

## Safe Routes to Schools

### Task Force Corte Madera-Larkspur Meeting Notes

January 31, 2018

Peggy Clark- Safe Routes to Schools, Wendi Kallins- Safe Routes to Schools, Gwen Froh- Safe Routes to Schools, Megan Acevedo- Team Leader Neil Cummins, Peter Brown- DPW Corte Madera, Diane Furst-Councilmember Town of Corte Madera, Dr Brett Geithman- Superintendent Larkspur, Jennifer Harrison-Team Leader Neil Cummins, Theo Mainaris- Central Marin Police, Ann Morrison- Councilmember City of Larkspur, Jean Severinghaus- District 4 CalTrans/ BPCA Volunteer, Saum Zargar- Assistant Principal Redwood High, Dwayne Price- Resident, Kelly Zalewski-Marin Transit

#### **Redwood High Carpooling**

Saum report Redwood High School has started a student carpool program. There are approximately 1800 high school students, projected population to increase to 2150 in the next school years. There are 2 campus parking lots with 330 spaces. Teachers and other staff are guaranteed a parking spots.

Last summer Saum updated the "[Getting to Redwood](#)" website page. The page provides information to students and parents on: cycling, walking, carpooling and bus options. There was a strong push to encourage student carpooling at the start of the school year. A number of promotional emails were sent out to generate interest.

The school set aside 40 spaces for students to park. The parking spots are located in the front row (this helps staff monitor/validate the # of students in a carpool. Staff are monitoring carpools from 7:40 to 8:10am. Not all of the spots are filled each day; however they are held for student carpool only. When students see the empty spots (if they did not carpool) that may encourage them to do so. Students appreciate being able arrive on time and still have a spot. It sends a positive reinforcement message to the students.

The notice to the students read: "Redwood High School defines carpooling as three or more RHS students (including driver) in a car. Students who commit to carpooling will have the opportunity to park in reserved "carpool" stalls. These stalls are located in both front and back parking lots and will be closely monitored by campus assistants and school administration. Therefore, students who carpool will be rewarded with a guaranteed parking spot."

Carpool students are provided a C (green permit card) once they have met all of the school requirements; valid driver's license (not a provisional license). At the start of this school year 70 students applied for a permit. Not all of the permits issued are being used. This could be for a number of reasons: no car, they are carpooling with another group or they could not get the

minimum number on a regular basis. School monitors try to learn who the carpooling students are by name. The agreement is 3 Redwood High students (not 2) per vehicle can park with permit only. Seniors were not give priority for issued permits this year.

On an average day 35 vehicles are student carpool; last year there were only 3 vehicles. There are still students parking in the neighborhoods; however with the new carpool program 102 students are not in extra vehicles driving to Redwood. Next year they will look into adding 10 more student parking spots.

Wendi complemented Saum on a successful start to the Redwood program. Tam High is working with Saum on hosting a similar program and San Rafael High is also interested in learning more. Next steps: look at the students who are not carpooling and why. Next summer Saum will be looking into student friendly/safe apps to promote next school year.

The bike racks on Redwood campus started out being full. The PTSA did provide funding to purchase additional racks. Now administration is looking for the best location, it has been a challenge. The bike parking locations are on the map. The police have not received any reports of stolen bikes from campus in some time. Campus cameras for the bike parking areas are not under consideration at this time. There are cameras on campus that can be moved to the exterior as needed.

Redwood buses are full; a route was added this school year. The "Getting to Redwood" has route maps in English and Spanish including information on the "youth pass"

### **Hall Bus update**

Kelly addressed the concerns that incorrect information had been spread about Marin Transit planning to cancel the Hall bus. This is not true; no cancellation is planned.

In a study conducted a few years ago results indicated K-8 students are more likely to use a yellow bus service vs. a public bus. Yellow bus drivers are trained to work with all ages of students. Currently there is no county funding for a "yellow bus" program. The programs in other school districts are subsidized 50% by local funds and 50% with bus pass fees. Riders can purchase AM or PM passes; if students wanted more flexibility a public bus could be the better option for them. There are no plans to change the Hall schedule. In the future MT would like to add two more routes to supplement the current service.

Marin Transit would like to be included in discussions when school are considering changing bell schedules. The bell times impact the routes serving schools throughout the county. If one or several schools changed bell times there is a potential ripple effect throughout the county.

### **Redwood lunch time update**

Saum did look into adding another food cart on campus. At this time staff are not available to add another cart, they are looking into the cart being more efficient. The school is not considering a closed campus during lunch. Uber Eats does deliver to campus.

