



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



Kentfield School District
Safe Routes to School Taskforce
Meeting Notes
Wednesday September 13, 2017

Attendance:

Wendi Kallins- Safe Routes to Schools, Peggy Clark- Safe Routes to Schools, Marnie Gonong- Neighborhood Captain, Heather McPhail Sridaran- Team Leader, Patricia Medina- PTA President, Paul Miller-Director Facilities School District, Glen Newcomer- CHP, Penelope Amuyunzu- Parisi Assoc., Anne Petersen-Planning Advisory Board, Josie Sanguinetti-CHP, Liz Schott-Superintendent, Nancy Vernon-Aide Katie Rice, Jenny Walsh-VP Kent Middle School, Melanie Wollenweber-Parent, Kelly Zalewski- Marin Transit, Connie Zlot- Parent, Jen Gauna-Aide to Katie Rice, Anne Poindexter- Resident, Dan Dawson- County DPW,

Back to School Updates:

Bacich

Heather and Safe Routes to Schools (SR2S) staff continue to seek a Team Leader and volunteers to assist Heather. A volunteer(s) is needed to manage the contests and events; a lead volunteer to manage one specific event such as Iwalk would be very helpful too. The hope is during IWalk volunteers will emerge.

Kent

Lou from SR2S is working with the Eco Action club on school wide events this year. Bike racks are needed with the new configuration of the school; they are seeking funding to purchase racks. The Air District has had funding for racks in the past but that program has ended. It's possible they may offer this again in the future.

Law Enforcement Updates

CHP officers reported vehicle traffic around Bacich is a challenge. The complaints to the officers/CHP generally are about bad driving behavior.

Nancy reported the McAllister construction project should be completed between Sept 15-20, 2017.

The office has received a number of complaint calls regarding drivers turning right onto Wolf Grade. Drivers in the morning turning up Wolf Grade; they are seen not stopping for the light

nor yielding to students/pedestrians crossing the street. Drivers from outside the community are not aware of the people on foot and cycling in the area. Officers do patrol the area; however, the dept. is short staffed. They have also noticed an increase over the years of people with GPS mapping using Wolf Grade to offering driver's options to avoid traffic delays.

It would be helpful to encourage the McAllister Community to share information on good driver behavior. Get Ready Marin for fire safety is a good example of a successful outreach program. A challenge is the number of drivers that come from the San Rafael community that are not aware of the safety issues on Drake and McAllister.

TAM- Street Smarts

The Safe Routes team will be meeting with TAM to encourage the Street Smarts program messaging be updated. They are proposing the program use social media and direct marketing in addition to signs and banners. A proposal will be presented to conduct a pilot program in Tiburon. If the pilot is successful it will be pushed throughout the county. This would be a lower cost option and private funding could be an option.

TAM Crossing Guards

Heather reported the school district is talking about the current locations of crossing guards. The funding for crossing guards throughout the county is getting cut.

Safe Routes Updates

Class scheduling: SR2S classes **are** scheduled at 6th Kent and 4th Bacich; 2nd Bacich will be scheduled soon. The teen program at Redwood is currently happening.

Iwalk

Heather and captains are planning for event day celebration. Donations have been confirmed. The goal is to host monthly Walk/Roll days. It was suggested the Bacich Green Team help support the monthly events as they are at Kent.

Mapping

SR2S is working with all of the county Task Force groups to learn what schools need suggested route maps. The maps for the Kentfield district are currently good; no changes needed.

Issues: Sink hole

There is a sink hole at Wolf Glen Way at Wolf Grade. A warning sign was placed at the hole and was forcing pedestrian and cyclist out into traffic. A photo was presented to Dan and he said he would follow-up.

Park and Walk locations-

Locations for both schools are on the current maps.

Update from County on SFD, crosswalk evaluation, and other construction projects

Dan gave an update on the EIR for the project which is reviewing all aspects of the projects, will look at funding and make it easier to apply for funding in the future.

Once the draft EIR is available it will be available for public comment for 45 days. There will be a public meeting before the Board of Supervisors; in person and electronic comments can be submitted. No action will be taken by the Board at this meeting. This will be an important period for SR2S and the community to provide comment. Organizations and individuals can submit comments; they will be posted to the public with the final report only. EIR reports are complicated; they must be reviewed in detail; educated comments must be submitted and they should be specific to the environmental issues rather than commenting on the construction project itself.

The estimated timeline for completion is in 2019 and 2020 with a majority of the work to be completed during the summer to minimize the impact on traffic. The project is planned for completion the fall of 2020 including the final stage of the repaving.

Wolfe Grade

There will be a new crosswalk installed crossing Drake Blvd. This will meet the ADA requirements as the current pedestrian bridge is not compliant. Other improvements include a new traffic/pedestrian signal. The new signals being installed, including at Wolfe Grade, will allow for greater pedestrian crossing times in compliance with current engineering standards which will benefit those with a slower walking pace and/or mobility impairments. The traffic signals will be timed and evaluated to meet the complicated mix of roadway, crosswalks and driveways including the entrance to Bacich. The goal will be safety with maximum efficiency.

The signal timing configuration will be determined with analysis of the traffic flow to the school during the AM and PM. A challenge will be to determine the sequencing when school schedules can change (no school days etc.) The road conditions of the entire corridor will be taken into consideration. The bridge can still be used by students and the crosswalk will serve ADA and cyclist too. The county is looking at LPI (lead pedestrian interval) where the pedestrian signal will go to “walk” a few seconds before the signal turns green for cars so pedestrians can enter the intersection and be more visible before cars start moving.

Laurel Grove Avenue does have some issues to be addressed. Lanes will need to be reconfigured and the sequencing of the traffic and pedestrian lights. If the length of the crosswalks could be reduced this could aid in the timing of the signals. One task force member asked the county to consider a “no right on red” to prevent drivers from turning into the crosswalk.

The DPW will consult with Paris Assoc. to research and evaluate the technology options for the traffic signal on the corridor.

Task Force members expressed confidence in the planned improvement; however, there are important safety issues that need to be addressed before 2019. The task force members believe

interim solutions like education should be put into place. A task force sub-committee was suggested to meet outside of the three SR2S task force meetings that are held each year. It is important to have local community members to develop ideas. No one volunteered to participate in this.

School Start Times

Several school districts have voluntarily adjusted school bell schedules to help reduce traffic. Novato and Mill Valley have had success with the time changes. Currently Hall and Redwood have the same dismal time and the traffic is very heavy. It is a challenge to change school hours as they cannot be reduced due to state mandates. The state may pass a bill requiring middle and high school bell times start after 8:30 (Note: this did not pass); however, it may be best for school district to manage it themselves first.

Bus Options

Kent is not aware of any issues with the Marin Transit bus. The Eco Club will be asked to include the bus in the green transportation messages.

Kelly reported that Redwood is a high demand school for bus service; however multiple busses cannot be added at this time. The Rt 29 bus was experiencing delays in the Canal and now there are delays at College Ave. They are monitoring the issues, collecting data and looking at a possible schedule change.

Yellow Bus

The current contract with Michaels ends this school year. With the possible expansion of service to the Kentfield School District there remain service management challenges; the biggest is parking the busses. If buses need to be parked a great travel distance from the school, costs increase.

Funding sources include the district, towns and the county. This district has the framework to establish service; funding resources will need to be identified. Marin Transit will keep Safe Routes to Schools updated.

Next Meeting

Katie Rice sent a note of thanks to all the task force members for their time and support!

Tuesday, February 13th at 9:30am 2018