



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



**Mill Valley Safe Routes to Schools Task Force  
Meeting Notes  
Thursday, September 17, 2015**

Kim McFerrin-Team Leader Old Mill, Jess Willard- Team Leader Edna Maguire, Des McKissock- Marin Horizon, Ashley Tam- Parisi-Associates, Ryan Erving- Team Leader Edna Maguire, Kirsten Kennel- Parent, Garin Bougie- Team Leader Old Mill, Mike Mooney- Team Leader Marin Horizon, Tracy McMillan- Team Leader Park School, Glenn Newcomer- CHP, Brian Miller- CHP, Maureen Parton- Aide to Kate Sears, Carey Lando- Senior Planner/ County of Marin, Cecilia Zamora- MV DPW, Stephanie Moulton Peters-City of Mill Valley, Wendi Kallins- Safe Routes to School, Peggy Clark- Safe Routes to Schools, Tricia Satake- Team Leader/MVBPAC

**Announcements: none**

**Infrastructure Issues and Updates**

**City updates-** Refer to attached document: [Safe Routes to Schools Task Force Update on Current B/P Projects \(9/17/2015\)](#).

*The notes below are numbered to reference the projects on the list:*

- # 1 Miller Ave. Scheduled for the summer of 2016: no new updates as of this meeting.
- # 2 Completed this summer- Improvements completed near Park School: Vehicle feedback signs, sidewalk extension, signage added. The contractor is now working on the punch list.
- # 3 Bike lanes on Camino Alto. This project is funded by a Cal Trans grant. City staff is working on environmental review clearance from Cal Trans. They expect to have the design completed by Dec 2015 and ready for construction to begin the summer of 2016.
- #4 Bike Path Roundabout. This is a County project. The city staff are waiting on the relocation of the PG&E poll and an agreement between the City and County on maintenance.

Measure A Grant Projects- proposal completed by December

- # 5 Old Mill Sidewalks. The construction plans are completed and the City expects to begin construction by November 2015
- # 6 Camino Alto. City's proposal for design services is under way and they expect construction to start the summer of 2016. The sidewalk ramp on the south east side Camino Alto at Sycamore will be changed to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists. The Mill Valley DPW does not have the right away to address the south west sidewalk (across from the car repair business) at the same intersection. However, they plan to work with the limitations and suggesting proposed improvements presented by the BPAC. The City will ask the hedges be cut back to create more space.

Stephanie requested the design for the widening of the multi-use path at Camino Alto and Miller Ave be re-considered. There seems to be enough room without widening the path. The project would require an easement from the Redwoods.

**Issues list SR2S- Reference attached document: [Mill Valley Issues List](#)**

The list will be presented to the City of Mill Valley and the County for review. No new issues were presented during the meeting.

**County updates**

1. Mill Valley Sausalito Multi Use Path- There is a grant for the repaving of the Mill Valley Sausalito multi-use path. There are currently 3 applications now submitted. The County has asked the BPAC to review the application. The County may recommend TAM include this in the program for all the other projects to be submitted. The plan is to improve the existing pavement, expand the path where permitted. There are challenges with the sensitive habitat surrounding the path; it is a very staff intensive project for all agencies involved.
2. Active Transportation Program -The County has submitted projects and is waiting to hear back from the state and regional Active Transportation Program. The application process is very competitive; last year Marin County did not receive any funding.
3. Alto Study- The property title research has been a very big time intensive research project for the county. The land survey is now completed and the first draft of the map work has been submitted. The County will be announcing a date for a public meeting this fall.

The Title research was conducted for Mill Valley to Corte Madera. Several travel options were reviewed and a feasibility study was completed for three route options. The number one question for the options was regarding property ownership/land titles. When the study maps are complete they will identify what property is the County's and what is private. The map will indicated where the property lines are by the tunnel. For more information go to the [WalkBikeMarin.org](http://WalkBikeMarin.org) site or email Carrie and she will add you to the email list for WalkBikeMarin updates.

Maureen reminded Task Force members that Kate Sears is open to hearing feedback regarding the SR2S, County and Mill Valley projects. The Mill Valley Traffic and Congestion Reduction Advisory Task Force comprised of community members and representatives from the City of Mill Valley, Tam Community Services District, the County and the School District are sorting through the many issues including all modes of transportation not just vehicles. In a report to the Mill Valley Traffic and Congestion Advisory Task Force, Parisi and Associates has reported that over 700 vehicle trips are made across the E.Blitedale/Tiburon Blvd. overcrossing in the morning peak period going to and from neighborhoods to the various schools, public and independent, in this

part of Southern Marin. This is one of the many items that can be improved upon with school populations only growing over the next many years

**Strawberry – Seminary Drive Interchange Infrastructure project** – Maureen reported that this project, funded by a State grant gained by the County Department of Public Works, is located at the Seminary Drive offramp. This project will add bicycle, pedestrian and ADA access improvements to this popular bike-ped overcrossing over the Highway 101 freeway from Strawberry on the east to Mill Valley Middle School and elementary schools on the west in the City of Mill Valley.

Accident history at this location revealed that drivers needed better direction to proceed through the intersection safely. Residents, patrons and visitors to Strawberry Village and frontage road businesses will soon see a host of improvements.

The roadway will be paved with new asphalt and intersection striping will be added and refreshed to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety. Approaching the intersection from the north, a dedicated 4-foot wide bike lane for southbound Redwood frontage road cyclists will be added and crosswalk striping will be repainted to align with newly installed ADA curb ramps. Realignment of the vehicle lanes south of the intersection will allow for bike lanes in both directions. Traffic signal hardware and lighting will be upgraded and signal timing will be optimized for the new intersection configuration. An audible pedestrian signal will be installed along with new pedestrian pushbuttons to make crossing safer.

