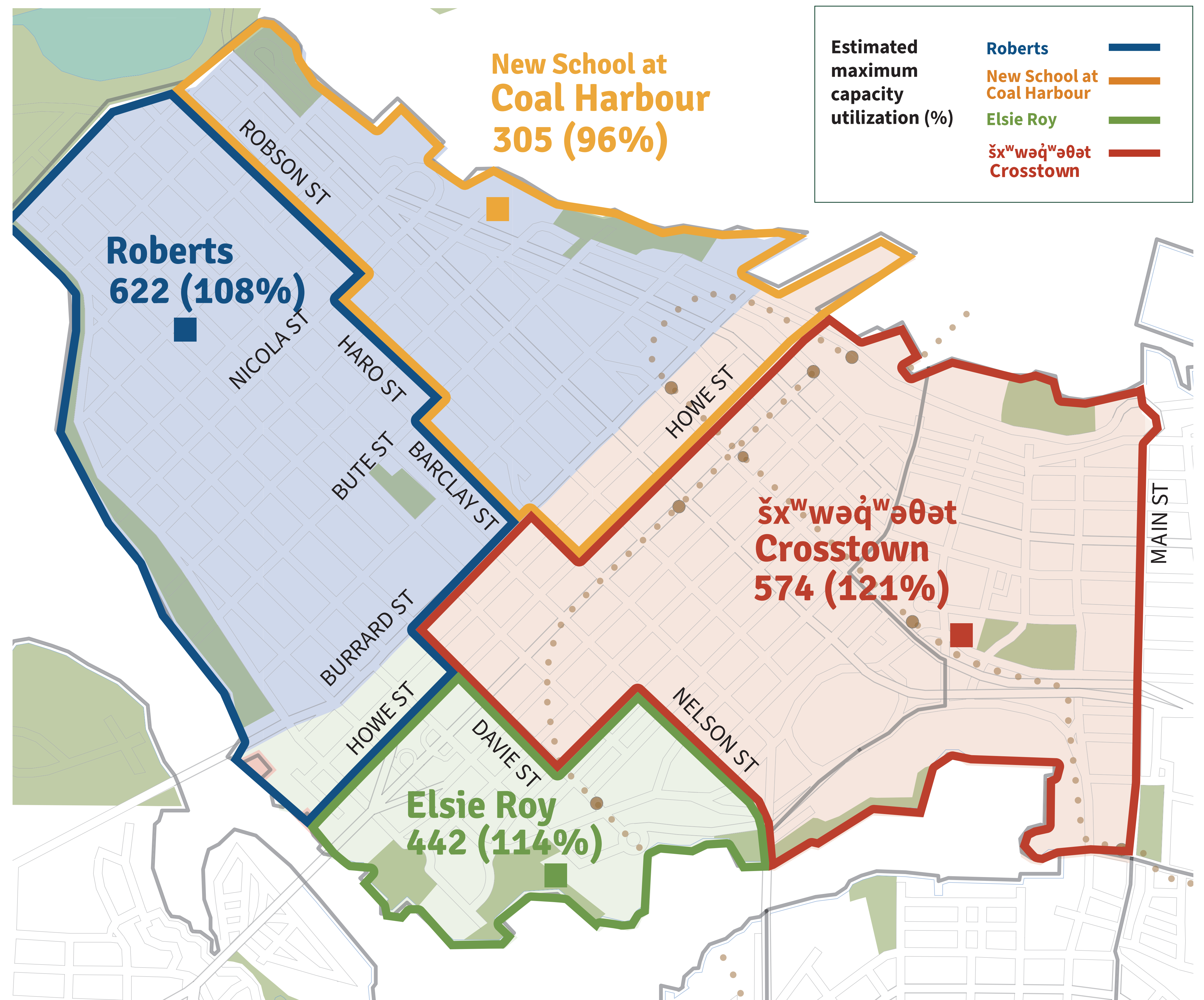
5c. Option C

In this option:

This option helps balance enrolment at Elsie Roy by reducing the number of students in its catchment. However, it increases walking distances for some families.

It results in less balanced enrolment at Roberts and ʂxʷwəqʷəθət Crosstown, where the student population would exceed school capacity.

Please add your comments [here!](#)



