



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



Ross Valley Task Force Meeting Notes September 9, 2011

Present (10)

Wendi Kallins – Program Director for Safe Routes to Schools; Laura Kelly –Volunteer Liaison for Safe Routes to Schools; Bret Joyner – Director of Maintenance and Operations for Ross Valley District; Sean Condry –Public Works Director for San Anselmo; Robert French – San Anselmo Police Department; Dave Gallegioni – Deputy Sherriff; Renee Goddard – Team Leader for Manor School; Helen Badger– Team Leader for Wade Thomas; Bridget Clark – Team Leader for Brookside Upper School; Jason Richardson – Principal of Manor School; Karl Vavrek – Team Leader for Cascade Canyon School.

Funding Update

Safe Routes to Schools did not receive our third-year grant from the Marin Community Foundation. Wendi is talking with TAM to get additional funding in efforts to replace the loss. One of the SR2S program changes as a result of the decreased budget is that there will no longer be cash prizes as incentives for the 2012 ‘Go for the Green’ spring contest.

Scanning Device

Safe Routes to Schools is conducting a pilot program in middle schools using a state-of-the-art scanning device, which registers walkers and bikers and tracks their miles, Co2, gas saved, and other stats. The device is similar to a scanning gun, which scans bar codes. The long-term goal of SR2S is to offer the scanning device in most schools as a way of tracking green travel frequency.

Pilot Neighborhood Captain Program

Kentfield School District is piloting a neighborhood program where Bacich School has recruited a parent captain for six neighborhoods. Maps were created for each of the neighborhoods and the captains have created a network of families to walk, bike and carpool to school together. SR2S is monitoring the progress and success of the program and hopes to pilot it in Brookside schools as well.

Green Ways to Schools momentum going strong

Wendi shared that the “Find your Green Way to School” was distributed in digital and hard copies during the back-to-school season. Green travel at White Hill, Manor, Wade Thomas and Brookside Upper and Lower are reported to be off to a very strong start this school year. Bike racks are full and awareness of the importance of green travel continues to mount.

Women on Wheels – Wendi shared that if you know any mothers that do not bike that much and would like to learn, then MCBC is offering “Women on Wheels” classes in October. The clinics are taught by women for women and designed to improve confidence and knowledge.

International Walk and Roll to School Day – October 5, 2011

All Ross Valley schools are coordinating police and fire truck escorts for iWalk 2011. Wendi shared that the Team Leader kickoff meeting on September 1st went well and that bookmarks, Clif Kid snacks and iWalk posters were distributed to all parent leaders. Team Leaders were encouraged to use their school newsletter to promote the event, as well as room parent eblasts and Principal announcements.

Police escort routes were discussed:

- + Wade Thomas will meet at the Creek with St. Anselms and travel through downtown San Anselmo.
- + Manor School, White Hill, St. Rita’s and Cascade Canyon will start at the Fairfax Town Hall at 8:00 am and proceed to the Town Library and then head west on Sir Francis Drake.
- + Brookside schools will parade down Butterfield on bikes and by foot, as well as bus and carpool

Bridget offered to get in contact with San Domenico to make them aware of the event and encourage participation. Laura will drop off posters to San Domenico, and send them the PDF file. Wendi shared that there is a Team Leader ToolKit online for all school administrators and parent leaders to access for guidance at www.saferoutestoschools.org

It was noted that there are new Principals at both Lower and Upper Brookside. Wendi said that she would set up a meeting with both Principals to get them on board with the SR2S program. Enrollment is up 11%. Bridget mentioned that she needs car line volunteers to help route traffic at Upper Brookside, and that recruiting parents has not been easy. Wendi shared that Old Mill School uses 5th grade students to help direct traffic and it’s been very effective in educating and “retraining” parents regarding proper school procedures for drop off and pick up.

Staggering the school start times at Upper and Lower Brookside has proved to be effective in helping to reduce traffic backup on Butterfield. The push for more bus passes at the start of the school year was also helpful. 59 new students signed up for bus passes.

Updates from the San Anselmo Public Works Department

It was noted that Ghilotti Construction did an outstanding job getting the new sidewalks and other infrastructure improvements at Wade Thomas School installed before the start of the new school year. New ADA compliant sidewalk curb ramps and some paving at intersections were also done. The paving of crosswalks will be completed in September. A new crosswalk will be installed on Woodland Avenue. Wendi recognized Sean Condry for his new energy, which assisted in accomplishing the work with great efficiency. The Task Force also acknowledged Sean for his outstanding leadership.



There is a green light timing issue on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard where students cross at San Francisco. Traffic technicians reviewed the offsets between Safeway and Drake High School. Students don't understand the signals. Wendi suggested laminating a sign as a visual for students. Metal signs will be posted at the San Francisco crossing area. Cars go first, and then kids cross. The town is looking into getting additional ped heads to help teenagers pay attention more. Wendi said that possibly our Teens Go Green Club at Drake can help to get the word out.

Families who reside on Saunders have reported a speeding problem near Drake. Increasing police visibility and placing a speed radar trailer will happen as a result of the complaint. Neighbors requested speed bumps, but the fire department does like this because they can bottom out.

Fairfax Spine

John and Renee are working with TAM to create the "Fairfax Spine," a plan to look at the back road bike routes and suggest safety improvements. Part of the request is for charros (white bike/double arrow road signs like in San Anselmo) to be painted on roads. Wendi said there needs to be a plan – Where will they go and how often? Sean mentioned that San Anselmo residents have provided great feedback regarding the charros.

It was noted that there is currently no Public Works Director for Fairfax. Wayne Bush is the interim manager for the remainder of this year. John said that we can invite Wayne to the next Task Force meeting, but only if there is a specific issue to be discussed with Wayne.

White Hill School Bus Traffic on Glen Drive

A Glen Drive resident proposed that students taking the bus to White Hill be dropped off on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard at the start of Glen Drive, and not at White Hill. Instead, students could then walk through the path to the school field to get to school. White Hill principal is interested in re-routing the bicyclists on a path as well. The walking route is approximately 1/5 mile. Wendi will schedule a meeting with White Hill to discuss and explore this possibility. It was suggested that the White Hill staff person who directs the buses every day be included in the meeting.

Street Smarts Campaign

Renee shared that some people do not like the Street Smarts signs up in town. San Anselmo has constant requests for more of the signs according to Sean.

Wendi shared the studies have shown an increase in safety when the educational signs are in place. "Word of mouth" about safety and signs are the most effective way to correct poor driving behavior. Wendi said that she will post on the new SR2S website a link to the StreetSmarts campaign so everyone can learn more about its purpose.

Our next Task Force meeting is scheduled for January 20th at 10:00 at the Ross Valley School District Office in the Blue Room (Portable #2).