

Ross Valley Safe Routes to Schools Task Force

Meeting Notes

Friday, January 19, 2018

Attendees:

Wendi Kallins- Safe Routes to Schools, Peggy Clark- Safe Routes to Schools, Gwen Froh-Safe Routes to Schools, Kelly Zalewski-Marin Transit, Nancy Vernon-Aide to Katie Rice, Scott Schneider- DPW San Anselmo, Mark Reagan – Ross Valley School Board, Glen Newcomer CHP Officer, Cody Meshberger- DPW San Anselmo, Bret Joyner- Maintenance Director RVSD, Maureen Collins- Team Leader Brookside, Andrew Ashley- CHP Officer, Greg Stewart- Parent, Allison Black- Parent, Laura Kelley- Safe Routes to Schools,

Updates and Reports-Town updates

Crossing guard needs – Butterfield road

The Butterfield/Drake intersection is very challenging with multiple turning movements. It was proposed the guard at the school be moved to this intersection given funding is not available from TAM for an additional guards. A crossing guard would need to be well trained for this intersection. The right turn off Drake creates unsafe conditions for students crossing Butterfield.

Bret commented on the need to have an experienced guard at the school too. The driveway configuration is also a challenge and requires a crossing guard.

Parents are very concerned by the number of unsafe and illegal driving behaviors at this location; they will not let their kids cross Drake without adult supervision. This is a crossing that requires immediate attention for student safety. There are more families with children attending Brookside than in the past. Parents have conducted their own survey of vehicle driver behavior and how students cross the street. They are willing to conduct the survey again and present it to TAM

TAM has proposed a Crossing Guard Volunteer program; it is not currently being used. The cost is \$4000.00 vs \$18,000 for a paid crossing guard (*note this cost has been increased to \$5000*). The funding for the volunteer program would be borne by the school or local jurisdiction (see attached report). The program would train, manage and insure an adult volunteer crossing guard. A challenge is finding volunteers that can commit to being a guard on a daily basis. Parents are already

busy; the local retired community may be a resource. Parents cannot go out and cross students; it is a high risk for other students and the adults. An alternative would be to organize a walking school bus in the neighborhood.

This may be a temporary need if the sales tax is approved and a more guards are funded. Now is the time to look for creative solutions with limited funding. This is a county wide challenge for each school district. Some schools have budgeted for crossing guards and they will not be affected by the cuts. PTA programs have also funded crossing guards.

Once a guard is approved by TAM the guard can be moved if the local DPW approves the change. (need to confirm this)

Suggestions were presented: 1. confirm a TAM volunteer or job share volunteer(s) for the Brookside school location and move the paid/experienced guard to Drake/Butterfield intersection due to the many safety challenge at this location. 2. Request the school to confirm an employee of the school to assist with a crossing guard (this could be an issue with the Union)

Mark reported the School Board has not had a conversation regarding the crossing guards, He will report back to the School Board on suggestions presented at this meeting and speak with the superintendent.

Brookside school staff meets vehicles dropping off students to help reduce traffic (back-ups). The school tried to get parents to help; it was not a successful effort. Students could assist with students crossing the street but an adult must still be present too and students could not control traffic but must remain on the curb.

TAM Crossing Guard Update Attachments – TAM reports on volunteer program and crossing guard ranking.

The last TAM crossing guard report was developed in 2014, a new report was drafted in 2017 and all the crossing guard positions were re-ranked with the current criteria. TAM recently release a preliminary report for crossing guard assignments for next school 2018-19. It is proposed that out of the 150 requests 56 positions will be filled. TAM will be preparing reports for each school district detailing the

criteria for the evaluation/ranking for each position. These reports will be presented next month and addressed at the March Board of Supervisors meeting.

A sales tax will be on the Nov 2018 ballot; it could reallocate funds to the crossing guard program if approved. Then more crossing guard positions could be funded. The YES program could also be a future option if it included safety and/or transportation in its mission, it currently does not.

Parents attending the meeting feel the data used for the new report may have been flawed. They are willing to conduct a survey for the number of students crossing Drake. The DPW reported because there is a traffic/ped signal at Butterfield the need for a crossing guard was not as great.

