2021/2022 AMS Campus Safety Audit Report

Office of the Vice President, Academic and University Affairs
V. AMS Council.
Introduction

In the fall of 2021, the UBC Community suffered a devastating loss. In response to this tragedy and increased student concerns about safety on campus, the Vice President, Academic and University Affairs Office has revived the annual Campus Safety Audit. While the last Safety Audit was conducted more than 20 years ago, we are bringing it into the 21st century and using current technology to better identify safety concerns around the UBC Campus. The aim of this audit is to provide a basis for recommendations to the University regarding imperative changes to campus infrastructure using direct student input.

Background and Scope of the Audit

We launched a social media campaign for all students to get involved in making our campus safer. Interested students were able to sign up for the Student Campus Safety Team through a Google Form and using a shared Google Maps database, they were able to contribute by “dropping a pin” where they noticed any safety issues regarding lighting, signage, sightlines, isolations, patrol, accessibility, and more. We asked students to especially pay attention to safety concerns that arose specifically at night, as these safety issues often go unnoticed during other times of day.
The virtual map was live between November 15 - 28th, 2021. During this time, students on campus and within the delineated boundary were encouraged to be on the lookout for safety issues mentioned above. If they found an issue, the instructions were to:

1. Drop a pin at their location and title it with their student number.
2. Add a picture and include a detailed description regarding the issue and what could be changed to improve safety and comfort.

**Results**

At the end of the search period, the most noted safety concerns were concerns about Lighting and Signage.

Please reference this virtual map to view the pinned locations. The link to the virtual map can be found [here](#).
Lighting

Lighting 1: The Marine Drive parking lot is in desperate need of more light sources (e.g. lamps) since it is very dark at night and located on the edge of campus. Also, the trees obstruct view and possible external light.

Lighting 2: There is virtually no lighting at the end of the road that connects to an exit for the Totem Park Dene House residence and a path to Marine Drive.

Lighting 3: Lamp post light bulb needs to be replaced.

Lighting 4: Multiple light bulbs on this street need to be replaced [reference picture on virtual map].

Lighting 5: Limited visibility and poor lighting at night [reference picture on virtual map].

Lighting 6: Lamp post light bulb needs to be replaced.

Lighting 7: Lamp post light bulb needs to be replaced.

Lighting 8: Lamp post light bulb needs to be replaced.

Lighting 9: Low lighting/visibility at night near Music School parking lot.

Signage

Signage 1: There are no crossing signs for pedestrians on the crosswalk to Thunderbird Stadium [reference picture on virtual map].

Signage 2: Speed limit signs need to be installed as cars generally drive fast on this road which could potentially danger pedestrians.

Signage 3: A bike lane should be added down the road of East Mall as bicycles frequently speed into the crowd of people in front of the Nest or going to the bus stop. Since there is no explicit place for bikes to go it is really easy for people to get hit by bicycles, especially when students are rushing to class.

Signage 4: Crosswalks should be displayed more clearly, as they are currently hidden behind bushes. This issues encourages jaywalking on a busy street.
Signage 5: Bike lanes need to be repainted more clearly as many bikes cross into the sidewalk where pedestrians are.

Signage 6: Drivers are often stuck between pedestrians in the car lane going up the Campus and Community Planning building. In addition, commercial vehicles (e.g. external mail) are unsure whether they are allowed to use the lane to deliver packages. Clearer signage or bollards should be added to this lane [reference picture on virtual map].

Sightlines

Sightlines 1: Boundary between pedestrian and vehicular pavement on the roundabout is not very visible as colour scheme is very similar (gray) - pedestrians frequently walk on the vehicular road while cars sometimes go on the pedestrian pavement. Pavement should be repainted for a clearer pedestrian and driving boundary.

Sightlines 2: This corner is a blind spot where one cannot see if there are cars coming from the other side or not, a convex mirror is needed here.

Sightlines 3: The bollard in the middle, which is supposed to block vehicular access (except for UBC and emergency vehicles) is always in the down position (basically useless). At night it is easy to trip over it and is probably better to just remove this.

Sightlines 4: This construction zone entry/exit point requires a convex mirror to help exiting vehicles see oncoming traffic.

Hazards

Hazards 1: The metal cover for the sewage drain is quite slippery whenever there is rain.

Hazards 2: The sidewalk on the southeast side should be paved as the mud becomes very slippery when it rains.

Hazards 3: There are many points along the East Mall sidewalk adjacent to the UBC sports fields where the pavement is uneven or bumpy, which makes it inaccessible for wheelchairs and discourages walking. Pavement should be smoothened or repaved to create a more accessible road.
Accessibility

Accessibility 1: This passageway between Main Mall and East Mall has a lot of steep stairs going up and down where ramps or more gradual changes in elevation could be built. This makes it very inaccessible for people with movement disabilities and seniors. This also forces them to take 'the long way' all around the building and through the elevator to get to many classrooms.

Accessibility 2: The only wheelchair accessible points to Chemistry E, D, and C block go through Volkoff Lane, which is a road commonly used by cars and other service vehicles, which may be dangerous. More wheelchair accessible points should be added.

Conclusion

Thank you to all of the students that participated in this year’s Campus Safety Audit. We hope that this report provides Campus and Community Planning with some concrete areas of improvement for the safety of this campus as initiated by its students. Additionally, we hope to see next year’s Academic and University Affairs team continue this Campus Safety Audit as an annual tradition to continuously improve the state of security and safety on campus. To improve the scope of this survey, we suggest the use of incentives (e.g. a giveaway) to increase responses and engagement.