



Meeting Notes

Meeting #7 – January 27, 2012

Participants: Jim Fraser, Frank Doyle, Sandy Donnell, George Rodericks, Wendi Kallins, Trisha Seyler, Peggy Curran, Felicia Wheaton, Simon Coyle, John Frick, Isolde Wilson

1. *Survey Results & Discussion*

Wendi discussed the final survey results with the group and answered questions. St. Hilary's may have to re-circulate the survey since the IT Coordinator was out of the office and it does not look like the survey was sent out. The survey results indicate an approximately 50% response rate for each school and the responses/comments primarily indicate a need for more buses or to reduce the cost of the bus. Wendi noted some of the comments indicated a disconnect between what people wrote and actual circumstances, in which case education is the key to changing their impression.

Jim inquired of Wendi what areas the group should tackle, if cost were not an issue, based on her experience and after reading through the survey results. Wendi recommended obtaining more buses and reducing the cost, or making them free to ride, working on infrastructure so that its safer to cross Tiburon Boulevard at certain intersections, staggering the school start times, and creating incentives for green modes of transportation (i.e. walk/bike/bus) with education and encouragement. One of the comments received on the survey discussed going back to the idea of neighborhood schools. Wendi recommended that the group look at enrollment numbers and where students actually live in relation to the school they attend, so as not to make the same mistake Sleepy Hollow made which created an imbalance in enrollment so it never improved the traffic situation.

Several suggestions arose out of the survey results discussion including looking at allowing parents to drop off their kids earlier and having more staff available to watch the kids (yard duty) or having before school programs (Joint Rec). It was also suggested that carpool programs be neighborhood based so that parents can get to know other parents in their neighborhood in order to feel more comfortable allowing their children to ride with others. It was pointed out that the survey did not work well for parents with more than one child, and that next time the parent should be instructed to fill out a survey for each individual child.

2. *Working with Volunteer Parents*

Isolde informed the group that there were 25 parents who indicated a willingness to help out with the groups endeavor, either through participation with Safe Routes to School or

the PTA. Isolde indicated that at the next PTA meeting, the board would discuss how to use these volunteers. Wendi suggested having a transportation and safety subcommittee so that these volunteers could attend the subcommittee meetings and not the full PTA meetings. This will also further incline other parents to participate if they start to see results of their comments submitted.

3. *Caltrans Meeting Report*

Chief Cronin reported to the group about his recent meeting with Caltrans staff regarding traffic signals along Tiburon Boulevard. The signals are set up in free-mode, which means the signal stays green unless there is a demand from a cross street to change it. He stated that an average amount of cars during peak hour is 1,500. We are averaging 2,200 to 2,400 cars during peak times, which indicate a major capacity problem. There doesn't seem to be much opportunity to modify the traffic signals, unless the cross street traffic has to wait longer. However, training the crossing guards to wait until more children are at each intersection would allow the traffic to keep moving along the Boulevard. It was also suggested that the main crosswalks at each key intersection along the Boulevard should be relocated to the opposite side of the intersection, so as to allow vehicles to continue right hand turns without having to stop for children. This seems to be working for Lyford Drive at Reed School. Overall, the main limiting factor is capacity, which the group needs to determine how to tackle in terms of educating the community.

Next Steps

The group decided to focus solely on discussing buses (timing, routes, cost, etc.) at the February 10th meeting. It was also suggested that the Managers of First Student and Novato, as well as a Marin Transit representative, be invited to the next meeting as resource people for the bus discussion.

Prepared by Laurie Tyler, Tiburon Associate Planner
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