



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



**Larkspur Corte Madera Safe Routes to Schools Task Force
Meeting Notes
Monday, February 27, 2017**

Attendance: Clare Conant- Student Hall Middle School, Roxanne Cuihane- Student Hall Middle School, Gwen Froh- Program Director- Safe Routes to Schools, Diane Furst- Councilmember Town of Corte Madera, Jennifer Harrison- Team Leader Neil Cummins School, Michael Koeppel- Parent Neil Cummins School, Laura Melendy- Parent Redwood High, Ann Morrison- Councilmember City of Larkspur, David Parisi- Principal Engineer Parisi Associates, Nisha Patel- Senior Civil Engineer-DPW Corte Madera, Valerie Pitts Ed.D Superintendent Larkspur School District, Jean Severinghaus-Corte Madera Pedestrian and Bicycle Committee, Julian Skinner- DPW Director City of Larkspur, Tenisha Tate-Vice Principal Hall Middle School, Lexie Twing- Student Hall Middle School, Paul Barrolaza – Sargent Central Marin Police for Toby Miller, Hillary & Ray Culhane- Parent/Student Hall MS and Neil Cummins, Lou Goodwin- Teen Coordinator Safe Routes to Schools, Saum Zargar- Assistant Principal Redwood High School

Introduction:

In previous years there was a Larkspur Safe Routes to Schools Working Group facilitated by the City of Larkspur. There was also a committee established to address needs prior to the Cove School opening. Today's meeting is the first time representatives from both the City of Larkspur and the Town of Corte Madera have met together to address Safe Routes to School projects. It is also a pleasure to have Hall Middle School students present.

Purpose of the Task Force

The Larkspur /Corte Madera Safe Routes to School Task Force will address suggested facility improvements near and on routes to schools. Community members and city/town officials will identify safety issues, prioritize a projects list, develop solutions and try to secure funding. Safe Routes to School staff and Team Leaders will provide updates on education programs, events, contests and provide input on safety issues. This meeting will focus on updates on completed and current projects and begin to discuss the issues.

Infrastructure Issues and Updates

Larkspur Improvements- Please reference Larkspur Projects attachment
Safe Routes improvements in place

Julian provided an overview of projects completed during and before he became the Director of the DPW. The project list addresses over 12 projects completed, funded and planned.

The Doherty Drive multi-use path (MUP) project is a TAM Safe Pathways project. It includes formalizing a Class 1 and 2 bike lane by Redwood High School. Bids were submitted; however, they came in too high. It will go out to bid again and be scheduled for the summer of 2017.

The City of Larkspur is conducting a city-wide crosswalk study. The study includes comments provided by the public. Each issue and its specific characteristics will be evaluated for the best option(s).

Corte Madera Improvements Please reference the Safe Routes-Corte Madera Project List 2017

Safe Routes improvements in place

The individual projects on the list were addressed. A few additional comments were made during the meeting. After the meeting Corte Madera emailed additional updates related to Safe Routes projects. They are added below the list of projects.

Staff from the Town of Corte Madera, Safe Routes to School, Cove School administration and community members worked together during the construction of the school. They addressed crosswalk reconfiguration and identified bike routes. A pedestrian flashing beacon on Golden Hind was a result of this team's efforts. They did not install the embedded flashing lights with this facility improvement as those are not recommended and hard to maintain.

The DPW is looking into a rapid flashing light at Prince Royal Drive. The design is 60% completed; construction is planned for the summer of 2017. It may include a bulb out and a pedestrian refuge in the intersection.

- Tamal Vista Trip Purpose Study- this study will provide useful information for future projects
- Tamalpais Drive Complete Streets Project
- Paradise Drive at Prince Royal Passage
- Madera Boulevard at Monona Drive- vegetation will be removed soon to improve sight lines.
- Paradise Drive Multi-use Pathway between San Clemente and Seawolf Passage
- Paradise Drive Multi-use Pathway between Westward and Upupanda Way (Marin Country Day School)- Funds have been secured and design will begin the summer of 2017
- Lucky Drive (from Doherty to Fifer Avenue) Bicycle Lanes and Slurry Seal
- Central Marin Regional Pathways Gap Closure Project- Additional comments made recognized this project as very important. It will include a pathway along Wornum toward Sandra Marker that will be used by students traveling to school. This project will take many students traveling by bike off the road and onto a pathway.
- Paradise Drive at Golden Hind Passage Pedestrian Safety Improvements

The Town of Corte Madera recently had a good meeting with representatives from Caltrans to look at many issues. Corte Madera hopes to see projects funded in 2020. The Bicycle Advisory is taking charge and when Caltrans plans for a project is gets completed. They have demonstrated they are willing to work with local cities and towns. Bike Plans developed will be

very helpful when working with Caltrans.

