

**Safe Routes to Schools**  
**Ross Valley Task Force Meeting Notes**  
**September 15, 2017**

Attendees: Gwen Froh- Safe Routes to Schools, Wendi Kallins- Safe Routes to Schools, Peggy Clark- Safe Routes to Schools, Glen Newcomer-CHP, David Parisi- Parisi Assoc., Scott Schneider-DPW San Anselmo, Nancy Vernon- Aide to Katie Rice, Kelly Zalewski- Marin Transit, Karen Zamorano- Team Leader Hidden Valley, Anne Capron- Ross Valley School District, Jennifer Gauna-Aide to Katie Rice, Ben Palmer- Parent Brookside School, Rick Bagley- Ross Valley School District, Laura Kelly – Safe Routes to Schools

**Updates and reports**

Town updates

Scott reported the Bike Spine federal funding request may take up to nine months for approval. The project will include the green Sharrows and some sign pavement repairs. The road markings planned near Drake High are to be developed; engineers are working out how to best address this gap.

The pavement markings on Lansdale are complete. Road stripping will be added along with signage. A follow-up survey will be conducted with community members to learn if the new facilities have made a difference in behaviors and increased safety for all road users. The Fairfax and San Anselmo police departments are working together on enforcement.

Brookside Parking lot

The reconfiguration of entrances to the lot and the road wide intersection are complicated. Traffic congestion is a major factor to consider. Engineers have analyzed several redesigns; including moving the stops signs closer. The town may be working with Parisi Associates to draft options for the parking lot reconfiguration. This lot has been a problem for years due to the driveways being off-set.

David's office is reviewing, repainting the lot and moving the stop signs and reconfiguring the curb at Rosemont to reduce the speed of drivers and a traffic circle that could slow traffic without adding additional stop signs. Traffic circles are effective and can be attractive, it could include pedestrian flashing signals. Design options will be reviewed with local emergency services.

The next step for the DPW will be to make sure the proposed changes will be an improvement. The signage and road striping are low cost changes. A grant would be needed for the redesign and traffic studies.

An RFP has been submitted for the Safe Routes to Schools request for a sidewalk from Suffield and Butterfield to Drake Blvd. The project will include a sidewalk on the west side of Butterfield. Students regularly “J walk” on this segment of the road without sidewalks. Community meetings will be scheduled to address the impact to the driveways.

Task Force members expressed liking the traffic circle and proposing restricting student drop-off/pick up in the parking lot. Restricting the parking lot would require the school to offer solid options for “park and walk” locations.

A request was made to reconsider a “no left” on Arroyo to reduce the number of speeding vehicles. Years ago the DPW said this could not be implemented.

#### Completion of Fairfax Bike Spine

The Bike Spin to White Hill School is complete. A request for “Sharrows” on Olema Road would be the next phase for the bike spine.

The safety concerns near the Parkade have been reviewed. Parisi engineers were open to the proposal to remove one vehicle lane and replace it with a bike lane. It has been a challenge to help the community to understand the impact on traffic would be minimal. The community was very opposed to the proposal due to traffic delays. The Town proposed removing street parking to help with visibility. The Claus intersection is a very dangerous intersection with limited visibility for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers including the bus drivers.

A request will be made to add this issue to the council meeting agenda. It is important for families and students to attend the meeting. The safety issues on these roads effect all community members and visitors in Fairfax. The next meeting will be in December. Safe Routes to Schools will send out notices reminding people. This issue has been presented to the town for many, many years and is part of the Town Center Plan.

#### Bus program update

Kelly reported the program is going very well. The sales are good and the morning buses have a good number of riders. They continue to work out issues with the White Hill students. There are 550 students using the bus service in Ross Valley. The Charter school is using the bus too.

Marin Transit has not heard of any issues with the younger students riding the bus with middle school students. Usually younger students sit at the front of the bus.

Marin Transit’s contract with Michaels ends this school year. A request for bids will go out this fall for next school year. One of the biggest influences for a bid is local parking for the busses. Other influences include a maintenance facility, dispatch and drivers. The option to use the busses for school field trips will remain to help reduce the costs. Marin Transit is

considering all options, including making use of drivers for Muir Woods.

Many teachers from the district now use the SMART train and would like to make use of the yellow bus if the schedules worked out. Unfortunately the buses leave the parking area in the morning and head directly to routes; not stopping at schools first. There are Marin Transit buses however they do not serve the routes the teachers need. Some teachers are sharing Lyft drivers.

#### Ross Valley Charter

No representative attended the meeting to provide updates.

#### Safe Routes Updates

Classes have been scheduled at Manor and will be scheduled at Hidden Valley and White Hill this fall and spring. Brookside and Manor have not scheduled classes in a couple of years. They have hosted the Safe Routes to Schools assembly; however, this does not replace the curriculum presented in the class.

#### Drake Transit Field

Drake Rock students will be participating in a transportation event that is similar to the Amazing Race with students traveling to San Francisco, Berkeley and the North Bay accompanied by an adult. Safe Routes to School Teen Coordinators will work with the school to develop photo documentation and challenges for the students as they explore traveling by bus, train or ferry. The Rock program is dedicating a full semester on transit education.

#### Iwalk

All schools except for Wade Thomas will participate. Wade Thomas does not have a Team Leader. John Reed, the mayor of Fairfax, Supervisor Katie Rice and the San Anselmo Fire Department will be supporting events on Oct 4. Hidden Valley will celebrate Iwalk on Oct 3. Social media resources will be used to update and inform community members.

#### Mapping

Safe Routes to School will be selecting 7 schools to develop or update suggested route maps. The process to develop a suggested route maps includes collecting travel routes from students and parents, plotting them, presenting to DPW and school for final approval. The maps would include crossing guard locations, traffic signals and park/walk locations.

Team Leader support is needed to coordinate the collection of the route data. Brookside does not have a map. If the Team Leaders are interested in supporting this project they need to let Wendi know soon. Hidden Valley does have a map that is currently posted in the school office. A proposal was made to have the entire Ross Valley School District have a map for all schools.

### Crossing Guard

The guard at Hidden Valley is great. Unfortunately, a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student was recently hit by a car door, bad driving behavior continues to be an issue near the school.

### Park and Walk locations

Safe Routes to Schools requested locations for each school. If the location is private property it must be approved by the owner. The [National Safe Routes to Schools](#) has an informational site for tools on how to identify and promote park and walk locations.

### Butterfield Safe Streets- Updates

There will be a meeting the week of Sept 25<sup>th</sup>. This time of year many concerns are submitted regarding safety and educations.

The Green Valley Court issues remain on the issues list. There are concerns for buses and vehicle drivers exiting the road safely. Last spring traffic engineers looked into posting more signs.

Vegetation near the Club House will be cut back adding 15 parking spaces. This will provide more parking during events and take vehicles off the side of the road. Vegetation blocking site lines along Butterfield is still on the issues list. It needs to be determined who is responsible for cutting the vegetation back - the landowner or the town/county.

### Oak Manor Safe Streets- Update

Speeding vehicles is still an issue; two vehicles running into garages has been reported. Nancy is meeting with neighbors to consider speed feedback signs. There is a need for more traffic calming resources. The community needs to get behind the recommended solutions.

### Next Meeting

Jan 19, 2018 at 10:00am