



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



**Mill Valley Safe Routes to Schools Task Force
Meeting Notes
Friday May 26, 2017**

Attendees: Wendi Kallins- Safe Routes to Schools, Peggy Clark- Safe Routes to Schools, Debbie Alley- Go Green Leader Mill Valley Middle School, Garin Bougie- Team Leader Old Mill, Tracy Lee- Parent Old Mill School, Sean Merrigan- Parent Edna Maguire School, Ryan Erving- Team Leader Edna Maguire, Clay Kunz- Team Leader Strawberry School, Karen Meezan-Parent Tam High, Maureen Parton- Aide to Kate Sears, Tricia Satake- Mill Valley BPAC- Parent Tam High, Stephanie Moulton-Peters- Council Member City of Mill Valley, Dan Jeffris-Parent Park School, John Neville- Marin County DPW, Gwen Froh- Safe Routes to Schools

Bike to School Day Reports

The Safe Routes to School website and blog will feature stories and photos taken on Bike to School Day www.saferoutestoschools.org/blog

Tam High

The Leadership student took a very active role to make this day a success. There were 6-7 students handing out fruit and muffins funded by the PTSA. This was a great turnout and active show of support for Tam High.

Strawberry School

The bike racks were full with three times as many bikes than usual. Clay led a number of students from the Mill Valley Depot. They met up with a teacher leading a riding group to the bike/pedestrian freeway over-crossing. The group cycles a very specific route due to several areas where cycling road conditions are not safe. Many of the students ride to school but do not ride home because of the vehicle traffic/speeds along the frontage road going south. The crossing guard near the dealership is very helpful to the students crossing to get on the overpass bridge.

Old Mill

Great turnout this year on Bike to School Day. Posters were hung throughout the school encouraging students/families to meet at the Depot. Stephanie and police officers escorted over 100 students. Tam Bike Camp hosted a raffle and ride with students. This year there were more bikes than in the past. The 4th grade Bike Rodeo was a week before

which encouraged students to ride too. James from Safe Routes to School also rode with the students instructing students to ride single file.

Edna Maguire

Ryan was not at the school on Bike to School Day. The new Team Leaders and parents did host welcome tables. The PTA has increased the SR2S budget for next year to \$700-1,000. This support of the PTA is very much appreciated.

Park

The Team Leader was new to his role two weeks prior to Bike to School Day. The school pushed back their participation one week for planning to help get the word out to the school community. There were two welcome stations with stickers, pencils and a few bike lights handed out. Approximately 40 students cycled and 100 students walked.

Repaving Multi-use pathway - Marin County Parks and Open Space/Public Works

Phase 1 of the multi-use path repaving will begin on June 19 once school is out for the summer. The path will be closed in segments during the repaving. It could be closed for up to 3 weeks. In September additional project phases will be scheduled. Improvements to the path may include a roundabout near the Almonte crosswalk, texture pathway. Speed humps are not in the design due to ADA and safety requirements. The environmental permitting process takes time and will impact the schedule. John did not know if the width of the pathway was changing at this meeting.

Questions regarding the pathway project should be sent to John Neville. Public announcements will be made to the community and posted on the pathway before they are scheduled to begin the work on the path.

Marin County Parks and the City of Mill Valley will continue to encourage advanced cyclists to exit to the road and not the pathway. The Share the Path Campaign continues to distribute education to the community. Slow speeds are posted in areas where multiple users are intersecting on the path. It was proposed the information corral near the Almonte crosswalk be relocated. This is a Marin County Parks project and they do want to keep the corral intact. A few of the meeting participants see the corral as a speed calming facility for path users entering and exiting the pathway.

Stephanie proposed a “walk about” with the Parks Dept to discuss the projects planned for the path and how they will impact users, placement of the corral and placement of bench (es). Access to Bayfront Park and other fields will be necessary during the pathway improvements. Tricia requested the placement of the bench(es) be presented to the BPAC before approved. DPW was not sure this is possible because the environmental clearance is 90% complete; not sure there can be any changes made at this time.

Report on Almonte group - Maureen Parton - DPW Map attached

Maureen presented a brief overview of the mission of the Almonte Safety Group. Members evaluated such issues: speeding student drivers, parking, traffic, pedestrian and bicycle access to campus challenges. There were a series of meetings organized by Kate Sears office, with Safe Routes to School (SR2S), Mill Valley and Marin County Department of Public Works. Community members, students, and local business representatives were involved in addressing the issues. A Walk About was conducted with members from the community and organization listed above.

Issues to be addressed by the County and Mill Valley DPW include: traffic calming, possible parking restrictions and enforcements and facility including drainage issues. There are short term and long terms proposals under review.

