



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



**Mill Valley Safe Routes to Schools Task Force
Meeting Notes
Thursday, March 8, 2018**

Attendees Dan Cherrier- TAM- Crossing Guard Manger, Kevin Cuffe- MVMS PTSA, Ryan Erving- Parent Edna Maguire, David Eshoo- Mill Valley DPW, Gwen Froh- SR2S Program Director, David Hoffman- Parisi Assoc., Tracy Lee-Team Leader Old Mill, Des McKissock- Marin Horizon Transportation Planner, Kathy McLeod, Karen Meezan- PTSA Tam High, Brian Miller- CHP Officer, Christina Mueller- Parent Edna Maguire, Glen Newcomer- CHP Officer, Maureen Parton- Aide to Kate Sears, Tricia Satake- Mill Valley BPAC, Stephanie Moulton- Peters, City of Mill Valley Council Member, Jacqueline Graf- Mill Valley Police Chief, Karie Kuzak- Parent Tam Valley/MVMS, Wendi Kallins- SR2S, Peggy Clark – SR2S

Updates and Issues

Belvedere Drive Meeting

Maureen Parton reported that since 2013 residents from Belvedere Drive and the Strawberry neighborhood have expressed safety concerns on the volume and speed of drivers that cut through the neighborhood from Hwy 101.

The Depart of Public Works will be repaving the street in the near future. Now is the time for road facility changes to be proposed as the process can take time for review and approval. Over the years a number of families have moved into the neighborhood; many of them walk and cycle to Strawberry Elementary and Mill Valley Middle School. Due to the location of this neighborhood, it is not within the Safe Routes to School program at this time. Therefore, this effort to increase safety must be from the City, CHP and school district.

Residents have proposed a sidewalk on the south side of the street; the current sidewalk is in disrepair and would be a costly improvement. Also proposed is an option to restrict parking on the north side of the street. Residents from Bay View Terrace tend to street park on the street; this may be a location for a bike/ped facility. Road paint and proper signage could make the safety improvements possible.

Speed bumps were also discussed; the county fire department has policies opposing them because of delayed response time. There is currently a national debate on this issue with

conflicting opinions. One concern is they tend to move a traffic problem to other streets and the same safety issues develop.

The size of service vehicles is also a problem; because of size students tend to ride out into the road more to pass them. A suggestion was made to have the City provide safe driving information to contractors working in Mill Valley.

Road delineators were proposed to prevent drivers from cutting corners; some residents did not approve of this suggestion.

Glen reported the recorded speed in this area are 32mph. The posted speed limit is 25mph. If speeds are not reduced the posted street speed could go up to 30mph.

Stephanie Moulton Peters commented that they had a similar problem on Miller Ave before they built the new configuration. The traffic calming facilities on Miller Ave have reduce traffic speeds. After a period of time a traffic study will be conducted; posted speed limits could be reduced if speeds have reduced.

The next meeting on Belvedere will be April 17 at 6:30pm at the Strawberry Rec Center. All concerned community members are encouraged to attend. Caltrans and the DPW requests individuals to submit comments if they cannot attend the meeting. Social media resources including Nextdoor will be used to announce meetings.

David commented that his experience while conducting radar speed studies demonstrated speeding drivers are usually residents and not service vehicle drivers as many people believe.

Crossing guards [*Tam Crossing Guard report*](#)

Dan reported every four years since 2006 TAM reevaluates crossing guard locations for current and requested guard locations. Last fall an evaluation was conducted on the 150 locations. There are a number of factors (see handout) that influence how a crossing guard location is ranked. To control costs of the evaluation several locations (at the top of the report) were not re-evaluated due to the number of factors that have not changed at these sites that call for a crossing guard. There were also nine locations that always perform poorly and they too were not evaluated this past fall.

The crossing guard program cash flow has experienced a funding shortfall; forecasts indicate next school year 58 sites vs. 76 sites will have crossing guards posted. There are some guards that are funded by schools (private) and or school districts. This will not change due to the TAM evaluation. Mill Valley currently has 13 guards; with the projected changes for 2018/19 it will be reduced to 11 guard locations.

