



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



## NOVATO TASK FORCE- SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

### MEETING MINUTES

September 15, 2011

#### **Introductions/Attendees (10)**

Attendees: Wendi Kallins- Director Safe Routes to Schools, Peggy Clark- Safe Routes to Schools, Terry Brown- Novato Police Dept, Michelle Camicia Team Leader- Loma Verde, Seth Hayse Parent- Rancho, Shari Nemerovski Team Leader- San Ramon, Chris Rardin- CHP , Dave Harlan- City of Novato, Jason Nutt Novato PW, Mark Silva Novato School District.

#### **Plan for School Year**

Wendi- Safe Routes to Schools did not receive our third-year grant from the Marin Community Foundation. TAM to providing additional funding in efforts to replace the loss. One of the SR2S program changes as a result of the decreased budget is that there will no longer be cash prizes as incentives for the 2012 'Go for the Green' spring contest and the interschool challenge.

Michelle- believes government grants cannot be used as cash reward

Jason- City Council of Novato set aside –possibly provide funds as a grant to SR2S.

Wendi- SR2S plans to have students build trophies /sculptures from bike parts-

Michelle- Loma may use funds to purchase helmets for students in need

Wendi- Rancho awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place biggest jump 13% increase and 11 % increase in carpooling

#### **Reports from Schools**

San Ramon- gearing up for Iwalk Day- hot items- concern at school- drivers stopping in white lane – school needs enforcement for no parking in white zone. Principal is usually there but not all the time- very helpful when present.

Rancho- principal is attending drop-off – this helps to reduce the drives from parking- keeps the flow moving

Best if an office site drop-off location was identified for student to walk into campus

Terry- any time students do not need to cross San Marin is best- Miwok is far an 8 min walk

Wendi- - Recommend Walking School Buses. Promote for once a week- will help parents to get to know each other- get students and families to work in a group. Start with just one or two neighborhoods and build from there.

Michelle- send out an eblast to set-up neighborhood captains

Terry- CSO no longer- 3 motor units- they are very limited with 19 schools- no way they can support them all – each day in school- start times are the same- policy generally issue warning not tickets. Drivers often stop in the wrong place to unload.

Mill Valley PD – has a warning letter PD sends out when reports are filed with the PD

Terry- suggested they set-up a rotation to visit each school for the officers. Principal's presence during drop off is very effective- it is important to get them involved

Michelle- Loma Verde- news letter states parent rules- set a tone for enforcement

### **Loma Verde**

Michelle-established weekly Walk/Roll on the first Wed of each month- before school started sent out blast asking for team captains- eblast was helpful.

Michele lwalk – will be the same as last year- water, snack bars, give a ways, last year Terry attended- photo taken was great

Wendi- Kentfield School District is piloting a neighborhood program where Bacich School has recruited a parent captain for six neighborhoods. Maps were created for each of the neighborhoods and the captains have created a network of families to walk, bike and carpool to school together. SR2S is monitoring the progress and success of the program. To learn more go to SR2S Kentfield page – Captain Guide [http://www.saferoutestoschools.org/kentfield\\_ross.html](http://www.saferoutestoschools.org/kentfield_ross.html)

### **lwalk**

Charlie- How can the police department help?

Terry- PD does not have start times for each school- that would help

Mark- he can send him the bell schedule for each school

Jason- does Street Smarts have items to give away?

Wendi- Street Smarts in not a SR2S program

Michele- kids love the baseball card the police have distribute in the past

Michelle- Ignacio Ave- open space field has very high weeds and makes it a challenge for student to walk to school- the apartment building does not keep the area clear of weeds

### **Police Update**

Terry – OTS grant ended Sept 30<sup>th</sup> – grant went very well- attended SR2S classes, distributed helmets and still have more to hand out- Old Navy is hosting a Kids Safe Day- Novato PD to attend. Kids that need them can go by the police department – PD needs to find out what kids at schools can use a helmet.

Loma is not in the city limits- poses a challenge – if they come by the police department and ask for a helmet he will work to get them one. Survey conducted at Loma and 48 students needed helmets

Terry- helmets were purchase for 4.95

Wendi- stolen bikes- where do they end up?

Terry – fire department- property room- 30 -40 bikes there

Wendi- can these bikes go to San Quentin for bike rebuild program? Contact Captain Dave Jefferies- Evidence – Novato PD

Wendi- suggested eblast Novato schools- schedule a day to drop off bikes- take them to San Question and then return refurbished bikes to Novato students

### **Women on Wheels –**

Wendi – program has been very successful – please let women at school know about the program. The clinics are taught by women for women and designed to improve confidence and knowledge. Classes will be held this fall and again in the spring of 2012. Flyers are available to post at schools. Would like to schedule class in Novato in the future.

### **Ignacio Blvd Overpass**

Michelle- the overpass is not conducive for student to use to get to school – very dangerous-

Jason- yes this area is a big challenge for the city- building a pedestrian over pass could cost up to 20 million dollars- he has put a good deal of thought on this area and does not have a solution yet- sidewalks are an option but not the solution.

Short term- encourage cyclists to use Bel Marin Keys to Nave-El Prado- challenge is this adds 2.5 miles to route . PW is open to hearing options- sidewalks would help a bike lane would be a challenge to negotiate.

Michelle- sidewalk is narrow for peds and cyclists

Wendi- suggest widen the sidewalks

Jason- continuing sidewalk off the side of the bridge- grants funds are not available in Marin

### **San Jose School**

Wendi- Marin Transit District changed the schedule – no longer convenient for students- the Dial a Ride only services 12 students at a time and there are 700- a very vagarious carpool system needs to be developed

Mark- challenge 200 students moved to San Jose this year

Terry- also a challenge for PD

### **Rancho**

Seth- the bike racks at the school are not convenient- when approaching school cycling in the road can be dangerous- 2<sup>nd</sup> entrance to the school has a fence – the opening is not wide enough for bike handles to pass through and the bike rack is not close- holds only 6- 10 bikes. The route by the apartments is too narrow for bikes

Mark- the apt complex is challenge for the school.

Wendi- with bike racks hidden does in encourage people if they do not see the bikes- suggested a Bike Audit

Mark- look at Novato Blvd, rearrange billiards, pathway- crushed gravel possible option

Wendi- suggested Mark and Seth connect and discuss the situations

### **Lynwood**

Terry- thought path ways through Lynwood were approved and work was going to start

Jason – no that process was just to apply for a SR2S grant- nothing approved yet (note grant was NOT approved)

Mark- Cal Trans has a 6-9 month process hope to hear by July 15<sup>th</sup> if approved- entire plan for Lynwood was included.

Jason- radar feedback system- purchased in Jan 2011- installed in 3 or 4 locations- Olive, Hamilton-Main Gate and Lu Sutton –east bound. Some push back from residents on ascetic of systems. They are currently working on the 4<sup>th</sup> locations.

### **Green Award**

National SR2S might have vendors to suggest for green awards

### **School Fuel**

1. Ride to Stafford Lake in May

2. Sugar Challenge- Miguel hosted challenged to reduce sugar in schools- this is an opportunity to partner with SR2S

Mark- he did a no sugar ride in the Tour of Novato – great publicity!

Jason/Terry- Gymnastic Center contact is Cathy Cornhouse- they are interested in connecting with SR2S.

Mark- Street Smarts- not sure anything is going on in Novato

### **Next Meeting**

Jan or February- may go back to day time- need to find out why Team Leaders are not attending- city and school officials better to meet during the day.