



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



**Kentfield School District
Safe Routes to School Taskforce
Meeting Notes
Wednesday May 3**

Attendees: David Hoffman- Parisi Associates, Anne Petersen- Kentfield Planning Advisory Board, Nancy Vernon-Aide to District 2 Supervisor Katie Rice, Laura Kelley- Safe Routes to Schools, Heather McPhail Sridharan-Team Leader/Neighborhood Captain, Marnie Ganong- Neighborhood Captain, Eric Miller- County Public Works, Patricia Medina- KSPTA President, Bob Goralka-Marin County Public Works Traffic, Peggy Clark- Safe Routes to Schools

National Bike to School Day

National Bike to School Day is on 5/10/17. Heather gave a report for Bacich Elementary School. Rustic Bakery, Peet's, and Village Peddler will all be out at the school for the day. Rustic Bakery is providing something for every student in the school. Village Peddler will do spot safety checks and tune ups. The student Green Team for Bacich will also be there. There are no contests planned for this year; Wendi recommends that contests be planned for next year, as there is a constant change of students from year-to-year, and after a few years of no additional incentives, the participation numbers may begin to "flat line". Laura recommended going to the National SR2S Facebook page and liking them. From there you could get access to some of the generic National Bike to School Day materials which you could customize for your own distribution.

Crossing Guard on McAllister

Heather thanked the County for placing a new crossing guard on McAllister within the last week or so. She said that it was changing student travel behavior for the good; some parents even have come up to the guard and hugged them in thanks for being there. Wendi noted that funding for the Crossing Guard program was under quite a bit of stress as some existing funding was sun setting at the end of this school year. This means that there is going to be a likely shortfall in Crossing Guard funding moving in to next school year. Wendi also noted that TAM was looking for ways to supplement the funding through a variety of measures, including an upcoming sales tax ballot initiative and other avenues of funding. Some school districts have chosen to support their crossing guards through direct funding. The approximate cost of a Crossing Guard for a year is about \$18,000. More on the Crossing Guard program will be known as we get in to the coming school year.

New Carline Guidelines at Bacich Elementary Attached

Heather reported that the Kentfield School District recently issued new Carline Guidelines for student drop-off and pick-up on McAllister (Bacich Elementary). The most notable change to the guidelines is #3 on the new handout for parents: “3. No more than five cars will be permitted to stack up on McAllister. When there are five cars stacked up, drivers are requested to park & walk their student(s) for school drop off & pick up.”

Heather reported vehicles have been backed up five deep on Sir Frances Drake Blvd. Citations have been issued; hopefully this will change behaviors. Notices have been sent out and paper notices have been distributed from the school administration and PTA encouraging walking and rolling. Notices will be sent out the first of the new school year too. This is a great opportunity encourage green transportation and reduce the number of vehicles driven to school.

The kindergarten parents are mostly the ones waiting around in their vehicles. It was suggested they be directed to the main line-up.

School Construction

Construction will begin at Kent this summer and Bacich is scheduled for the summer of 2018. The next two summers breaks will be 10.5 weeks long to accommodate construction scheduled. The 4th grade will not be moving to Kent as previously planned.

Bob addressed the right turn only and no U-turns issue. If the signs do not stop these un-safe behaviors the Board of Supervisors could be requested to authorize issuing citations. The vehicles that cannot make a U-turn tend to back-up into the road way which is dangerous. He also suggested a staggered start time.

Bus options Marin Transit Route #29

Wendi reported Marin Transit does not have the resources to support a yellow bus program for the Kentfield School District at this time. The Route 29 is available for Kent students but it has been running late consistently.

Robert Betts from Marin Transit could not attend the meeting. He provided the following comments:

Route 29 is operated by GGT and their GPS system they have on these vehicles is different than the system we've invested in and have installed on all other vehicles. That said, retrieving this data at the stop /trip level is challenging and requires a lot of staff time. We do get regular reports but the data is aggregated at the route level, not the trip level. Thus I can say that overall the route's on-time performance is reliable but I can't say that that trip, or even the pick-up / drop-off locations the students would use, is reliable. I do know that this trip starts in the Canal and has heavy loads before going on SFD so it wouldn't surprise me if there is some irregularity in this segments on-time performance due to ridership and traffic.

To get current timing on a bus go to 511.org:
(home page- trip planner- transit departures). Here riders can learn when the bus will arrive.

This route could get cut if ridership does not increase. Last year Heather and Kathleen worked with Marin Transit (MT) to research options for making this route a viable option for Kent students. The bell schedule was reviewed by MT. The plan proposed was not an option for the school. Heather would like to revisit this resource option. MT inquired if the bell schedule could be adjusted.

In other school districts MT was able to work out a plan for adjusting a bus routes time. Wendi proposed Safe Routes to Schools work with MT via Katie Rice's office. Currently MT is very busy planning for the next school; response times have been delayed. MT is working with the Novato schools bell schedule because some buses will no longer be available. The results may be helpful to Kentfield; Wendi will forward information to Kathleen.

The scheduling of buses may be direct to the school level. It will require a good deal of funding to staff a position to manage a bus program for a school. Transit funding from the state needs to be researched including education budgets.

Update since the meeting. Marin Transit Planning Director Robert Betts worked to identify the problem and now the bus is running on time and students are happily riding the bus . [See the LJ article](#)

Update from County on SFD and other construction projects

McAllister Update [see attached PDF map](#)

Everything is on schedule including sidewalk improvements, new pavement, drainage, and curb ramps. This is a big project and will take many weeks; scheduled to start July 1. Neighbors have been contacted as some front yards will be affected. They need to sign a form to authorize the improvements. The county has information on their website that can be shared with the school sites.

Bob reported the Fire Chief provided input on the two proposed speed humps. The fire department does not support adding new speed humps; therefore, the County is no longer proposing them. There are several required road elements that influence what type of hump can be installed. When the road is paved the existing humps will be updated. They do not meet code at this time.

Task Force members would like to learn about other options. There is concern that once the road is repaved speeding will increase. Neighbors perceive vehicles speeding. The recorded average speed is 27mph. There is no accident history for this street.

The neighbors would prefer to have a 15mph near the school. Posting 15mph is enforced only when school is in session, posted within 500 feet of a school or 500 feet of a school building if there is a fence.

White edge lines on the road sides are not standard in residential areas. The lines could remove off street parking. Several comments addressed how narrow the street gets with vehicles and students riding down the middle of the street.

The County DPW will notify the community when the project is scheduled. They will use Nextdoor too. Katie Rice's office will also send out an update to the McAllister group.

Sir Frances Drake Blvd Update

The draft environmental impact report is scheduled to be completed the end of June. Feedback is still being accepted. The project is slated for construction in 2018.

Next meeting-

September 13, 2017 at 9:30am