



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



Mill Valley Task Force Meeting Notes Sept 2017

Attendees: Wendi Kallins- Safe Routes to Schools, Peggy Clark- Safe Routes to Schools, Samuel Adams-Edna Maguire Team Leader, Debbie Alley- Mill Valley BPAC, Dan Cherrier-TAM, Ryan Erving- Edna Maguire Team Leader, Lindsay Haynes- Mill Valley PD, Kirsten Kennel- Parent Edna Maguire, Clay Kunz-Strawberry Team Leader, Kyle Maxwell- Mill Valley PD, Karen Meezan-Tam High School, Stephanie Moulton-Peters- Mill Valley Councilmember, Glen Newcomer- CHP, David Parisi- Parisi Associates, Maureen Parton- Aide to Katie Rice, Kathy McLeod- Crossing Guard Supervisor, Dan Murray- Parent Volunteer Old Mill School, Kelly Zaleski-Marin Transit, David Eshoo- Assoc Engineer Mill Valley, Molly Graham- TAM, Dan Cherrier TAM

Safe Routes Updates

Class Scheduling

Safe Routes to Schools classes have been conducted at Mill Valley Middle School, Park School and Tam Valley. Strawberry Point and Old Mill classes will be scheduled in the spring. Edna Maguire classes are to be determined, there have been challenges scheduling classes due scheduling conflicts within the school.

Iwalk

Mill Valley Schools including Tam High will be participating in Iwalk. Tam Valley School does not have a team leader; plans are not confirmed.

Edna Maguire will plan to host a bike train from the recreation center. The surface improvements to the multi-use path will be mostly completed by then and the path will be open.

Mapping/ Park and Walk Locations

Safe Routes to Schools is developing prioritized list of schools that could benefit from maps identifying suggested “walk & roll routes” and park and walk locations, including bus stop locations. If more than seven schools are interested, SR2S will need to select depending on need. SR2S will need Team Leader support and will work with local cities/towns and County Department of Public Works. The maps are useful encouragement resources for schools.

Strawberry Point, Old Mill and Tam High will be added to the map list. The Mill Valley Lumber yard was identified as a possible parking location.

Tam Valley developed a map over five years ago. Parents at this school have been expressing concern about Marin Ave and would like to see the County consider safety improvements for student travel. The Tamalpais Community Service District is working with the community to encourage more parents to be involved.

The [National Safe Routes to Schools](#) has an informational site for tools on how to identify and promote park and walk locations.

Infrastructure Issues and Updates

County- Pathway improvements

A DPW representative did not attend the meeting to provide an update on projects. Maureen reported she had limited information on the pathway. The northern segment has been completed and the southern end improvements were underway. The project will be completed in phases. Kate Sears office is sending out eblasts with scheduled updates to the community.

Tam Valley bike lane project – Web site: [TAM Junction Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements](#)

Dan reported the project is moving along with about 5 more weeks to go. Much of the work will be completed during the nighttime. Several issues identified by Safe Routes to Schools are being addressed: the sidewalk by the rug shop has been reconfigured; the pole is no longer in the middle of the sidewalk, the bike lanes at Gibson and the ARCO are almost completed. The strip of road paddles will need to be shifted to make room and the catch basin by the nurse will be updated. The link to the TAM website has a complete list of updates.

Maureen expressed thanks to TAM for pushing this project along. It has been on the Cal Trans project list for twelve years. Safe Routes to Schools and community members attended meetings encouraging safety issues be addressed and they are.

Kathy also expressed thanks to TAM for taking on this project. She also expressed concern for the sidewalk configuration in front of the ARCO. Access cuts will be installed on both sides of the corner crosswalk. Student cyclists tend to go to the pedestrian walk button to cross and need access to the button. Cyclists will also have access to a Class 2 bike lane as an option to walking across the intersection.