## Updates from towns

1. Corte Madera/Paradise Dr. - San Clemente to Seawolf Passage- there are 2 traffic lanes, curve in road and a narrow bike lane. The Town is working on a proposed project using TAM funds to increase the width of the sidewalk and create a Class 3 bike route on Echo Ave to connect back out to San Clemente/Redwood Hwy Class 1 path.
2. Corte Madera/Paradise Dr. – Prince Royal at Paradise Pedestrian crossing upgrades- The Town will be putting this project out to bid in February, continental crosswalks, ped refuge island, ped actuated flashing signs, lighting improvements.
3. Corte Madera/Paradise Dr.- Paradise Dr. at Westward Dr. – Class 1 bike lane to begin preliminary design between Westward and Upland Circle.
4. Corte Madera/Paradise Dr.- Paradise Dr. at Upland Circle- Proposed project for an enhanced at-grade crosswalk to Marin Montessori. It will include an approved pedestrian flashing beacon signal and partnering funds from Marin Montessori.
5. Corte Madera: Tamalpais Dr. US 101 Interchange- Caltrans is in the preliminary stage of assessing the structural integrity of the bridge. If the structure can accommodate bike and pedestrian facility improvements, the Town will work with the State to attempt to enhance safety. Additional information will be presented as it comes available. This project will take a number of years to complete.
6. Corte Madera: Pixley Ave at Redwood Ave – The Town received a request to assess sight lines and striping at this intersection and will do so, and provide a report back to the SR2S group at the next meeting.
7. Larkspur- Doherty Dr. Update on phasing- Project has gone out for bid twice; both times bids came in over budget. It will go out for bid a 3rd time however additional projects will be included. This will help contractor proposed bids for a larger project; hopefully to reduce the overall cost. Construction is planned for summer 2018.
8. Larkspur- Magnolia and Madrone-This intersection has a number of safety issues. This project is funded by a Transportation Development Act Article 3 grant. Community feedback was collected during a public workshop last week. Community members expressed safety concerns for all pedestrians including students using the Madrone crosswalk. Shadows on the road make it difficult for vehicle drivers to see. In addition

to addressing the Madrone crosswalk improvements will be evaluated at William and Baltimore Avenues and the bus stop at the arch street steps.

9. Larkspur - Lark Theater crosswalk-Project will include a Class 1 bike lane on the east side of Doherty by the Lucky Store parking lot. Enhanced crosswalk at the Lark Theater, improvements to the driveway into the Lucky lot off of Doherty; proposal to reduce the width of the entrance for vehicles. This will reduce the conflict for pedestrians and cyclists. Also improve the sloping road conditions and crosswalk into Lucky from Magnolia.

10. Larkspur- Bon Aire Bridge- The request for bids went out this week; 4 bids have been submitted, one bid came in within 5% of the budget. This was very encouraging for the City. Once a bid is selected it will be sent out to CalTrans. It will then be presented to the City Council in 6-8 weeks for approval. Project includes crosswalks, bike and pedestrian improvements.

11. Larkspur- Baltimore St.- A request has been made to include in the Madrone crosswalk project. If that is not approved it will be included in the next request for funding.

A request was made for the DPW to consider painting curbs red at Pixley into the Town park. The crossing guard's site line is restricted; cannot see around parked vehicles.

Caltrans very recently removed "flashing beacons" from MUTC for projects that have not already been approved because of issues with one of the manufacturers. The DPW is hopeful this restriction will be corrected soon. There are alternatives that can be considered in the meantime. If an approved project included a beacon there will not be any changes needed.

### **Cove School Survey Update**

The number of students walking and rolling to school has decreased since the school has opened. The school will be initiating the Active 4Me program to encourage and track green trips to school. The Superintendent said he would speak with the Leadership team on how to increase green trips to school. Traffic in the area has increased.

### **Crossing Guard report**

The Transportation Authority of Marin recently released a preliminary report for crossing guard assignments for next school 2018-19.

<http://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/12-Attachment-Ranked-List-with-funding-by-others.pdf>

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.

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. 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 TAM Board meeting.

The ranking for a crossing guard can change if road or sidewalk facilities have been improved. Improvements can change the ranking of a sidewalk if there are improvements. The DPW has reviewed the report and will address location the towns feel increase unsafe conditions for students if there were no crossing guard present.

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 been working with a voter approved fixed % of funds for the program from Measure A. Expenses have risen over the years and TAM had found ways to continue to fund crossing guards. It was \$12,000 to fund a guard and now it is \$18,000 a year.

TAM has proposed a Crossing Guard Volunteer program; it is not currently being used. The cost is \$4,000.00 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 report](#)). The program would train, manage and insure an adult volunteer crossing guard. The 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.

Neil Cummins has one TAM guard and one district employee in guard positions. The Superintendent ran a quick calculation, he estimated it could cost less to have a district employee vs the TAM volunteer guard. This option would remove the challenge of having a volunteer vs a paid employee. School funds would need to be reallocated; challenge could affect teaching staff in a negative way.

### **Updates from Safe Routes to School**

Hall is the only school that still needs to schedule Safe Routes to Schools bicycle safety classes

**Next Meeting Agenda:**

Bell Schedule

SR2S Issues list

Identify remote drop off locations

**Next meeting:**

May 16 at 3:45pm- meeting room has been reserved