San Rafael School District Task Force
Meeting Notes
Tuesday, January 22, 2019

Attendance:
Wendi Kallins- Safe Routes to Schools, Peggy Clark- Safe Routes to Schools, Gwen Froh- Safe Routes to Schools Director, Raul Aguilar- Officer San Rafael Police Dept., Hadar Albo- Parisi Associates, Mary Sackett- Aide to Damon Connolly, Jean Severinghaus- Caltrans District 4, Leslie Garber- Mark Day School, Sue Crowther- Mark Day School, Kristen Schaefer

Updates on projects:
i. Third and Hetherton
The City has hired a consultant to prepare the design for improving the intersection. Improvements include the elimination of the south crosswalk on Hetherton. This intersection is located within Caltrans right of way and as such we need to receive their approval on the design elements. Our consultant is currently opening communication with the appropriate Caltrans department to move this project forward.

Raoul had attended a recent meeting; his understanding was there were several proposed plans. The police department is following this project, with focus on the SMART transit hub. Caltrans had not approved a proposal. The BPAC had approved a design that would have the least amount of conflict for pedestrians/cyclists and vehicle drivers. There are several locations where two lanes cross a crosswalk. This creates conflict for students crossing the streets; put them at a high risk. A hard stop for vehicle drivers is recommended for the safety of students. The School District should be involved in the process.

ii. Third Street

Preliminary report is being finalized and will be presented to the City council in a study session. Following this we anticipate starting the design process. There are many other projects occurring along Third Street. Coordination efforts are needed to avoid complications of multiple contractors in the same area.
iii. SMART pathway
Phase 1 of the pathway from Andersen to Rice Blvd. is almost completed. SMART will need to utilize this area to construct the rails system such that the pathway cannot be opened until the rail has been constructed. This is anticipated to occur some time in late spring 2019.

Phase 2 of the pathway from Rice to 2nd Street is approximately 90% designed with minor modification related to the current roadway being installed at this time. Funding for this project has not been secured. Construction cannot occur until full funding of this project is secured.

iv. Grand Ave.
Construction of the Pedestrian Bridge progressing well. The prefabricated steel bridge will be arriving in the next two months and installed. Following that, additional lighting and other incidental work should follow with completion in the late spring 2019.

v. Other projects

2nd and 3rd Street Closures for SMART
SMART is anticipating closing 2nd and 3rd Streets in April or May in order to install the rail across these roadways. This work will require full closure over a weekend.

NB 101 Central San Rafael Offramp
Caltrans will be replacing the bridge that crosses San Rafael Creek starting in the late Spring of 2019. They anticipate some full closures of the off ramp to occur such that vehicles will need to be detoured during this work.

70 Irwin Street Storm Damage Repair
Repair of this roadway is progressing. Final wall to be installed in the spring of 2019 with road resurfacing and opening of the roadway in the late Spring of 2019.

Other Issues
85th Percentile Speed was supposed to be under review in the state of California but instead a statewide Vision Zero committee was formed with the 85th Percentile rule being only one subject to be discussed. Safe Routes to Schools would like the law reviewed and updated. The 85th percentile speed is the speed at or below which 85 percent of the motorists drive on a given road unaffected by slower traffic or poor weather. This speed indicates the speed that most motorists on the road consider safe and reasonable under ideal conditions. However, just because a road can handle faster speeds doesn’t mean it is safe.
Safe Routes to School is working with other school districts to post a 15 mph speed limit in school zones. San Anselmo has posted this speed limit in most of the school zones in the district.

**San Rafael High School Update**

Parisi Associates was awarded a contract from the School District to design a proposed pathway through San Rafael high school. Additional details were not known yet.

**Mapping Project Report**  
Map were distributed; the following comment were made. Once the final comments are provided they will be submitted to the City for approval.

- During the last meeting 5th street was determined to be the recommended route for students as that is how they are traveling now.
- The maps will include areas and (all) street names where students need to take extra caution when traveling as pedestrians or cyclists. The location will have a specific marker.
- Mahon Creek Path needs to be added/labeled on the map; both pedestrians and cyclist use it. Until the SMART pathway is completed this is the route students use to Davidson School. D Street at 1st is dangerous. The back side of Davidson School is dangerous with double parked vehicles.
- Label Tamalpais Ave. between Mission and 2nd Streets
- Bus stop at Heatherton and 3rd. The location of this stop needs to be addressed with Marin Transit. The current and planned routes will need to be identified. Approximately 300 students make use of the transit center now.
- Verify crossing guard locations
- Recommendation was made to invite a SMART representative to a task force meeting to provide an update on how students will use and travel to/from the new transit center.
- Students still use Mission Ave. SR2S goal is to redirect them to a safer route.
- Feedback from Sun Valley families with students traveling to Davidson has not been submitted.

**Discuss Sun Valley parent recommendations**

Comments have not been submitted to Safe Routes to School as of this meeting.

**Vallecito School Access through Mark Day**

Representatives from the school are concerned about the number of students from Vallecito School that tend to cut through the parking lot when vehicle drivers are moving in and out during student drop off and pick up.
The school has identified a route alongside the lot and has it marked off with cones/paddles. School staff have witnessed a number of near misses when students travel outside of the cones and cut through the campus/parking lot. This is observed mostly in the afternoon when there are fewer parents traveling with the students. Many of the students that walk use the correct path; some students on bikes tend to want to shortcut the path. Also, the designated route is uphill and they’d rather take a flatter route.

The Safe Routes to School Team Leader is familiar with the area; she supports a “walking school bus” with students weekly. She offered to speak with the Vallecito Principal; requesting a safety message be communicated to students/families about the concerns (now and the start of each school year) and will follow-up the Mark Day School administration too.

Mark Day administration will look into scheduling a parking lot monitor to direct the students on the suggested safe route(s) on the path and outside of the parking lot. They may consider putting up signs directing all cyclists to walk their bikes.

**Set next meeting.**
May 2nd, 2019  6:30 pm  Location to be announced