



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



**Kentfield School District**  
**Safe Routes to School Taskforce**  
Meeting Notes  
Thursday, September 24

Attendance: Alison Crawford- Neighbor, Marnie Ganong Neighborhood Captain, Care Lando- DPW County of Marin, Heather McPhail Sridharan Team Leader/Neighborhood Captain, Paul Miller Director of Maintenance- School District, Wendi Kallins- Safe Routes to School, Peggy Clark- Safe Routes to Schools, Katie Rice- Marin County Supervisor, Liz Schott- School District Superintendent, Ashley Tam – Parisi & Associates, Nancy Vernon-Aide to Katie Rice, Jenny Walsh- VP Hall Middle School, Melanie Wollenweber- Parent Bacich School, Domenick Yazzolino- Marin County Sheriff

**Back to school safety review**

Safe Routes to Schools has been requested to conduct cycling safety instruction sessions for students traveling the Chicken Path. This the first request from the school of this kind. The Neighborhood Captains would like to support training on the path and point out the specific areas of concern for cyclists and pedestrians using the path in the morning.

The school would issue late passes to the students to encourage them to stay and listen to the education tips provided by SR2S instructors. The Neighborhood Captains would like to have a list of bulleted teaching points to share with students moving forward.

**School year plans for Kent and Bacich**

Bacich will be conducting IWalk, National Bike to School Day and Green Day. Cliff has agreed to provide Twists vs. Z-bars to avoid distributing items with peanuts. The Student Team will also distribute stickers and mood pencils. There are already a mass amount of students biking and walking to school.

The 2015 spring surveys reported 65% of trips are green to Bacich School. Kent conducted the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Bike Education classes last spring and will do so again this school year. There are now 22 Neighborhood Captains.

### **Update from County on SFD and other construction projects**

The Drake Corridor Study will be developing concepts for a public meeting in October or November. The sidewalk at Stadium Way and Drake will be in this study. The Tech Group will be meeting first to review the issues; then the meeting date for public comment will be announced. The Tech Group includes representatives from the School District, Marin General, Marin Catholic, neighbors, College of Marin, The Water District and the utility companies. Community comments will be encouraged at this meeting. The County would like help getting the word out from the School District about the meeting date. There will also be an option for on-line comments to be submitted.

The project start time will probably be in 2018. Some of the goals of the Study are:

- Over all safety for all road users
- Increase diversity of transportation options
- Increase efficiency for motorist- traffic lights etc
- Multi modal efficiency- balance the needs of all users as we have the highest traffic volume in the county. The end of Ross Valley meets the ferry terminal and SMART and transportation options must support those facilities.

The issues on McAllister will be addressed in a different project

The Ross Valley Nursery portables will be moved with in the New District Facilities Plan. Once they are moved the school can plan how to address the crosswalk through the school lot. The district is aware of the issues with the left turn into Bacich and the pedestrian bridge. There are many accessibility issues with the pedestrian bridge that will have to be taken into consideration.

Issues with over grown vegetation will be included in the planning concepts. The County does contact property owners if vegetation effects sight lines or sidewalk use.

The Yellow Bus Program in the Ross Valley is a pilot program right now. There are issues with funding and the capacity of the buses. Measure D cannot be used for the yellow bus program. When Prop 13 was passed the bus programs ended and this is one of the reasons Marin has experienced an increase in traffic. Measure A funded Safe Routes to Schools and crossing guards and this has helped the county. This is a county wide issue and it may require a transportation tax in the future. The Tiburon yellow bus program is funded for only one year. A transportation sales tax with major costs to the parents could be the future need.

Not all the students are being served by the yellow bus and there is a need to determine ways students can feed to the bus stops. There is a very strategic route plan in place now as a result of a good deal of advanced planning for the program. A meeting will be set up to discuss the possibilities of a Kentfield pilot bus program.

**McAllister Update-** The next Community meeting is Oct 16

Last spring a committee of residents and Safe Routes to Schools representatives conducted a walk audit. In July projects were identified.

List of Issues:

1. McAllister residents near the west side of the school entrance will receive letters regarding the new parking signs. Once the signage is approved they will be posted in mid October.
2. Chicken Path Meeting- There is a big concern that students are cycling too fast on the path putting themselves and pedestrians at risk of getting injured. The neighbors are discussing what can be done as the property may not be owned by the County. The County is adding pedestrian warning signs on the street to make drivers aware of path users entering the street. Striping on the road may be added too.

One of the options being reviewed is to install planter boxes to slow bike speeds. It will be important to consider the engineers recommendations. A safe solution is needed so the path is not closed which would direct the students to cycle on the street vs. a path. The meetings have been encouraging and ideas are being developed. It would be helpful if SR2S identified the path as part of a “safe route to school”.

3. SR2S was requested to schedule safe cycling on multi-use paths for Kent students.
4. Lilac and Barends Street- The vegetation is over grown and the stop sign is set very far back. Vehicle drivers need to creep up to look for traffic.
5. Stadium Way- Considering sidewalks, as the traffic off of Drake tends to be very fast. This is a big project and it is on the engineer's agenda.
6. Acacia Street- Consider making it a one way street. It is challenging because there are no sidewalks. The neighbors must be involved in developing a solution. Many neighbors support McAllister becoming a one way street. A traffic study must be conducted along with an environmental review.
7. Continued education and community involvement is a big part of the success of these improvements under consideration.
8. Speed bumps- Trial speed bumps are planned for once the fire chief and engineer review the plans and determine proper placement. If they are effective, they could be installed when McAllister is repaved next summer.

It is important for parents and residents to have access to all the information under consideration and planned for by the school district and towns. Safe Routes to Schools Task Force meeting notes are posted on the organisations web site. The School District also publishes updates on issues regarding transportation. In recent years awareness has increased significantly with neighborhood captains and the results have been very positive.

**Next meeting**

January Jan 20<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00am at the District office