



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



**Mill Valley Safe Routes to Schools Task Force  
Meeting Notes  
Thursday, April 30, 2015**

**Attendees:**

Wendi Kallins- Safe Routes to Schools, Peggy Clark- Safe Routes to Schools, Ryan Erving- Parent Edna Maguire, Carey Lando- County of Marin DPW, Kim McFerrin- Team Leader Old Mill, Maureen Parton- Aide to Kate Sears, Tricia Satake- MV BPAC- Old Mill & MVMS Team Leader, Renee Shelton- Team Leader Old Mill, Ashley Tam- Parisi Associates, Shawn Gatewood- MV School District- Director of Operation and Maintenance, Garin Bougie(?sp)- Parent Old Mill, Jan and Matt Mathews- MV Lumber Yard, Lindsay Haynes- MVPD, Kyle Maxwell- MVPD, Kirsten Kennel- Parent Edna Maguire

**Announcements**

Marin County issued a Proclamation for Bike to Work Day and Bike to School Days 2015. There are a number of great activities planned throughout the county for the 15th year of Bike to Work Day and the 4th year of Bike to Schools Day.

Richardson Bay Pathway- Marin County Parks continues to improve safety on the shared path, one of the most heavily used pathways in the county. Design improvements had been under review for sometime even before the injury incident in the fall of 2014 which advanced the need for additional immediate action. Marin County Parks has been working collaboratively with a number of stakeholders including the County of Marin and the City of Mill Valley, the Marin County Bicycle Coalition, Safe Routes to School, Mill Valley Police Department, the Marin County Sheriff's Department and the California Highway Patrol (CHP).

The speed for bicycles has been reduced to 10 mph and is posted with regulatory signage from the bridge just north of the new Sycamore Roundabout to just below the pathway behind Mill Creek Meadows, often used by residents of the Redwoods. The enforcement effort will first focus on outreach and education. However, flagrant speeding and failing to stop at the stop signs at Pohono and Shoreline Highway will result in citations.

The Share the Path education program currently underway addresses safe path behavior for all user groups, pedestrians and cyclists alike. The stakeholder groups and organizations are distributing posters, pamphlets, stickers and flyers to help bring home this safety message. Temporary, colorful "lollipop" signs with text and creative visual images have been placed along the pathway to urge slowing down, staying to the right, being aware of other users, being visible, keeping leashes on pets short and held close and looking before crossing the pathway. Stickers are being distributed at Mill Valley

Middle School and the elementary schools. Each school will receive 200 stickers: MVMS would like 800 stickers due to the numbers of bike riders and walkers. The Share the Path web site has a host of helpful information about the campaign and its safety goals. Please check it out at <http://sharethepathmarin.org/>

The Share the Path program is building on the message that Safe Routes to Schools has been developing for years. The continued challenge is to create a cultural shift for all path users. This is the currently the biggest challenge for Mill Valley. A suggestion was made to provided business owners with information about safe path use and to make it a community-wide effort.

Stephanie Moulton- Peters would like feedback on the program.

### **City updates**

The Mill Valley City Council is meeting on May 5 to appoint a traffic committee to learn who, how and why the roads in town are being used. Studies indicate there has been a significant increase in traffic not the population.

The school volunteers are encouraged work with their PTA's to reduce the number of cars on the roads during school hours. Studies show with both parents working the number of vehicles has increased. The wealth in a community is also an indicator; as more service providers are hired. Another factor is individuals working from home requiring delivery services, again an increase in commercial vehicles on roads.

Shawn Gatewood discussed a program in Los Angeles County- Healthy by Design policy. The policy requires communities to consider traffic impact when building permits are issued and also considers the conditional use for projects. The program reviews the number of vehicles parking spaces, bike parking, vehicle charging stations.

The County of Marin faces a tough challenge with the number of people driving, using vehicles, requiring larger amounts of services and needing parking. A culture shift needs to take place. Parents are fearful; therefore they drive their children to school vs. letting them walk or bike.

### **BPAC update**

The Mill Valley General Plan has been completed. One of the many challenges with traffic is many of the local business/services are no longer in town. Residents do not have access to a local hardware store or office supply store for example. People now need to get in a vehicle and drive to Hwy 101 or San Rafael. The City of Mill Valley needs to encourage /support more local businesses to reduce traffic.

### **County updates**

Mill Valley Path Way Roundabout- The County is reviewing how pedestrians and cyclists are using the Sycamore "roundabout". They do not want to post too many signs

that may confuse users. In time, behaviors of the many users will change; if users remain confused about where they need to be in the roundabout, the County will look into a design change in the next fiscal year.

Stephanie commented that pedestrians are confused and it is not clearly marked where and in what direction they should walk. Cyclists are still going too fast on the roundabout. It would be helpful if citations were issued if posted speed limits are not obeyed. The majority of the people being issued citations are from San Francisco and the East Bay. If a rider does get a citation, he or she can attend the Basic Street Skills class offered by the Marin County Bicycle Coalition for a fee reduction on his/her citation.

Mill Valley hopes to add a bike lane from Almonte to Camino Alto in the next year once funds are secured. The availability of this bike lane is thought to help divert the number of fast traveling cyclists currently using the path onto the roadway.