The TAM Executive Committee will be evaluating the staff recommendation at a meeting this month. They will make recommendation to the TAM Advisory Board along with Marin Public Works who will add comments.

Action Steps:

1. Approve the Ranking List
2. Approve level of funding for the 58 guard sites
3. The proposed ½ cent sales tax renewal on the November ballot. TAM will recommend expenditures be approved for the start of school year to have guards in place. If the tax is approved this could prevent guards from being removed.

TAM must notify residents and school districts the programing will change. Representatives will go to schools and hand out notices at crossing guard locations. Students will be given a notice to take home notifying parents that a guard will no longer be present at that location.

TAM has proposed a Crossing Guard Volunteer program; it is not currently being used. The cost is \$5,000.00 vs \$18,000 for a paid crossing guard. The funding for the volunteer program would be borne by the school or local jurisdiction. The program would train, manage and insure an adult volunteer crossing guard. If a volunteer guard resigns or does not show up the school would be responsible for replacing the guard and a paid crossing guard would man the location in the interim. .

Training is required and guard locations must be approved by the local DPW.

A recommendation was made asking every school to fundraise for crossing guards. KIDDO is an example of a funding resource that does not current fund safety.

Concerns for the removal of the crossing guard site on the Hwy 101 south bound ramp were expressed. This route continues to see more students traveling to/from school. This route is in both the City of Mill Valley, county and CalTrans jurisdiction.

Karie expressed her safety concerns for students crossing Shoreline at Gibson and Pine Hill intersections and the need for crossing guards. Dan provided information on the criteria for ranking such intersections including the recorded volume of students and the number of recorded incidents. If incidents are not reported TAM cannot consider them in the evaluation process. Kate Sears' Enews regularly asks reader to report safety issues.

Gibson at Shoreline has been on the SR2S Issues list, now that it has a traffic light and marked crosswalk the safety ranking has changed. The guard at Tam Junction could be moved to Gibson for the afternoon student commute.

The bike lanes and other facilities will be completed as soon as the weather clears. This project was assumed by TAM due to delays with Caltrans. SR2S Task Force members expressed their gratitude to Dan and Kathy McLeod for the years of support for getting

this project started and completed. Caltrans does have work to complete and this may take a couple of years.

Corte Madera Ave. Crosswalk [Diagram of Crosswalk](#)

Tracy reported Old Mill students continue to use Active4Me which provides data on trips made to school by foot or rolling. More and more students are encountering safety issues traveling to/from Blithedale Canyon. The stair repairs are complete; students are using Gardner Street between Blithedale and Corte Madera daily and there aren't painted crosswalks.

The DPW's designation for these intersections is "un-controlled" crosswalk. This designation could aid the City to improve them to "continental crosswalk" without having to include ADA ramps. Continental crosswalks are preferred around schools. They generally cost \$1,000 vs. an ADA crosswalk costing up to \$8,000. Parents are encouraged to contact the DPW to express their concerns and request facility improvements be made soon. The DPW has been very supportive of approved requests from the community.

City of Mill Valley Update from Danielle Staude

The League of California Cities and CA State Association of Counties recently named the Mill Avenue Streetscape Project the 2018 Outstanding Local Streets and Roads Project Awards Program overall winner! Mill Valley completed this important roadway improvements project last year with nearly \$11 million from the Marin's local transportation sales tax. The project included reconfigured parking, improved pedestrian crossings, separated bike lanes, state of the art storm and water and landscape management, improved transit access and more. The project also utilized innovative construction techniques to reuse roadway materials to reduce construction expenses, duration and impacts. See the TAM website for an overview of the project or the City of Mill Valley's project page for more details.

Also:

We continue to look for opportunities to improve the area by Tam High. Most recently we applied for a Caltrans grant with Marin County to address flooding and identify possible adaptations solutions for the area from US 101 to Camino Alto. I will keep you posted, should we receive funding!

Mapping [Base Map of Old Mill](#)

David presented the first "draft" map for Old Mill School. The markings on this map came from information Parisi Associates collected a number of years ago. This map will be updated and will continue to be updated in years to come as patterns can change. It will include current conditions and issues such as crossing guard locations, steps, lanes and paths, bus routes and park and walk locations. It will also identify safety concerns.