San Anselmo Bike Spine

The project to complete the San Anselmo Bike Spine has been approved. It was approved by the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for state wide projects and then the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) approval was obtained. The federal funding will be slow to come; the project is slated for late spring. It will include spine facilities from the border of Ross to Wade Thomas, to Drake High to Brookside School.

Other Projects

The sidewalk from Brookside down Butterfield to Drake toward downtown Fairfax on the west side is scheduled for review. The project calls for some street parking to be removed. This project will be scheduled during the fall of 2019 or spring of 2020; in conjunction with the big utility and sanitary project on Butterfield.

The Butterfield project will call for Butterfield to become a one-lane street during work hours with traffic to be rerouted. The project will be scheduled during the summer; with the intention it will have a lower impact on overall traffic. There will be increased enforcement, community notification and road flaggers at many of the intersections along Butterfield. In some ways this project could make travel for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists safer.

Parkade Recommendations

Exploring Mono lane as an alternate route

Community members are pushing back on the proposed road facilities on Broadway. Town representatives continue to consider other alternatives. Students would have a challenge with the bike lane as even if it were introduced in the first leg from Pacheco to Broadway there would still be confusion about merging at the Bolinas intersection when kids would go straight if they are continuing on Broadway and would have to merge with the traffic. One consideration is to direct student cyclists to Mono Lane; possibly closing it off to vehicle traffic, directing the students behind the movie theater. This is only an idea at this point and there are many conflict points to consider such as crossing Bolinas Road.

Bus program update

Kelley reported the program is running well this year. Bus drivers are experiencing car drivers passing the bus when the safety lights are activated. Car drivers are not stopping when a bus is loading students on Drake by the liquor store. They perceive the road is wide and they do not need to stop. Marin Transit requested the police increase enforcement and the community and schools post notices regarding school bus rules.

This is the last year of the current contract. An RFP has been posted for a contractor; proposals are due Feb 22, 2018. The biggest challenge for service companies is parking busses in Marin County. Parking options are very limited and this scares away companies from submitting a quote. Other cost issues include: bus maintenance (currently conducted in Vallejo), cost of living in Marin for part-time workers that requires a specific DMV driver's license.

Funding from the County and specific towns has been year to year; Right now 50% of the cost is subsidized with riders paying 50%. If the proposed sales tax is approved, it would continue to fund the yellow bus program.

Wendi announced she is now on the Advisory Council for the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. MTC funds transportation throughout the Bay area, this is an opportunity to learn how state and regional funding can support school bus programs. Regional funding is need as busses help reduce traffic. Community members, especially parents must be provided information on what it takes to plan, manage and fund a bus program and how it supports their community directly. If there was no service provided on Sir Frances Drake Blvd the traffic would increase significantly; 65% of the students at White Hill use the bus. The state of CA does not provide funding.

Neighborhood Safe Streets reports

Nancy reported the next Butterfield meeting is on Feb 12. The primary agenda items will address the Ross Valley Sanitary Districts project and the effects to traffic, pedestrian and bicycle road users. The San Domenico Traffic Plan will also be presented for review.

The committee is reviewing a proposal to mark a separate turn lane on Butterfield at Green Valley Court.

Volunteer Recruitment

Wade Thomas does not have a SR2S Team Leader. The school has had very engaging parent volunteers in the past. This is a great school to encourage walking to school due to the sidewalk facilities.

SR2S has a long running and supportive volunteer program throughout Marin. Volunteers receive support from SR2S staff, guide books, encouragement incentives and training. This is a unique and successful volunteer program and is vital to the county wide successes.

Safe Routes Updates

Class scheduling:

All schools in Ross Valley School District will receive pedestrian and/or bicycle safety education. Classes have not been presented at Wade Thomas School in many years and SR2S staff are looking forward to meeting the students.

Art Poster Contest

SR2S is conducting a county wide elementary and middle school poster contest. Art works should be mailed or sent electronically to SR2S. The student winner will receive a bike donated by Mikes Bikes. Submitted art work will be presented to the Street Smarts program for their banner program. An awards and recognition ceremony will be held on March 2nd at the Bicycle Museum in Fairfax. Damon Connolly will be presenting the award.

Mapping

Safe Routes to Schools has a goal to develop suggested routes maps for all schools in the county. Ross Valley schools have the bike spine which is a great tool. Before the map(s) can be developed “park and walk locations” must be identified, researched and posted on the maps.

Set next meeting and agenda

April 27, 2018