



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



**Kentfield School District
Safe Routes to School Taskforce
Meeting Notes
Tuesday August 21, 2018**

Attendees:

Methinee Bozeman-Assistant Principal Bacich, Allison Crawford-Bacich Neighbor, Robert Goralka- Marin County DPW, Kathleen Helmer- Neighbor, Heather McPhail-Sridharan- Neighborhood Captain, Brian Miller- CHP Officer, John Neville-DPW Marin County, David Parisi- Parisi Associates, Anne Petersen- Kentfield Planning Advisory Board, Nancy Vernon-Aide to Kate Rice, Jenny Walsh- Assistant Principal Kent Middle School, Connie Ziot- Neighborhood Captain, Jawaun Stuart- CHP Officer, Dustin Ruiz-COM Police Officer, Julian Skinner- DPW Larkspur, Peggy Clark- Safe Routes to Schools, Wendi Kallins- Safe Routes to Schools.

Bon Aire Road Bridge Construction

Questions and Comments: [Bon Air Bridge Information Website](#)

Julian reported the bridge construction began last May 2018; this project has been underway for 10 years. It will be a fluid project as it impacts the community. Due to the environmental requirements and community requests to keep the bridge open during construction this will be a four-year project. Work will begin on the north end of the bridge first.

The sidewalk on the north side of the bridge has been closed. Pedestrian are directed to use the south side only for 1.5 years then the north side will open with the south side closed. The crosswalks at South Eliseo and the medical clinic will remain open. Bicycle riders will be directed on where to cycle when crossing the bridge.

Traffic signals at both ends of the bridge are run by detection looping. Currently they are operating on a fix pattern, this is not super-efficient and will cause traffic delays. The DPW will monitory traffic and signal programing for peak and off peak travel times; including after school events. Once schools have been in session for a couple of weeks' traffic light timing will be adjusted. This will be ongoing for this project.

Back to School

Wendi commented there will be obstacles for all road users. Now is the time to push for walking and rolling to schools. Back to School night and enews letters should be including information on alternative ways for students to get/from school safely, including park and walk options and walking& rolling school buses. SR2S will be providing details on Walking School Buses including information on how to identify Park and Walk locations near schools.

When Doherty Drive closed for improvements the schools sent out information on bus schedules and encouraged students and parents to find another way to school. Halls green trips increased to 70% and Redwood green trips increased as well.

A recommendation was made for parents of a Kent and Bacich student to be dropped off at Kent to reduce traffic near Bacich School. This would be for select students that could walk with an adult, with a group when possible. Once students and parents get use to the new school year and traffic patterns this could an option. COM parking lot # 12 (gravel lot) is a free parking lot for pick-up/drop off.

Concerns were raised regarding drivers traveling west on Drake Blvd taking the left turn into Bacich School and blocking traffic when there is a line-up on campus. A flyer was distributed last year regarding “no idling, best and safe behavior”. Redistribution of the flyer (give out to drivers in car line) along with increased support from the CHP officers was requested.

Neighborhood Captains were encouraged to begin sending out emails encouraging families to begin walking with neighborhood students/families. If parents are concerned for the safety of their children, Bacich volunteers could re-introduce Active4.me at least once a week (Walk & Roll Wednesdays). This is along with encouragement can help parents become more comfortable with walking and rolling to school for elementary students. Kidpower.org is also a program the school could use a resource to encourage safety and independence.

Bacich Construction and Safety

Methinee reported parking in the main lot for staff has been reduced significantly; the car lineup area is now for drop off only. Teachers and administration will be encouraged to park off campus including on McAlister. Neighbors to the school have been notified of the increase in street parking to come. Campus drop off now starts at 7:30AM to help reduce vehicles backing up. The 1st bell will ring at 8:10AM. Pick-up times will remain staggered.

Bacich teachers will be provided “B” plaques for their dash boards to identify why they are parking in the neighbor. All drivers must park legally. Street parking stalls will not be marked at this time. Once the parking conditions are observed by the County DPW they will decide if

marked parking is best or not. It can depend on the average size of the vehicles parked on a regular basis.

Safe Routes to School is encouraging Park & Walk throughout the county this school year. Now is a good time for schools to encourage and promote pre-approved parking locations. Approved parking locations are generally within ¼ of a mile of a school where students/families can park then walk to school with advance planning (timing).

Wolf Grade parking was researched by the County DPW. It was determined the residents and the local business did not want permitted parking. Currently the county is focusing on parking at the front of Bacich School.

Chicken Path update

The gate has been installed and looks great thanks to the parent volunteers. The gate was installed to prevent students from exiting the path too quickly onto McAllister.

Anne requested an update on a proposal to install a street mirror for drivers existing Stadium Way on to McAllister. It is very difficult for drivers to see if pedestrians are in the crosswalk. The County is not clear a mirror is the best solution as they can distort the judgement of distances. The County will look into the challenges at this intersection.

Acacia

Bacich parents had requested the county consider closing off Acacia to vehicle traffic during drop-off/pick-up. Many students walk and roll down the middle of the street. They feel redirecting traffic (placing sandwich boards- street closed).

Nancy reported the county DPW met to review this request. The County cannot authorize a street closure with less than 24hrs notice. The DPW is exploring options such as restricted parking on the south side of the street and no parking on the north side. Another option is to make it one-way with a possible path marked in addition to making Lilac one way at the same time to manage traffic flow. There are street width requirements to consider this possible option and the fire department would need to approve it too.

Bob agreed to look into this further and Nancy and Wendi will plan to bring the original meeting participants back to the table soon and will update the Task Force and neighborhood captains.

Next meeting is set for Wednesday January 16 at 9:00AM