



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



## Mill Valley Safe Routes to Schools Task Force

### Agenda

Thursday, November 16, 2017

Tam High room 2020

9:30 – 11:00 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** January 18 - Room 2020 Tam High

**Attendee:** Wendi Kallins- Safe Routes to Schools, Kevin Cuffe- MVMS PTA Safe Routes – Gwen Froh- Safe Routes to Schools, Peggy Clark – Safe Routes to Schools, David Hoffman- Parisi Assoc., Clay Kunz- Team Leader Strawberry Pt, Sashi McEntee-City of Mill Valley City Council, Karen Meezan-Tam High PTA, Maureen Parton- Aide to Kate Sears, Stephanie Moulton-Peters- City of Mill Valley City Council, Michael Mooney-Marin Horizon/MVBPAC

### Tam High Activities

The students that did support Iwalk 2017 did great job. The welcome table was a challenge as many students did not stop. The students need support from administration; a teacher is needed to help support their efforts. The Teen Leadership Council attended by students from various schools throughout the county could be a great resource to teach students leadership skills. The Leadership Council provides information on transportation, energy efficiency and food. Attending students would learn how to effectively host events such as Iwalk at Tam High.

Karen has reached out to parents seeking support on encouragement efforts. Her next step is to meet with the Principal; it is very difficult to recruit parent support in high school.

Tricia offered to help.

Attendees brainstormed new options to engage students; a student in the journalism dept. was approached in the past but it did not work out. Next/new step is speaking with a lead teacher and editor. Another suggestion is to engage students as transportation relates to

climate issues. It is perceived students in high school want to move away from “Safe Routes to School”; they see it relating more to elementary and middle school. In high school the message needs to be reframed and school media could help. The Global Student ambassador program in Marin County engages students with many different aspects of the climate and environment with transportation being just one aspect.

A suggestion was made to create an internship that would support SR2S efforts at the school. The Tam High College and Career Center on campus could post the student internship position for students also looking for community service opportunities.

The number of students walking to/from Tam High reported from the Fall 2017 Student Travel Survey was very low. Only 5 classrooms completed the survey: percentage of students: 20% walk, 5-9% bike, 11-14% carpool, 60% drive. The Fall 2016 survey results included more responses: 18%AM/23%PM walk, 7% bike, 12% bus, 13% carpool, 49%AM/43%PM drive. Carpooling (2 or more families/vehicle) is still encouraged.

David shared information he learned while conducting a survey and supporting the program to promote more green travel at Marin Academy. He recalled how impressive and successful the program was to encourage local students to walk and ride. The program was incorporated into the curriculum with student internships.

The City of San Rafael sets transportation requirements for private schools to keep the number of vehicle trips at a specific level each year. This can be a challenge as many private schools are commuter schools. The program at MA was a huge success as they achieved 17% green trips above the required base line which is substantial. Carpooling is encouraged and successful at Marin Academy

Stephanie requested David learn if the report from MA could be made available to the Tam High School District and that Lars, JC. Karen and Tricia meet to review program elements that could be practiced at Tam High. Tam Highs biggest challenge is limited campus parking; a campus parking study would be helpful.

Wendi reported the carpool programs that are successful are the ones with most of the student body registered otherwise it is difficult to find matches. It has been a long running challenge to connect families/student drivers to establish a carpool. A successful registration/participation program could create incentives such as a carpool lane for students pulling into campus.

Karen is planning to speak with JC to conduct a Parent and/or student SR2S survey to learn how many families/students would support alternative to reducing the number of cars on campus and increasing the number of students walking/rolling.

Drake is a neighborhood school therefore the number of students that walk is greater. Redwood is not a neighborhood school like Drake. They have a great number of students traveling from Tiburon via the bus and vehicles.

### **School Activities**

#### **Iwalk reports**

Strawberry Point School- The turnout was not huge this year; however, the students/families that did participate had a really good time. A number of families parked and walked via the Bay multiuse trail that enters the back side of the school. This is a great location and should be used even on rainy days. When it rains more families drive and the traffic at the school is very high. The remote parking and walking does reduce traffic around the school.