Comments provided on projects after the meeting:

There are some other improvements not mentioned at the meeting that Corte Madera completed recently that benefit students. First, the town have replaced the pedestrian crossing signs to the LED countdown signs. This allows pedestrians to know how much time they have to cross. They modified the pedestrian and bicycle crossing times at all 14 of intersections, providing pedestrians and bicyclists the required time (per CA MUTCD) to cross our signalized streets. Lastly, we removed some push buttons that were in the middle of the crosswalks. They adjusted the pedestrian crossing which allowed the pedestrians the proper time to cross those intersections. The medians were too narrow to accommodate a person to stand there in refuge.

With the number of projects completed in Larkspur and Corte Madera and new issues identified a map will be presented at the next meeting. It will identify what has been completed and areas of concern now. The suggested bike route map that was developed during the Doherty Drive project will also be presented.

Issues from students and parent leaders

The students attending the meeting from Hall MS commented on the following issues they encounter when walking or cycling to school.

- Pet owners using retractable leashes when walking a dog. When the leashes are extended it is difficult for cyclists to see them. Recommended pet walkers keep pets on a short leash on the path and a yellow line be painted down the middle of the path.
- On Rose Lane many students walk in the road and not on the sidewalk. Cars come around the curve in the road and do not expect to see students walking in the road.
- Drivers do not stop when students are in the crosswalk by the Lark Theater. It is long crosswalk on this section of the road.
- Occasionally cyclists are traveling too fast for a multi-use path, they often do not announce themselves when passing and they ride too fast. Speed limit signs similar to those posted on the Mill Valley path were recommended. The speed limits signs are part of a project managed by Marin County Parks and Open Space with partners from the town of Mill Valley and the Marin County Bicycle Coalition. The campaign includes safety signs for all path users; they are rotated on the path to avoid the messages becoming old and no longer influencing safety behavior. It is a good model for Corte Madera to consider using.

Additional issues presented by attending adults:

- There have been several incidents of pedestrians getting hurt in Corte Madera in the last year. A Redwood student driver nearly missed hitting a younger grade level student last year on Lakeside when the student was in the crosswalk. The car did not slow down and swerved around the student. . An elderly woman was hit on the path by a Neil Cummins student cycling and women cyclist was hit by a student driver on the Sandra Marker trail.
- Paradise Drive has many issues including the incomplete path that leads to Cove School
- Community members on Redwood have stated they do not want students on bikes traveling to Neil Cummins School
- There are a number of safety issues on Wornum Drive, Fifer Ave and Riveria Circle to

Doherty Drive toward the Redwood parking lot.

- Parents in the community do not feel safe letting their younger age students travel to school because of a few dangerous intersections. These locations will be identified when the map is presented at the next meeting.

The Corte Madera Bicycle and Pedestrian Action Committee (BPAC) also addresses safety issues and reviews facility projects proposed by the town. The Town of Larkspur does not have a formal committee; however, they do have a very active community that presents to the City Council.

Caltrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Survey

Caltrans is developing a Bicycle Plan for the Bay Area district to improve bicycling on and across the State-owned transportation network. This Plan builds on the California State Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and complements regional and local planning efforts to help create a connected, comfortable, and safer bicycle network for the Bay Area. There is no timeline; however, it is very important to provide feedback now.

Safe Routes to Schools wants to hear from as many residents as possible. Please share this survey link within your networks. The survey is available in English and Spanish. Visit our website to learn more and to sign up for updates.

English and Spanish Survey link: <http://bit.ly/d4bikeplan>

Website link: www.dot.ca.gov/d4/bikeplan/

An important and dangerous location for student pedestrians and cyclists is the Tamla Vista to Paradise Drive route over Hwy 101 route. This needs to be addressed in this survey.

Bike Access to Neil Cummins

Jennifer Mazzullo Harrison is one of two Safe Routes to School Team Leaders; below is their list of concerns and comments presented during the meeting.

