



**SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY**



## MILL VALLEY TASK FORCE- SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

MEETING MINUTES February 2, 2012

### **Introductions/Attendees (14)**

Attendees: Wendi Kallins- Director Safe Routes to Schools, Dan Hughes, P.E.- Mill Valley DPW, Stephanie Moulton Peters- MVMS SR2S Team Leader, Peggy Clark- Safe Routes to Schools, Willow Older- Park Team Leader, Ann Zarraonandia- Edna Maguire Team Leader, James O'Brien- TAM Deb Cole- Street Smarts, Kathy McLeod- MV resident, Carey Lando- Marin County DPW, Kett Kettunen Zegart- MV resident

### **Meeting handouts attached:**

- Mill Valley Student Survey Summary 2012
- Report Card
- TAM- Ranked list of TAM Marin County Crossing Guard Locations- 12/1/2011
- TAM- Current Status of Marin County Crossing Guard Program- Feb 2, 2012
- Mill Valley- DPW-Staff Report- Safe Routes to Schools Grant Application 2/2/2012
- Mill Valley- DPW- SRTS Task Force Update on Current B/P Projects
- Mill Valley School District- SRTS Administrative Regulation
- Mill Valley School District- SRTS Board Policy

### **Welcome and Introduction**

#### **Safe Routes – What's new with Safe Routes to Schools?**

Wendi-Distributed hand out Mill Valley Student Survey Summary 2012

SR2S is holding steady for the 2011-12 school year.

This document is a summary of all Mill Valley SR2S participants' schools – fall 2011 Student Tally Survey. This year a SR2S Survey Report Card has been developed and will be distributed to all county schools, providing each school with a current status of their progress and opportunity to improve by increasing their green trips to school. The Report Card provides details on each school's ranking from the inception of the SR2S program in the respective school to the current year. It will also give a check list of programs and improvements for the school which can help the school determine how to increase their status.

Deb- How are schools that use bus service measured?

Wendi- Schools with bus service start with a higher threshold. Encourage families to carpool or walk to bus stops.

Wendi- Active4.me- Safe Routes to School will be using an on-line student travel-tracking program at select schools this year. The program will track the number of walkers, bikers and carpools using a barcode scanning system. The system is Active4.me and is an offshoot of Save-A-Gallon. Save-A-Gallon was used by Safe Routes to Schools in 2011 by Miller Creek Middle School. The Active4.me system will be used to electronically count the number of students who are using alternative means to get to school: walking, cycling, carpooling, bus. The schools participating this school year are Bacich, Kent Middle and Drake High School. Students will self-report when they scan their tag at school each day.

There is a great deal of upfront work to get a school online with the scanning process, but once students are registered. After the initial registration process only student/families new will need to be registered in subsequent years.

### **Go Green Spring Challenge**

The contest will begin in schools on March 12<sup>th</sup> and run for 4 weeks. Feedback from the previous years was provided regarding the time it took for teachers/ students to apply individual stickers to the in-classroom tree posters. This year, 1 larger leaf with a total of all students' green trips will be placed on the tree per day.

Wendi- would still like to meet with the Park Principal to discuss how the contest can be implemented to work with the particular school culture. Some schools do not like to host individual contests and Go Green can be adjusted to work with most schools preferences.

### **National Bike to School Day- May 9<sup>th</sup> 2012**

The first National Bike to School Day will take place on May 9, 2012, as part of National Bike Month. National Bike to Work Day is May 10<sup>th</sup>. SR2S is encouraging all to participate on either of these dates. The event builds on the popularity of Walk to School Day, which is celebrated across the country – and the world – each October. Many communities and schools have been holding spring walk and bicycle to school events for years. National Bike to School Day provides an opportunity for schools across the country to join together to celebrate and to build off of the energy of National Bike Month.

### **Neighborhood Guide Books**

Go Green Guide books will be completed in the next few months- The development was funded by an MTC grant and will provide neighborhoods with school polling guidelines, and the Green Guide will provide all things green that schools and people can do to promote and practice traveling green. The guides will be available online.

Kathy- Tam Valley- she has a lead on a 1<sup>st</sup> grade parent at Tam Valley that may be interested in being a Team Leader.

### **Mill Valley School Board – Safe Routes to Schools Policy**

Handouts:

Mill Valley School District- SRTS Administrative Regulation

Mill Valley School District- SRTS Board Policy

Stephanie- meet with the School District and presented along with Roul Wertz a recommendation that the Mill Valley District adopt Safe Routes to Schools programs in all schools. The Mill Valley School District board adopted the Safe Routes to School program as a permanent policy of its six schools.

The Safe Routes program encourages more students and parents to walk, bike, ride scooters or carpool to school and back. Under the new policy, the district will assign students to the schools closest to their homes whenever possible. This ensures that the program remains district policy regardless of parent or staff turnover.

Stephanie - reported the policies were very much in line with the existing District Student/Wellness School Board Policies and the SR2S program supports those policies.

Wendi- The policy began with recommendations from California School Board Association but was strengthened to reflect the Marin County Program. Mill Valley is the first district to adopt such a comprehensive policy. MV used language that mirrors MVSD's policy structure and plans to encourage all other Marin County School Districts to adopt similar policies.

This new policy will help SR2S to encourage schools not currently scheduling classes or conducting the surveys to schedule them.

Deb- this policy should be included in the new school year registration packet – it will help encourage parents, especially new incoming families that Mill Valley School District supports green travel alternatives for getting students to school.

Stephanie- good idea and will address with Raoul. He does plan to attend SR2S Task Force meeting when he can.

Ann- supported the idea of getting the information to student/families- demonstrates to the bigger community at large.