Bob identified 11 proposed low cost facility improvements on the map. If/when large facility improvements are considered funding would need to come for a capital improvements budget in the future.

1. Gomez Way and Homestead Blvd- install edge and striping
2. Arrow for curve- Install a W1-6 sign –curve warning
3. Install 15mph warning signs and stencils in both directions on the pavement
4. Trim vegetation along the road by the stairs at 37 Homestead
5. Install a pedestrian warning sign near Morning Sun and Homestead stairs
6. Trim vegetation at the bottom of Morning sun and Homestead stairs
7. Install 25mph road pavement stencils. Neighbors feel that 25mph is too fast for this portion of the road. The County said there a issues that constrain lowering the speed limit including the location of the school building and fencing. The areas that qualify are in a very short span of the roadway.
A recommendation was made to make the very curved sections of the road be marked for 15mph. Bob said he would look into it as the area must be within 500 feet of a school building. It also may be very challenging to enforce. To change the speed limit residents would need to make a public appeal to the County. The County would conduct a survey along with public outreach to gain consensus.
8. Edge striping for vehicle drivers and pedestrians.
9. Install Share the Road stencils to indicate this road has multiple types of users.
10. Limit parking near the field to reduce traffic obstructions. Proposal to restrict parking along 250 feet along the guard rails during weekends and weekday school hours. This is the narrowest section of the road when cars are parked along the railing. This would remove approximately 10 parking spaces.
11. Install no parking within 6 feet of the edge line sign.

Parking along the guardrail during events makes the road very narrow for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles to pass. If parking was to be restricted along the guard rail it will impact/increase parking on neighborhood streets. A notice to community members asking for feedback will be facilitated. The town will need to get clarity from the town before

moving forward.

Attendees encouraged the County and Town to reconsider the 15mph speed limit on this portion of the roadway. Speeding vehicles during lunch time is generally slower because of the volume of vehicles. Enforcing 15mph may not be realistic when school is not in session. The biggest impact may be on the neighbors. The PTSA will continue to look into options to entice students to stay on campus during lunch rather than getting in a vehicle to leave campus.

Shell Road

Students continue to cycle on the sidewalk vs. cycling in the road and there are no curb ramps to cross the street..

Stephanie offered to get a Walk Audit schedule before the fall. It would need to be with the city of Mill Valley and County of Marin representatives. It will be helpful to have the Mill Valley BPAC support the school community on safety improvements including: traffic study, curb extensions and site lines blocked for vehicle drivers.

Tricia suggested Mike Hanlon of the Mill Valley DPW review the history on this project before a walk audit is scheduled.

Task Force Evaluation - Group discussion

Stephanie expressed her gratitude to all those that have been attending Task Force meetings and supporting each school effort to participate in SR2S activities. The Task Force will continue to address infrastructure issues and she values comments sent to her throughout the year.

Team Leaders are requested to bring issues and barriers with the school to the task force meeting. This enables the task force to know what the hot issues are at the schools. Team Leader are encouraged to support walking and biking events/classroom challenges in the classrooms/school as well as support International Walk/Roll and Bike to School Days.

The school bus program is a big part of the travel green/SR2S program. It is important student bus riders be included in all encouragement events at schools.

The bus program will be subsidized for another school year to keep the cost down for student riders. The future of the funding after the two years is not clear. The county of Marin is addressing this need. Sign-up for next school year will go on sale during the summer.

The annual Team leader meeting is scheduled for late May. The agenda will address the options for the fall contest: Green Sneak Challenge. Carpool and bus riders must be included in all challenges. There are many opportunities for students to help at welcome tables. It is important to plan ahead for the coming year.

Update on Tam High

Gwen-explained students will be participating in a survey next fall to learn if they are interested in a Distracted Driving Campaign at the school. A teacher advisor is needed and students must be involved to make this successful at Tam High

Mill Valley School District Web page Debbie Alley

http://www.cityofmillvalley.org/services/traffic/safe_routes/default.htm

Debbie's efforts and successes to integrate Safe Routes to School and other useful safety content are much appreciated. The city's communications director actions were very quick and helpful. There is still some information to be updated and schools are recommended to have the city's link on their web sites too.

She will continue to collect information; preferred student drop off locations, route maps for each school, classes available from Safe Routes and classes for adults. They plan to personalize the pages by including photos and stories from parents and students on why and how they travel green in Mill Valley. The support of the PTA was also requested.

Set Next Meeting

September 14 at 9:30. This has not been confirmed. At notice will be sent out as soon as possible. Meeting may be scheduled every 2 months on a Thursday.