1. Tamalpais Ave. - status update for planned improvements, timeline, and will there be any temporary safety measures at crosswalks while we wait for the work to start? Comment: The project is on schedule and planned to be completed by July 4th.
2. Redwood & Pixley - road is very crowded for bicyclist and cars at school times, visibility issues for crossing guard (possible solutions would be parking restrictions and/or speed limit at 15 mph - ask Town officials and police what they think), this is a designated safe route to school. Requested red or white curbs be painted to increase visibility
3. Magnolia crosswalks - Could we add flags or try other methods for making the intersections safe at Baltimore Ave and Dark Park to Perry's?
4. Holcolmb Crosswalk - Complaints about Redwood students racing through crosswalk (look

for possible solutions), improved signage at crosswalk, stop sign after crosswalk makes it confusing for the drivers. Students cycling do not stop at stop signs. Vehicle drivers do not give pedestrians the right of way. A request was made for the police to increase enforcement from 7:55 to 8:05 AM.

5. Vandalism at NC (Not sure how this is connected to SRTS, but Patty Elliot (principal) raised the concern about teenage skateboarders vandalizing school facilities on weekends).

6. Bon Air Bridge, make sure new construction takes into account bicyclists and pedestrians

Lucky Drive Jean requested the safety issue for students to travel east without having to cross Lucky

Drive by the freeway. This continues to be a safety concern and needs to get back on the issues list. Jean would like to see a cycle track on the north side of Lucky Drive.

Corte Madera plans to install Class II bike lanes on both sides of Lucky Drive in the near future. A long time ago a flood control plan was under review. This plan also included issues for pedestrians and cyclists traveling along Lucky Drive. Revisiting this plan could be helpful.

Safe Routes to Schools Issues List- How is works

A list of issues will be developed, identifying locations directly around schools, major corridors and neighborhood. Each project/issue will be rated with a 1, 2 or 3 and will include possible funding options. The number of students and how they travel to a school will be included.

An example is Hall MS has a high number of students who walk and bike to school. Redwood has students traveling from San Rafael and Tiburon that drive because it is not cool to ride to school at this age.

Safe Routes to School- Redwood Environmental Club

SR2S has been working with Joe Stewart for the past 8-9 years and students from the Environmental Action Club. Currently the club has Jenna Neustaetter, a senior who has proved to be a great project leader. She is on the Teen Leadership Council, a college class offered to high school Juniors and Senior students through Global Student Embassy (GSE) in partnership with Safe Routes to Schools. The Teen Leadership Council and provides club leaders with the opportunity to discuss environmental and social justice concerns both locally and globally, and provides a forum for the club leaders to plan and organize encouragement events such as team bike challenges and Cocoa for Carpool.

At Redwood 60% of the students drive to and from school in single family vehicles (non-carpool). Surveys conducted at other schools with similar demographics, show as many as 89% of the Juniors and Seniors occupy single driver vehicles to and from school. Students at the 3 Tam Union District High Schools and Terra Linda HS have verbally stated that they drive off campus because they do not like the food offered at schools. The open campus policy increases the number of students who leave campus for lunch. In a student survey conducted Spring 2017,

Terra Linda HS students said they would stay on campus if Food Trucks brought "healthier and better options" to campus; this might mitigate the need for students to drive to school just so they have a car at lunch-time.

Safe Routes to Schools offers a distracted driving program. This program is successful when students lead the campaign at their school. Students must identify that there is a problem or it will not be a successful education program. The districts wellness coordinator has offered to spearhead a program however students do not see distracted driving as an issue.

Redwood High School Parking

The new principal at Redwood has identified the daily parking issues at the school. There are 1800 students at the school. There are 112 staff required parking spaces. Students can apply for a parking permit and in some cases can get more than one per household. Tickets are issued however they are not a deterrent to parking without a school permit. There has been a student led Parking Committee. Their focus has been how to create more parking and not on addressing alternative modes to school such as carpooling.

A suggestion was made to charge for parking. Yes, a school can charge for parking. In one district the funds were used to encourage pedestrian and bicycle programs at a school. The fee charged was less if students carpoled. Wendi will provide the principal with the information. It was a program hosted about 10 years ago. Another suggestion was for an organized committee to create a video with and for students. It was done a few years ago and it was a very powerful message to students.

The police are aware of the permit that allows student to drive other students. This is permitted in the case of a family hardship; where a permitted student can drive siblings to/from school. The permit is not issued because of an inconvenience to students/families.

At the next meeting a map(s) will be presented to illustrate the various Safe Routes projects constructed, under design, in the planning stages, and those discussed tonight.

Next meeting is scheduled for April 25 at 3:45PM. at the Central Marin Police Community Room.