



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



**Reed District Safe Routes to Schools Task Force
Agenda
Tuesday January 23, 2018**

Wendi Kallins- Safe Routes to Schools, Peggy Clark- Safe Routes to Schools, Pat Barnes-Tiburon DPW, Annette Bratteberg-Parent Del Mar, David Hoffman- Parisi Consulting Engineers, Dmitry Lashkevich- Tiburon DPW, Matina Seremetis-Team Leader Reed School, Tricia Seyler-Police Chief Belvedere, Christine Svallin-Parent Del Mar, Michele Bavnoniski-Del Mar Neighborhood Parent/Resident, Bob Goraka- Marin County DPW, Heather Arata- San Mateo County Health System (guest), Leslie Alden-Aide to Kate Sears, Carlos Estrella- Reed School District

County Issues

Greenwood Cove Road

Pat reported the SR2S and POST request for route signs were not installed yet. The project listed in the CIP, but not funded in the current year is a Class 3 bike lane with “slow signs” and rumble road strips per the Bike Ped Master Plan. The DPW does not believe the residents object to students cycling on the road; they are most concerned with the recreational cyclists. He noted that cyclists rarely exceed the speed limit and rumble strips are not the preferred road facility for bicycle wheels to ride over safely. Members of the task force noted that they thought that School Route signs and sharrows would be included.

At this time, Pat does not recommend Sharrows. The road is too narrow and if they were properly place they would be directing students toward the center of the road.

David reported Sharrows were originally intended to be used in an urban setting to for “door zone” areas. However, the green colored road markers with Sharrows in the middle are used to notify drivers of a school route.

Bob agreed, both the county and town must coordinate efforts. He will make a service request for the specific school criteria for traffic control for a school route. He said signs are usually the suggested tool, not road pavements. Wendi reported Mill Valley and Fairfax both have road pavement signs for school routes. Pat offered to temporarily post a speed feedback sign. The town regularly moves their “feedback” sigs around to be more effective. David will share the CA code for designated school routes to Pat and Bob for review.

Carlos stated the School Board will follow the recommendation for SR2S Task Force. He will take the information back to the school’s principals.

Safe Routes to Schools has requested the route include signs and road markings indicating this is a route students use. The county and town DPW representatives need to agree on the appropriate resources, present it to the Council and POST for approval.

Kathy requested continued education for students is needed. The green road route signs provide a clear and consistent message for students to follow. Students tend to cut through the lot of the gas station because the route is not clearly marked. This behavior creates very unsafe conditions for students and vehicle drivers. With the road marking missing (gap in route) on the County roads, the route is not clear and riders are scattering on the roads and lots.

Paradise drive

The County is moving forward with approved road facilities after last Fall’s incident of a teen driver driving off the road and into a home. A curve waring sign, road striping, warning bumps and a speed feedback sign will be installed.

Pat reported the town is requiring two developers adjacent to Paradise drive to widen the road with a shoulder.

SR2S is concerned with the roads sections students travel on Paradise Drive and Trestle Glen Road. There are unsafe road conditions on the steep sections of Paradise Dr. for student cyclists. Students tend to ride slower, vehicle drivers tend to get impatient and pass the cyclists when they cannot see if there is on-coming traffic. This is very dangerous for all the road users.

Bob reported the “give 3 feet” signs going uphill are not the best placement. He suggested a pullout on the uphill side of the road to encourage cyclist to pull over to let vehicles pass. This would be a capital improvement and he is not sure there is room. He will review options.

Wendi confirmed the safety challenges on Paradise Drive near Trestle Glen have been identified as a SR2S issue but they need to be prioritized.

Mapping- Update on Del Mar Map (Draft Map attached)

Parisi consultants are using the Bel Aire School map as a model for developing a Del Mar map. Task Force members submitted suggestions for the current (draft) maps This map covers a much larger area as middle school students tend to travel by bike and foot farther.