OPTION C - CATCHMENT PROPOSAL

6. Sibling Priority

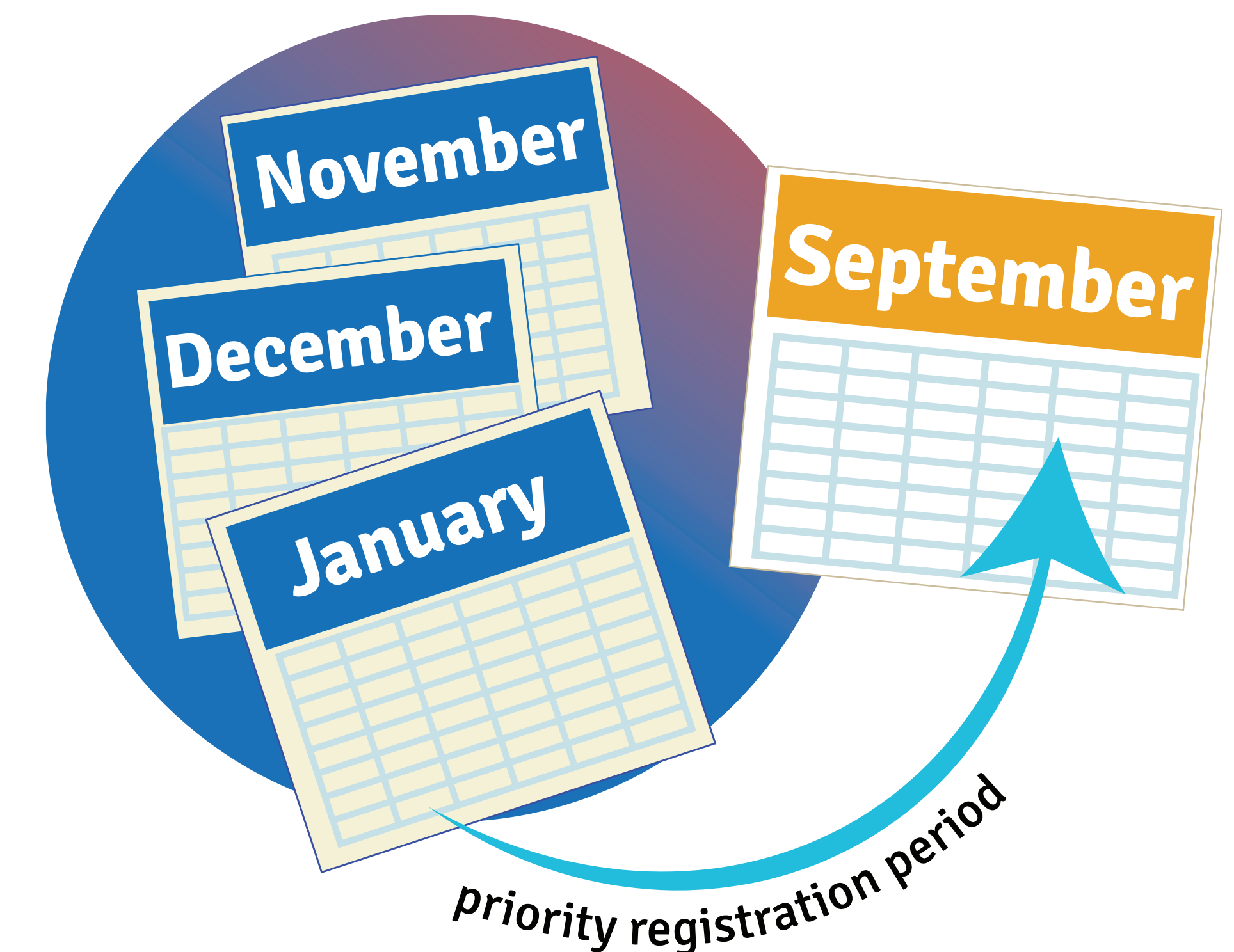
Priority kindergarten registration is open every year from **November 1 to January 31**.

If a child has an older sibling already attending a school, they can register to attend the same school – even if the catchment has changed.

- To get this sibling priority, families must register during the priority registration period.
- This helps keep siblings together and supports continuity for families.

Families can also choose to register in their **new catchment school**.

- If they do, the child will be placed there **if space is available**.



THE FOLLOWING ARE THE ENROLMENT PRIORITIES WHEN A SCHOOL'S CATCHMENT BOUNDARY CHANGES:

#1 Catchment Sibling Priority

- Kindergarten student living in the catchment,
- Has an older sibling currently attending the same school,
- The older sibling continues to attend the same school in September,
- Family registers before priority registration ends on January 31.

#2 Adjusted Sibling Priority

- Kindergarten student NO LONGER living in the catchment due the boundary change,
- Has an older sibling currently attending the former catchment school,
- The older sibling continues to attend the former catchment school in September,
- Family registers before priority registration ends on January 31.

#3 Catchment student without sibling

- Kindergarten student living in the catchment
- Family registers before priority registration ends on January 31.

#4 Newly Arrived Catchment student after January 31

- Kindergarten student lives in the catchment but applies after priority registration ends.

#5 Cross-Boundary student

- Out of catchment students (see cross boundary process at govsb.ca/crossboundary)

7. Common Questions and Answers

Will King George Secondary, the only public high school in the downtown area, be impacted by this catchment change?

No, this proposal does not change the catchment boundary for secondary schools.

When will I know about the catchment change decision?

The Board will decide the new catchment boundaries at its meeting scheduled for November 26, 2025.

This timing gives families clear information before kindergarten registration starts.

How does kindergarten registration work?

Priority Kindergarten registration runs from November 1 to January 31, 2026.

The registration process is not first come, first served. All families who register during this period will be included in the applicable priority registration groupings (catchment siblings, adjusted catchment sibling priority, catchment students).

Learn more at govsb.ca/kindergarten.

If I live downtown, which school do I register at?

Families new to VSB should apply through VSB Apply Now: <https://applynow.vsb.bc.ca>. If your child currently attends a VSB school and your family has recently moved into a downtown catchment, please contact your current catchment school for information about transferring. They can guide you through next steps.

What if my family is new to VSB or recently moved?

Families new to VSB should apply through VSB Apply Now: <https://applynow.vsb.bc.ca>.

If you are a current VSB student and have moved into a downtown catchment, contact your previous catchment school for transfer information.

The new school is enrolling students now, but the building at 482 Broughton Street is not finished yet. As such, students are attending classes at temporary sites until the building is ready. The City expects the new building to open for the start of the 2026/27 school year. If construction finishes sooner, students will move in earlier.

What is happening to the Roberts Annex school building and students?

BC Hydro will build an underground substation at the Lord Roberts Annex property. The school building is now used as a temporary site for students from the new school at Coal Harbour.

Once students move to the new school in Coal Harbour, the Annex building will be demolished for the BC Hydro project and a new elementary school. The District has included a new school on the Lord Roberts Annex site in the District's Capital Plan, thereby requesting Ministry of Education and Childcare funding for this project.

Will these catchment changes impact my school's capacity?

The goal is to balance enrolment across downtown schools. School building layouts will not change. Adjusting boundaries means more students can attend their catchment school and live closer to it. Each option changes how full each school is, as shown in the maps.