



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



**Reed District Safe Routes to Schools Task Force
Meeting Notes
Tuesday, April 25**

Attendees: Pat Barnes- Tiburon Public Work Director, James Campbell- Mayor of Belvedere, Alice Frederick-Council Member Tiburon, Cathleen and Ryan Gouveia- Parent and student Del Mar, David Hoffman- Parisi Associates, Dmitry Lashkevich- Associate Engineer Tiburon, Nancy Lynch- Superintendent Reed School District, Angela McInerney- Parent Volunteer Bel Aire, Kathy McLeod- Outreach Coordinator, Matina Seremetis- Parent- Del Mar School, Tricia Seyler- Belvedere Chief of Police, Jena Watson- Parent and Belvedere resident, Wendi Kallins- Safe Routes to Schools, Peggy Clark- Safe Routes to Schools.

Preparations for Bike to School Day

Reed School Team Leaders started promoting a cohesive message in late April to mid-May to include all “green transportation”. Promotional efforts include: posters, social media posting, press releases, school calendar and newsletters announcements, city/town web sites and news updates. Bike Trains and walking groups are planned. All the schools will have welcome tables distributing donated Zego bars - organic and gluten free - plus stickers.

The Community Message System will announce Bike to School Day the week of May 11 with an updated message on May 10th reminding drivers to take extra caution for the increase of cyclists. It was suggested it be placed at Backfield Drive.

Dr. Lynch will support the welcome table at Bel Aire, The Mayor will be at the CVS table and other council members may be available too.

Those attending agreed not to invest in a street banner. It had not been designed or purchased and it would take too long to get it done in time for May 10. It was discussed there was already a huge promotional effort with all the other resources.

Update on Greenwood Beach Road signage

Pat reported the Bike Pedestrian Plan has been approved. The next step is to determine a budget and what year it will be scheduled. Many other projects have a higher score in the town's budget. The project will include signs, road paint, pavement markings (colors drive up the cost), and road conditions. The county will need to be involved as the plans include county roads and facilities too.

The County has a surplus of funds; however, nothing is slated for bike or pedestrian projects. Road improvements are already planned to address pot holes and pavement breaks.

Cathleen requested vegetation (trees) be cut back on both sides of the road. Trees are blocking the site line for vehicles coming down the hill. The general speed of the drivers seems fast and then they cannot see as they approach the intersection by Del Mar School.

Web updates

Angela's sister in law developed the website for Reed School. The site now includes links to the bus service, Street Smarts Campaign, and walking and cycling education resources. The link to the Caltrans Transportation Survey has also been added. The survey includes the county roads in Tiburon and Belvedere. It is very important for residents to provide feedback soon.

The website looks great and all are very grateful for her time on this big project.

Wendi said that the Safe Routes to Schools site has information on International Walk to School and bike train details too. This is a great resource for parents. The Yellow Bus and Marin Transit information has also been updated.

One of the remaining steps for updating the route maps is to include the estimated travel time. This will help students understand their options for getting to school. Belvedere students need to have routes identified too. This may need to be an addendum. Tiburon and Belvedere will need to approve the final version of the maps. It will be helpful for Safe Routes to understand all the multi-use trails; incorporating all the existing trails (old rail road too) is important.

James reported Belvedere residents/students know how to get to San Rafael Ave. it may not be needed to include this detail in the map. Also the Bike Ped Plan that was just approved has some of the trails already identified for routes to town. The intersection of Mar West and Tiburon Blvd has several safety issues. It does need to be evaluated for facility improvements in the future.

Parisi Associates engineers will continue to work with the town's department of public works to identify routes and facility projects planned or under construction.

This is a high priority project for Parisi Assoc. A proposal was made to post enlarged maps at the school for students to mark routes they use to get to and from school. There will be a map with routes for each school.

An example of a map from Miller Creek Middle School in San Rafael was distributed. This visual helped identify what the end result will look like for Reed School District. It will have crossing guards, bus routes, stop signs and crosswalks identified.

Bel Aire issues

The bike route on Blackfield Drive should have Sharrows. Karen Way has vehicles parking on both sides of the road. If Sharrows were placed this would help cyclists know where it is best to ride and notify vehicle drivers that bikes are on the road too. Students need education on where to ride in the road with Sharrows. It is safer for students to ride in the road vs the sidewalk. Weaving in and out of park vehicles is dangerous. Riding in a visible and predicated manner is the safest way for students to ride their bikes on roads. Sharrows help reinforce this behavior.

Celia Way is a very challenging road. It was recommended Sharrows be placed on the road where cyclists are riding to school. Students leaving school take Leland Way to Cecilia to Blackfield Dr. Safe Routes to School recommends students avoid unprotected intersections whenever possible.

Ryan reported students are still cycling behind Peet's even though it is not the recommended route. The new bike lanes are very helpful and students are not cycling through the parking lot as much.

Wendi requested the towns evaluate the resources available for funding. If funding is limited, plan to post street signs first then road paint. Paint is usually more expensive. Safety education is needed for students and residents in both towns. Many drivers do not know what a "Sharrows" is.

Pat reported the town is deep into the process for scheduled and funded projects. Projects for Safe Routes to Schools must be identified early in the process. When a project is identified and approved by the DPW the next step is to find funding. It is possible for the town to determine if the signs are something they can fund. If the town/city cannot provide the funding they must go to outside resources.

Greenwood Beach Road is designated as a bike route. The next step is to get the signs approved. This project needs to be defined and presented to the City Council for

approval. At this time Greenwood Beach Road is not on next year's list of projects. Pat suggested the maps be completed and state the signs need to be included in the project. Pat suggested that creating maps come first and then develop a signage project. This would then be presented to POST which would advocate for its inclusion in the CIP with council approval.

A suggestion was made to construct bridge(s) across the road way to help pedestrians and cyclists cross. Pat explained bridges require a huge foot print, are expensive and must meet the height requirements for all vehicle types. This is also a Caltrans managed road and they would be included in the process.

Reed updates

The speed feedback monitor on Lyford Drive may be schedule for next year. The average speed is 30mph. The signs on Lyford are on a curve in the road making them difficult to see and read. On Tiburon Blvd. before getting to the dirt parking area, past Neds Way and Lyford the "light is ahead" sign is blocked.

Del Mar Update

Ryan reported he talked to the PE Teacher to develop and distribute a survey to learn who would be interested in joining a bike club. Sample survey questions would be: are you interested in riding with a club, what type of fun events would you like; bike decorating, do you want bags on your bike to carry school supplies, would you take after school field trips and education class? What would you like in a club?

Plans for next school year

The crossing guard program funding is becoming limited. There could be drastic funding cuts, requiring school districts and towns to seek outside funding. The program could reduce the number of guard from 82 to 56 for the county. TAM is looking into renewing or increasing the sales tax for the crossing guard program and possibly the yellow bus program. Many years ago school districts funded crossing guards then TAM took the

program over. Now it will be important for TAM and towns to partner to support the program.

Set next meeting and agenda

Attendees agreed a special meeting should be planned for the summer to address the completing of the route maps. It will take time for the approval process and they need to be ready to present before the next school year.