Parent volunteers are needed to support this effort to park and walk. Clay does have a new parent interested in supporting SR2S Team Leader needs. He may be a good option to lead the walking groups.

Clay led a cycling group from downtown Mill Valley on Iwalk and continues to lead them once a week. There is also a 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher that rides with the students when she can. He is also interested in conducting an SR2S encouragement contest this spring

Sashi's children also attend Strawberry School and take the yellow bus. She made a request for a day pass option. There are some students who would not use the bus every day and these passes would be useful. This same request was made from Mill Valley Middle School. A challenge is Marin Transit needs to know how many students are traveling on the bus each day/trip. The AM or PM option is helpful and the day pass would be too.

Stephanie requested SR2S try to develop a list of bike friendly teachers at all the Mill Valley Schools. This would be a great resource to support encouragement.

Kevin reported he will now be supporting MVMS Safe Routes to Schools efforts. When his children started at schools in Mill Valley it would have been helpful to learn how to get to school on recommended routes. A "welcome committee" for new families would be very helpful and encourage more to walking to school.

The improvements to Miller Ave have been great, many students are seen using the new crosswalks. He is concerned that once the new vegetation is fully grown it could reduce sight lines for drivers and pedestrians. Overgrown vegetation is a challenge on many sidewalks. The City and BPAC continue to address how to notify property owners when plants need to be cut back. Andy with the DPW is very responsive and will send out letters to homeowners.

### **Mapping- Complete Old Mill and MVMS**

Parisi consulting is working with the County and Safe Routes to School to develop suggested route maps. Old Mill and MVMS maps will be updated and finalized before the start of the 2018/19 school year. The maps are also helpful for the local DPW to learn what road facilities are needed and/or need improvement.

Wendi explained the process for developing the route maps. Parent volunteers are needed to collect information from the school community. Once the prominent routes are identified the parents and students mark up and add comments such as crossing guard

needs. The final map can serve as a planning document for the DPW to address safety concerns.

When all the required details are collected for Strawberry, Edna Maguire and Tam High, maps for these schools could be developed next year. Clay (Strawberry School) had developed an abbreviated version of a route map via Google Maps for the route he takes. Tam Valley School does not have a Team Leader; therefore, maps details cannot be collected now.

### **Miller Ave Opening**

Stephanie reported the event was well attended. The people on the tours were genuinely interested and had great comments. It was fun to learn that the plants selected will provide an assortment of colors throughout the years as they grow. The rain/water gardens are an interesting feature too.

Maureen commented that she has seen more people sitting on the sidewalk benches and families cycling on Miller Ave. The evaluation process for the single vehicle lane with a bike lane will be established soon for the one-year pilot study. She believes the single lane is making a difference. In time if traffic speeds are reduced the 30mph could be reduced to 25mph. The cut through traffic on Sycamore has been reduced since the majority of the Miller Ave road construction has been completed.

The City will continue to observe and evaluate the road facilities and make updates as needed/approved. Suggested items to evaluate: The lights at Evergreen are good but additional lights are needed. It also may be time to reconsider a traffic light at La Goma and Miller Ave. Residents did not support the light before. Drivers and bike riders tend to get confused in the outbound lane on Miller at Monford. It may be helpful to add green paint or road paddles to define the right turn lane.

### **Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan**

The City Council passed the BPAC plan that has been under review for over 2 years. This will be a great resource and help the city move forward with making facility improvements including adding more Sharrows and identifying class 1-2-3 bike lanes.

Wendi expressed interest in learning how the Miller Ave single lanes move forward. Fairfax is addressing a similar issue. The demographics of the streets are slightly different in that Miller is more residential and Fairfax has more commercial traffic.

### **Next Meeting**

Meetings are scheduled for the second Thursday of every other month. Meetings for 2018:

January 18 - Room 2020 Tam High

March 8 - Room 2020 Tam High

May 10 - Conference Room MVMS