To enhance bicycle access and safety, the County Department of Public Works recommended restricting parking along the Redwood Highway frontage road south of the DeSilva Island entry. This restriction extended an existing red curb (no parking zone) an additional 320 feet and removed 13 parking spaces, of which only 4 to 6 spaces were being used. Flyers were placed on windshields informing drivers of this planned change, and with no opposition, the County incorporated these improvements into the plan.

Due to opposition by a concerned resident and a tight schedule for bidding the project, Marin Public Works was not able to let the contract in time for the summer 2015 season and proceed with planned construction. This project is now waiting until Spring of 2016 for bidding and construction.

**Community Concerns-** *New Issue- This issue will be added to the January 2016 agenda.*

Kirsten Kennel commented on the traffic issues surrounding Tam High School and the local neighborhoods. Thirty years ago schools were stripped of funding for bus service and general funding. With the recent increase in population in Marin County's schools the increase in vehicle traffic by parents and students has been significant. There are two private schools in the area that also contribute to the increase in traffic from outside Mill Valley, one of the schools was once a public school drawing students from the local neighborhood. The areas streets are managed by the City of Mill Valley and the County.

There are 1200 students at Tam High School. Many students drive to school and park in the neighborhoods often making narrow streets narrower for pedestrians (no sidewalks) and vehicle traffic.

These are just the type of issues that need to be presented at the Mill Valley Traffic Task Force. Input from the community is essential for the City of Mill Valley and the County to understand. This is an opportunity for community education and for Safe Routes to Schools programs to assist in changing behaviors of parents and teen drivers.

### **Wrong way riding on Shoreline**

Tracy reported the Mill Valley BPAC received an email regarding student cyclists traveling against the flow of traffic on Shoreline Hwy. Many of the students are traveling onto Flamingo Ave off Shoreline. The traffic light and pedestrian activated crossing signal at Flamingo is not being used by many students. There was once a crossing guard at this location and they were very helpful. When the new grocery store opens traffic patterns will change increasing the need for students to travel on the correct side of the road with the flow of traffic.

There are planned facilities improvements for this area including ADA access improvements. The entire area will not see immediate improvements and the ones planned will take some time with the County.

Officer Newcomb commented that students are not using the new and improved multi-use path along the creek. They are choosing to travel the shortest path even though it can be less safe. He suggested developing incentives to encourage the students to take the multi-use path vs. traveling through Tam Junction and to make use of the recommended Safe Routes travel maps.

Another area of concern is the crosswalk at Almonte. The new pedestrian activated light has been very helpful; however the posted speed limit of 40mph encourages high speed traffic.

**School Bus program** – This meeting ran short on time, this will be added to the meeting agenda in January 2016

**Update on Share the Path campaign-** meeting ran short on time.

### **Team Leader Updates**

Edna Maguire- The mapping materials have been collected and the surveys have been distributed. There is a new principal at the school and support for Safe Routes to Schools efforts has been great. The traffic flow in the parking lot has been redirected; they continue to observe behaviors and develop the best solution available. There are 200 students participating in the Green Sneaker Challenge this fall. On Iwalk Day Mike's Bikes will be offering bike support on campus.

**Tam High-** Safe Routes to Schools will be meeting with the Principal as they plan for the Amazing Transit Race scheduled for November 14<sup>th</sup>. This program encourages students to use transit and provides instruction on how to use Golden Gate Transit. This program was conducted at two other high schools in Marin County with great success. Teams will have a chance to compete while making use of public transportation and win a Go Pro.

Other issues to be addressed at Tam High include:

- Students using their vehicles for needed storage for books and athletic equipment
- More bike racks are needed
- The theft of bicycles on campus discourages students from riding. Students need to learn the benefits of registering their bike with the County Sheriff. Many bikes are retrieved by the police; however they do not know who the owners are if they are not registered. Safe Routes to Schools has information on how to register a bike on their web site.

**MVMS-** The new student council will be elected soon and they are gearing up for Iwalk Day.

**Park School-** New Team Leader Tracy McMillan would welcome the opportunity to meet the other Team Leaders in Mill Valley. She has supported the efforts on Safe Routes to Schools Nationally and is excited to be supporting the efforts on a school level.

**Old Mill-** Team Leader efforts are focused on Active4Me and getting students and parents excited. There is an increase of backed up traffic on Throckmorton. They are encouraging more families to make use of the Steps Lanes and Pathways. They are working toward Walk and Roll every day! The Active4Me program scans each students tag and can track the amount of carbon being reduced and how many miles students travel. Parents can also receive a ping when students arrive at school. Old Mill is not tracking individual students but students per classroom, to help build healthy competition within the classes.

The next effort will be to build on a Walking School Bus from the Depot in down town. On Iwalk Day the mayor will be leading the parade of students and parents.

**Marin Horizon-** A traffic plan is in the works. The CHP placement of a speed trailer has been very useful by influencing reduced speeds. There is an increase of students traveling against the flow of traffic on Miller Ave. This is extremely dangerous as drivers are not looking for bikes traveling toward them. A request for CHP to monitor student cyclists along Miller Ave. Office Newcomb expressed thanks for the work Des has done at the school! The school continues to host Walk and Roll Wednesdays once a month.

**Route mapping update-** to be addressed at the next meeting

**Next Meeting - January 21<sup>st</sup> 2016**

Tricia offered to reserve the meeting space from 9:30 – 11:30. The meeting agenda will skip updates to allot more time to the new issues at Tam High, Bus program and other items not addressed at this meeting..