Lomita Dr- The road and sidewalk stripping has not been completed; it is scheduled for the beginning of the summer to be completed before the start of next school year. The street parking by Ring Mountain is currently “pull in” and will be changed to parallel parking.” Neighbors had suggested parallel parking vs diagonal parking. The County is coordinating with the Mill Valley School District to address the areas that still need improvement. Vehicles are parking in restricted areas and should be reported to law enforcement and the MV School District when this occurs.

#### Seminary Drive at Hwy 101

The crosswalks on the east side of Hwy 101 are to be redesigned; they will be shortened and orientated for increased visibility. Parking will be restricted on Redwood Hwy [between the Seminary ramp intersection and the underpass at Richardson Bay](#). In the future, a bike lane will be designed, engineered and constructed. A permit has been received from Cal Trans and the project will go out to bid in June. The county is planning construction in late July. The County continues to coordinate with the City of Mill Valley on projects.

#### Lomita @ Shell Drive- Stop Sign

Notices will be sent out to neighbors explaining that the intersection will become a 4-way stop.

Path repaving The County has been working on obtaining approval/permit to repave for many years. There are many issues to consider:

- pavement improvements could encourage cyclists to ride faster
- Behavior change takes time
- Out of town path users are not following the rules of the road. The Marin County Bicycle Coalition has reached out to the neighboring bicycle coalitions requesting that their members adhere to the speed law and the Share the Path protocols when cyclists visit the area.

#### East Blithdale and Route 131 Interchange

On May 14, there will be a presentation summarizing the issues and possible solutions

### Sea Level Rise Study

Viewers will be installed inside a corral on the path near the Almonte and Miller cross walk. The two “Owls” are part of an educational program on sea level rise. Kate Sears will be making a presentation on the study opening day on May 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 am.

**Homestead/Almonte-** Neighbors living behind Tam High School have reported speeding vehicles, along with screeching brakes.. Neighbors believe many of the drivers are high school students rushing to school to find parking which is limited. Many students walk and ride to school; speeding drivers are making the area unsafe. Student drivers are aware the roads are patrolled by two different agencies: the MVRP and the Marin County Sheriff. Students take advantage of the circumstance of low enforcement. It would be helpful if the CHP SEAL enforcement team could patrol Tam High on a regular basis.

Wendi reported that a Walk Audit was conducted a number of years ago. The results need to be reviewed. The next step is to develop a neighborhood committee to identify specific issues.

The PTA and Site Council support a Distracted Driver program. The school had a Traffic Committee in the past. Safe Routes to Schools needs a teacher contact at Tam High to support SR2S Teens Go Green programs. The Jr/Seniors need to be encouraged to carpool.

### **Community concerns**

Sycamore safety- It is a narrow street and now it has street markings as a designated bike route. The next step is to bring the neighborhood together to identify specific issues and develop a safety campaign. The BPAC and SR2S will work together to work with the residents and the school.

### **Proposal from Mill Valley Lumber**

Jen and Matt Mathews are Bay Area natives, Mill Valley residents and they have been involved locally with Safe Routs to School in Marin. They purchased the Mill Valley Lumber Yard 2 years ago. The have obtained a business licence and currently have two local businesses in the space.

They see the Lumber Yard becoming a hub for local shops and office space for small local business owners. Designs for the property included pedestrian and bicycle access through the property to the surrounding the neighborhood. They want to encourage more people to walk/cycle from the business district to the neighborhoods, reduce vehicle traffic and add facilitates for safe foot travel.

Mixed use businesses will encourage residents and visitors to shop locally hence reducing traffic. It is a great area for community groups to host events. Jen and Matt

would like to hear from the community on how the property can meet the needs of Mill Valley residents

Please contact them at: <http://www.millvalleylumberyard.com/contact/> or [info@millvalleylumberyard.com](mailto:info@millvalleylumberyard.com)

Comments: Mill Valley has a real need to analyze how the town can support local business and services

### **Old Mill Update**

The Go Green contest was a huge success with **67%** participation from students and their families. The Team Leaders did a fantastic job managing the contest! Once the contest launched it just “caught fire” with a great deal of support. The teachers were very supportive, they encouraged different travel modes, made the tracking a math project. Parents supported “walking school buses” from the Depot. Neighbors offered support too.

The pavement at Cascade Dr. and Old Mill by the Dipsea Trail has marked/painted to increase safety for pedestrian. Vehicle drivers entering the intersection were not clear on the right of way. The markings now slow traffic, direct the vehicles correctly creating a safe crossing for students walking and cycling.

### **Old Mill parking**

Many vehicles are parking in red zones. Construction vehicles working in the neighborhood have added to the limited parking problem. The school has requested enforcement be increased and citations issued to discourage illegal parking.

The traffic during pick-up is still a challenge with parents picking-up after school for activities. The current crossing guard (AM/PM shift) requires additional support and training on how to properly direct groups of students to cross the street.

The Safe Routes Student Travel Survey indicated a 10% drop in PM walking with an increase in PM carpooling.

### **Other issues**

- **Neighborhood Route Mapping update** - The survey/ maps were handed over to the BPAC for summary.
- The Team Leader Appreciation Luncheon was on May 19<sup>th</sup>

**Next Meeting** - the next meeting will be announced before the start of the next school year. Thank you all and have a wonderful summer!