



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



San Rafael School District  
Meeting Notes  
Thursday September 7, 2017

Attendees: Wendi Kallins, SR2S Program Coordinator; Peggy Clark, SR2S; Raul AGuiljar, San Rafael Police; Molly Blauvelt, parent SRHS; Gwen Froh, SR2S Program Director; Bill Guerin, San Rafael DPW, Maika Llorens Gulati, SRSD Trustee; Jordan Locke, SRHS student; Lindsay McKenzie, parent Davidson/SRHS; Joakim Osthus, SRBPAC; David Parisi, SR2S Project Manager; Lee Pollard, SRHS; Mary Sackett, Parent Vallecito/Aide Supervisor Connolly; Jean Severghaus, Caltrans BPAC; Dan Zaich, SRSD; Hector DeLeon, Capital Facilities; Peter Gebbie, parent SRHS

### **Reports from Walk and Bike audits**

David reported 12 people attended the walk. The focus was on San Rafael High School at west Mission street plus looking at 4<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> street issues and constraints. Some of the issues discussed included the new, fire station, narrow sidewalks and tricky interstations. For the next steps conceptual plans will be developed and vetted with the school district and the city. The School District is also looking at the master plan with the probability of increased enrolment the next five years. This will bring up more mitigation issues.

The City will explore the east west connector and the big issues to consider both short and long term.

### Improvements made since audits

Bill reported there are now stop signs at Mission and Bell and a number of other locations. There is also a rapid flashing beacon at Adlers and Mission. The senior housing is paying for it; it will be maintained by the city. Parents thanked the city for the quick action; it has made a big difference.

Maika asked if there were any updates on the bus station. Bill reported that Golden Gate Transit is requesting an environment review and contractors are submitting bids. The city will develop concepts for a five year effort. It's a good time for the community to get engaged. The city will be looking a another alternative besides the ones already shown. They want to have the students cycling on 4 and 5<sup>th</sup> not 2nd and 3rd streets.

Molly asked about the multi use path through the fields. She also expressed concern about the narrow sidewalks on Third St. She would also like to know who is responsible for widening the sidewalk on Mission by the chain link fence by the school. It takes up too much room for students to pass safely. At Union and 3rd there is a planter blocking the sidewalk by the fire station,

Bill will find out if the changes are planned for the sidewalks

David reported there is no dedicated funding right now. San Rafael City Schools will help take the lead and the issues list will be addressed. There is \$10,000 dedicated for the infrastructure study. TAM may be an option for additional funding.

TAM is looking into extending the sales tax or increasing it. The Safe Routes to Schools Task Forces have been very successful helping cities in securing grants. Funding is being awarded from grant applications and the more representation from agencies can be very helpful.

### **BPAC Report**

A BPAC meeting is scheduled in early October

The BPAC conducted a bike and walk audit through the downtown that will be an aide to the city's master plan. Audits take a good deal of time to conduct; therefore this audit focused on the East/West link for 3rd, 4th and 5th streets observing obstacles and issues on D Street, west of Irwin.

The BPAC report will be drafted and presented to the city. They will also review the SR2S issues list, prioritize and give input.

### **Schedule Bike Audit for Western approach to Davidson**

An audit is to be scheduled for Green to Davidson MS to observe and comment on the many safety issues. A list of people interested in attending the audit was collected. Wendi will organize a Doodle poll to schedule the audit.

A request was made to observe an issue with students on G Street, 1st and D streets. These are not good streets for students to cycle on.

### **Updates from Safe Routes to Schools**

Class Scheduling The following schools will be scheduled this school year: Sun Valley, Vallecito, Laurel Del, Glenwood, Bahia Vista and Coleman. Davidson's PE schedule has changed and classes have not been determined yet. Venetia Valley has expressed a strong interest for classes this year.

### lwalk

Is on Oct 4 this year. All schools are participating at some level. The SR2S bilingual coordinator is working with some parents and Venetia Valley will be participating this year. Davidson has not confirmed; hopefully the new VP can help.

Molly reported that Davidson PTA had a lot of support last year; hopefully they can help find parent volunteers. Lindsay said she we assist.

### Team Leaders

Sun Valley needs a new team leader. Davidson also needs parent support; it would be great if an elementary parent now in middle school could volunteer.

### Events and Contests

Walk and Roll Wednesdays will be also be conducted at Bahia Vista and Venetia Valley this school year. This year San Rafael High's Leadership Council will partner with SR2S and transportation club presidents at other Marin Schools. This is an exciting program for SRHS students and SR2S.

### Mapping

David explained the mapping resource SR2S is planning this year. SR2S will select 6-7 schools to develop "suggested" routes maps to specific schools. Once SR2S has collected a list of interested schools a schedule will be determined.

Davidson Middle School could benefit from a route map. To facilitate this mapping process the Task Force will need support. Suggested routes will need to be identified that students currently use along with specific issues. The maps will need to be in English and Spanish. The City of San Rafael must be part of the process and sign off on the maps. The <http://www.saferoutestoschools.org/> web site has a good example of a map for the Reed School District.

Back to School packet suggestion: included information requesting details on what neighborhoods students travel from. This could be used to develop more accurate maps

A school contact would need to manage the process for carpooling. Most students/families that carpool already know each other. A very successful carpool program was managed at San Jose Middle School for a few years.

## **New Issues**

### Venetia Valley School

Mary Sackett addressed the access routes to the school. There are a total of 3 easements; 2 are county property and 1 is maintained by the School District and that one will be reviewed for needed improvements and kept in place. The county easement near the field does not need to be changed. There is a homeowner with property near

the easement stairs that does not want students/people using them. This is public property.

#### Report on Caltrans Plan

Jean reported Caltrans collect 17,000 requests with comments from 9 Bay Area counties. Marin County provided a great amount of data. The next meeting is scheduled for October

#### Park and Walk Options

Safe Routes is collecting "park and walk" options to share with schools. The goal is to identify possible locations that are a 5 to 10 minute walk to school then to promote them to the school community. If a location is on private property prior approval must be obtained before it is suggested. Please submit location to Wendi.

Molly commented on the number of freshman students that are being driven to school. This would be a great resource for the families.

A suggestion was made to require (barring special needs/circumstances) San Rafael High School students be dropped off at "park and walk" locations. Student campus parking could be saved for carpool and students with parking permits. Tam and Redwood High Schools are providing resources on this issue on their web sites too.

Dan would like to see a clearly defined and informative message be delivered. Once developed the principal could send a school wide eblast. Wendi suggested at the next Task Force meeting they address this issue in detail and invite students to comment. Also include bus and carpool information.

#### Review of Issues list

Task Force members were requested to review the list, prioritize each issue with a 1-2-3 and add comments as needed. Please submit feedback to Wendi.

Next meeting is January 17, 2018 at 6:30pm