This map will include suggested biking and walking routes. Task Force members were asked to review the draft map and provide comments and suggests. The map will represent facilities that currently exist, it will be used to identify current issues and how to address them in the future.

Suggestions:

1. Add locations of all crossing guards- include text that crossing guards may not be present at all time
2. Add the route students use on the dirt road above St Hilary
3. Add park and walk locations: Parking lot at Lyford across from Reed School.
4. Mar West is not a good place for students to be dropped off.

5. Include bike route to San Rafael Ave.

Hilary Drive at Miraflore

This is a three-way intersection on a hill. The intersection has become very problematic due to driver behavior including speeding and illegal U-turns (no U-turn sign posted) across a crosswalk. Parents have witnessed a number of near misses as students attempt to cross the road and feel a serious injury is in the near future.

Michele reported a neighborhood term is being used for the road section on Howard and Rowley Circle: "Rowley Racetrack". There are a number of blind corners; including one on Howard; parents perceive that vehicle drivers are speeding down the hill when students are attempting to cross the road. Her son has come very close to getting hit.

Residents and the Del Mar Neighborhood Association are requesting the town consider options to prevent this behavior as more and more families are moving into the community. The dangerous driving behavior is with parent drivers and commercial vehicle drivers.

The following requests were made:

1. Request Marin Transit to evaluate the location of the yellow bus stop near the intersection. It increases the number of road and sidewalk users.
2. Cut back vegetation in specific places; inhibits the sight line for drivers, must be cut back enough to see elementary age students.
3. Continue to provide driver education via the schools and towns social media-driver safety tips.
4. Increased police presence and enforcement.
5. Consider redirecting traffic similar to the changes at Bel Aire School for AM and PM.

Post Meeting Notes from Patrick Barnes, PE-Director of Public Works/Town Engineer

1/24/18 Subject: Rowley Racetrack

Patrick K & I looked at this. There is one person we will send a veg notice, but frankly the configuration of the roadway will still limit sight distance. There really is not a good solution, outside of possibly a bulb-out that would be quite expensive.

Moving the bus stop location should be considered, but this crossing is but one consideration for that.

Regarding routing the cars up Mira Flores, to Hilary, right on Rowley and around the race track, reduces the blind spots and conflicts and puts the passenger door against a number of sidewalks for drop-off. Not sure that is the ideal configuration, but it is an idea.

Crossing Guards

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. This is due to the loss of grant funding that had been supplementing the crossing guard program. It should also be noted that the cost per card has increased over the years and that is one of the reasons for a loss of crossing guards. 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 increase funding to the crossing guard program if approved. Then more crossing guard positions could be funded.

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. Now is the time to look for creative solutions within each school district.

A parent attending the meeting offered to be a “crossing guard volunteer “at Hilary Drive at Miraflore. She feels this intersection has become too dangerous and action needs to be taken. However, the ranking of this intersection is so low that TAM would not even approve of a volunteer crossing guard.

The draft report lists 2 of the 9 crossing guard positions will be removed with the new ranking in Tiburon. Pat is not clear on why the rankings changed for a few of the guard locations. He has requested a report on why the changes were made. This is a costly process and he does not want to burden the process with costly re-evaluations. Once TAM approves a location for guard it would take a DPW- public variance to move the guard to another location.

With the new “bike box” on Tiburon Blvd students are now crossing the road on bikes vs using the crosswalk. This could be why the ranking changed for the crossing guard at this location.

School District activities

Bel Aire Drop Off

Carlos reported the School District reached out to the local residents. They agreed to the school posting a sign “no drop-off zone” during school hours. In the future the curb could be painted red.

Jefferson

The town plans to remove two parking spaces near the homes on the right side of the road and paint the curb red. Alice suggested students receive education on how to position themselves on the road; often they are 4-5 abreast. The DPW is not considering Sharrows at this location.

Agenda items to be moved to the next meeting

- Update on POST education program

- Safe Routes activities

Next Meeting – to be announced, a date has not been confirmed.