Now is the time for the school community to collect information on routes students are currently using. The map will be updated and included suggested routes for students to use. There is no such thing as a guaranteed “safe route” but these routes will be the ones that offer the best options. The more details provided by the community and route users will make this map more accurate. Once approved by the DPW it will also become a planning tool for the DPW to plan for requested facility improvements. This will be a tool for the school to use; it is not a legal document.

CHP officers encouraged schools to develop suggested route maps. They have witnessed significant changes in school zones after the maps and suggested routes start to be used in Kentfield.

Next step is for Task Force members to submit comments and to plan for a meeting at the school and invite parents and students. Edna Maguire for example conducted a parent travel survey a few year back to collect data on routes and safety issues. It was very helpful resource. Edna still needs to have a base map drafted using this information.

During the mapping process at Bel Aire School there were lengthy discussions regarding which routes the students should use. Some wanted to include all options but In the end only one set of suggested routes were identified.

Concern was expressed for students attending Tam Valley and Strawberry schools. Shoreline Hwy is a very challenging road for all users including adult cyclists and pedestrians. Many parents do not let their kids ride to school because of the safety issues with Shoreline. In spite of the improvements made to the Charles McGlashan Pathway multi-use path leading to the Richardson Bay pathway many students do not use the route. Marin Ave also has safety issues with drivers when students are cycling to/from Tam Valley school. There may be more attention needed on the routes to the pathway, especially from Shoreline.

Set planning meeting for other schools to start mapping

- Edna Maguire- Wendi will work with Ryan using survey information collected to start the process.
- MCMS- Wendi will work with Kevin to review existing map
- Tam High- Tricia and Gwen will work with the students - a map is requested- a committee needs to be established
- Strawberry- Wendi will contact Clay
- Tam Valley- Plan to develop one as a Team Leader(s) are identified.

Private Schools: they have been included in the map process. They must identify a school representative and committee members to collect data.

Marin Horizon has a number of vehicles entering the neighborhood. They are planning for new construction which will add to the congestion. There a many students that travel

out of this neighborhood to other schools. Many residents do not feel Marin Horizon has been very supportive of safety concerns.

Team Leader Time

Tam Valley update

Dan identified a few of the improvement planned for Shoreline and Tam Junction planned for road striping this weekend. The majority of the project should be completed by April 2018.

- Bike lanes on both sides of the streets
- Sidewalk improvements. A few punch list items will remain for future changes
- Water ponding by Subway, floods the bike lane to be addressed.
- Gibson sidewalk will be addressed in 2020 by Caltrans

Edna Maguire

A new family is heading up the campus programs. They are very organized and have addressed both sides of the campus to welcome students. Looking forward to the mapping process. Safe Routes classes will be conducted this spring.

Tam High

An internship program is being developed. Five students will be working on the mapping project.

Mill Valley Middle School

The student council will once again be heading up the 2-week challenge. This school remains to be the highest participation school in the county.

[Street Smarts Banner Art](#)

Safe Routes to Schools' conducted an Art Contest inviting students in grades K-8 to submit artwork to encourage others to walk, bike, scooter, or skateboard to school or around town and to promote safety. Students, submitted drawings or a painting of a colorful scene of you walking or biking. An exhibit and award ceremony was hosted at the Marin Museum of Bicycling on March 2 with Supervisor Katie Rice as VIP Award Announcer. Over 120 entries were submitted with the awards event being very well attended and a success.

Artwork will be used to develop updated Street Smarts banners for Marin County.

Mill Valley Police Dept. Update

An additional police officer is training for bicycle patrol duty. The department is excited to have this additional resource. Officers on bikes will following road safety rules; they may need to operate their bikes outside of standard road rules as safety situations deem necessary.

Family Bike Event

On April 25 Safe Routes to School will be hosting an event at the Tam Valley Community Center (TCSD). [To learn more](#)

Next Meeting

May 17th at the Mill Valley Community Center.