Kathy- Does this policy effect Measure A?

Stephanie- not the same- it would not address where bikes rack are located or traffic/pedestrian road markings etc. She does acknowledge that these issues they struggle with.

### **Crossing Guards- Informational Presentations from TAM**

Handouts:

TAM- Ranked list of TAM Marin County Crossing Guard Locations

TAM- Current Status of Marin County Crossing Guard Program- Feb 2, 2012

James - Attended the meeting for Dan Cherrier, who heads the Crossing Guard program at the Transportation Authority of Marin. The presentation provided the Task Force with an overview of the Marin County Crossing Guard Program. The initial program deployed 54 guards in 2006/2007. Measure A, local sales tax, funded 75 active crossing guards. Currently 12 of the 75 are funded by Measure B, a regional gas tax. A master list used by the county to rank crossing guard locations was distributed. A total of 126 locations appear on the list that was developed by the TAM Board on December 1, 2011.

The process for the selection of crossing guards was reviewed: Intersections locations are recommended by school districts, DPW departments and police departments. The Public Works Director determines location recommendations to forward to TAM for crossing guards. TAM conducts counts from hired

consultants- scores each location and then a ranked list is developed by TAM. The evaluation process is expensive and lengthy. The list will be re-evaluated in 2014.

The criteria to select locations is based on an individual score for a crosswalk not an intersection. It is possible for one intersection to have multiple, high scoring crosswalks. One guard is assumed to be able to service 2 adjacent crosswalks.

In Dec 2011 the new policy regarding new locations and considering changed conditions was adopted by the TAM Board that allows new locations to be added midyear. At the beginning of the next year, this could change the ranking of other locations and possibly replace a position.

Vendor & Evaluation– TAM conducts unannounced audits at least once a month to verify guard attendance and performance. A few of the highlights a survey conducted:

- 96% of the respondents indicated crossing guards are a good way to spend Measure A funds.
- More than 6 in 10 reported they use a crosswalk where a guard is located
- A significant majority of students that walk regularly use a crosswalk where a guard is located and they feel more comfortable knowing guards are present
- One third of students that walk or ride reported they changed from being driven to school in part, due to the presence of a guard.

Requesting a crossing guard at a cross walk that is not on the list is not discouraged; however the request must be made through the town DPW Director. The evaluation process for a new area is costly when districts can help to find a cost sharing partner this is very helpful. The County of Marin is willing to partner with TAM by utilizing TAM existing crossing guard program.

A new guard will be stations at Shoreline and Flamingo starting in February.

Kathy- need to get the message to the MV Middle school parents- recommend they change the crosswalk – include a bulb out – the crosswalk is too wide for pedestrian to cross safely

Stephanie- PLEASE report all crossing guard problems to Michele Rollins, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent [mrollins@mvschools.org](mailto:mrollins@mvschools.org) 389-7700.

James – Dan also welcome calls.

### **Project Update: County and MV DPW**

#### **Carey Lando- County Updates**

- Flamingo at Shoreline- Crossing guard will be in place soon and this year a pedestrian activated traffic signal will be installed

Kathy- bulb outs are also needed at this crosswalk to narrow the distance pedestrians need to travel.

- Mill Valley/Sausalito bike path- 2 year plan to re-surface

Kathy- when they resurface will they be raising the height of the path?

Carey- she will need to look into it- and report back

- Strawberry sidewalk extension currently in engineering- working on issues with the timing of the improvements - traffic near the school and the community center need to be addressed
- Tam Valley path project- she will get an update
- Lomita- engineering is clearing out backlogs- still moving forward- working out details with the community- design to start in a month

Wendi- are they addressing the stop sign at Shell Court? The direction needs to change

- Evergreen- moving forward slowly

Margett- Almonte- great to have the crossing guard- could they put up paddles too for use when the guard is not stationed? Cars are still parking on East Blithdale on the sidewalk.

Carey- paddles are not permitted when there are 2 lanes of traffic flowing in the same direction.

### **Dan- Mill Valley Updates**

Handouts:

SR2S Task Force Update- Current Projects  
Safe Routes to Schools Grant Application 2/2/2012

Items #1-6 , 9, 11-13 are complete

- Additional item- Camino Alto- Kite Hill area- reviewing crosswalk improvements- would like feedback from the community

Stephanie- recommended Ann the Team Leader at Edna Maguire provide feedback to Dan. Invited attendees to review the extensive map of completed projects that Jill and Dan developed- very helpful resource- thank you!

Dan- the DPW recently hired two engineers.

# 7. Plans approved –researching funding – considering breaking the project into sections- complete minor improvements – 7 to 8 crosswalks to be improved in the intern- this spring

#8. Environmental review and Right of Way complete. Request for design funding pending at Caltrans – pedestrian flashing light at Almonte.

Stephanie- this project has been on the list for a long time.

Kathy- she believed there was/is Bicycle Transportation Account funding from the state available for this project and Jill had Safe Routes to Schools grant funding slated for this project too. Recommended Dan ask Jill about preciously discussed funding.

# 10. Design is starting now

#14. Cancelled- Stephanie- community want to look at other alternatives.

#15. Caltrans- continues to return application- the approval process is very precise.

Wendi- National Report- Washington -Senate has generated many loopholes therefore funding for transportation projects= SR2S is not secure. The House has eliminated SR2S funding. All of these changes will have a drastically negative impact on the National SR2S programs. Now is a good time to learn more- "like" Marin Safe Routes to Schools- Face book to stay informed.

Kathy- who to contact in CA?

Wendi – not sure who the CA contact is.

Dan- Handout- SR2S Grant Application- DPW

**Adjourned- Next meeting April 26 at 9:15 am.**