Almonte- [Map of Almonte Improvements](#)

Maureen reported neighbors concern regarding traffic congestion continues. Many of the issues identified by the Community Safety committee remain on the project list. The limited student parking at Tam High School is being addressed by the County Supervisor and the School Board. The master plan developed by the school district had not been vetted with the county. A meeting is scheduled for September to collaborate. The Bond Measure for the proposed three story parking structure on the campus has been put on hold.

Tam High currently provides only 44% of the required school parking. The task force would like to help the school develop transportation alternatives for the high number of students that drive

to school. Parking Permits are required; suggestion made to encourage carpooling with seniors that are not on 1-year permit. A challenge for the school is monitoring the carpool parking area. The PTSA is working to recruit an active parent to representative Safe Routes to School on going.

Dipsea Steps

A section of the steps has been under construction making it very challenging for the number of students that use them to get to and from school. Community members on the hill met with the project engineers; they were supportive and agreed to provide a safe passage for students only during the project. The efforts were developed by word of mouth and were not posted on social media to reduce usage of this very temporary option.

Mill Valley Police Update

Electric bicycle riders speeding on the multi-use path have been reported. A majority of the speeding cyclists appear to be commuting into San Francisco. Marin County Parks is maintaining regular enforcement on the path; however, community members feel education and signage is limited. The maps and tourist information provided by the bike rental companies is not accurate. The bike route map developed by the Marin County Bicycle Coalition was recommended for the bike rental companies.

City Updates

Lomita Connection to Bike Path

The project is mostly completed. There are a couple of issues that remain. A meeting was scheduled this month; the agenda includes a 35 mile per hour speed limit, concerns with speeding cars near students on bikes, red striping and a stop sign request.

Miller Ave. - Crosswalks on Miller

The project continues to move forward; it is two thirds of the way complete. Crosswalks have been painted and the “shark’s teeth” (crosswalk warning road paint) are in place. Many expressed comments on the new look and feel of Miller Avenue. The visibility near the Whole Foods has greatly improved. This is a great example of a Complete Streets Project. The weekly email updates from the city continue to be appreciated and very informative.

A request was made to address safety issues at Clay and Blithdale. A bus stop was planned but it was removed. It is a very challenging intersection. Student cyclists tend to ride through the crosswalk instead of walking bikes.

The pedestrian push button at the Almonte crosswalk from the multi-use path will be moved to the new pedestrian refuge island. The crossing guard needs information on the law pertaining to vehicles crossing when there is a road divide present. This is a very wide crosswalk and safety concerns remain with the new facility improvements. Dan said he would look into it.

Kathy reported a number of issues continue for Strawberry Point students. Many parents and students chose not to ride to school because of driver behavior at freeway on and off ramps. The crosswalks do not provide enough visibility for students. The crossing guard on the west side of the freeway is helpful; however, the east side does not have one. The crossing guards time is limited due to the bell schedule for the middles school being different from the elementary school. There are several factors that influence the timing of the guard: bell schedule, minimum days and the distance (travel time) from the school.

New Enforcement Measures

Officers continue to enforce crosswalk laws. Staffing for the Traffic Division has increased with more officers patrolling during the day vs the evening. There have been frequent issues with drivers heading south toward Tam High running the light at the crosswalk for the Redwoods to Safeway. The community feedback is very helpful. Authorities and engineers continue to evaluate the facilities on Miller Ave to determine what is working and not working.

The 35 mph speed limit by the high school has been posted and the no left turn from the Miller Ave parking lot. A suggestion was made to develop a 30 second video of best practices be developed for the city's website.

Update on Tam High

Issues remain regarding the need to cut vegetation back for students walking and cycling in the Tam High and Marin Horizon schools' neighborhoods. The road signs need to be updated. Maureen agreed to review these concerns with the County DPW.

Yellow Bus Program

The program is in its second year; it is still a pilot program for the Mill Valley District. Families continue to receive information from the schools on the program to increase encouragement. The prices did increase a little this year. Soon the stake holders will need to evaluate how the service will continue for year three.

Next meeting

November 9, 2017 at 9:30am (meetings are scheduled every other month)

BPAC meets every other Wednesday at 7:00pm in City Hall- All are welcome.