



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



Kentfield Task Force

Meeting Notes

March 25, 2010

Present (14)

Wendi Kallins – Program Director for Safe Routes to School; Laura Kelly –Volunteer Liaison for Safe Routes to School; Billy Cameron – Vice Principal at Bacich Elementary School; Amy Jones – Team Leader at Bacich; Chris Rardin – California Highway Patrol; Paul Miller – Facilities Manager for Kentfield Schools; Dave Gallegioni – Deputy Sheriff/School Resource Officer for Marin County; David Chellson – Deputy Sheriff for Marin County; Marnie Ganong –Bacich School parent volunteer; Heather McPhail – Bacich School parent volunteer; Sabrina Brown – Kent Middle School parent volunteer; Anna Pilloton – Outreach and School Relations Coordinator for College of Marin; Nicole Cruz – Administrative Assistant, Communications and Community Relations; John Adams – Police Officer for College of Marin; Vickie Lamke – College of Marin.

Report Back from Walk Audit

The entrance area to McAllister near the Bacich School's drop off area is reported to be narrow and the gates are not always open. A walk audit in the Bacich School area was conducted on February 10, 2011. It typically takes ten minutes to drive through the neighborhood due to the heavy congestion during peak school pick up and drop off times. Student drop-offs take place on the side streets of McAllister.

Heavy rains cause sidewalk flooding on McAllister (between the kindergarten entry driveway and Behrens) which prompt children to then walk on the street, which is full of cars lined up for drop off.

Sir Francis Drake – from McAllister to Bacich School there is narrow space for bikes as there are cars parked along the roadway that blocks access for bikes. Limiting residential parking during school hours was discussed as an option to encourage biking.

Laurel Grove and SFD are very congested at times.

Laurel Grove Petition Letter

Laurel Grovel section is very dangerous to walk and ride especially during peak school hours. A petition letter was created and distributed on March 8th by a sub-group of the Kentfield Safe Routes to School Task Force to address the safety concerns on Laurel Grove. (A copy of the letter is attached to this meeting summary). The sub-group is spearheaded by Kentfield parents Heather McPhail Sridharan, Amy Jones and Marnie Ganong. The petition letter proposed a “No Parking” zone between 6 am to 6 pm along the **west** side of the Kentfield section of Laurel Grove. It was noted that the town of Ross section of Laurel Grove already has “No Parking” signs on both sides of the street.

Feedback from neighbors has been extremely supportive of the proposed initiative to create a safer, car free section of the road for walkers, joggers, bikers, dog walkers, strollers and school children. To date, 20 signatures have been obtained. **Speeding was mentioned by every neighbor approached during the petition process as the biggest safety concern.** Apart from the current proposal, neighbors are requesting the creation of speed humps, more stop signs (at Inman) and more police regulation on the speed limit and W parking permits.

Pursuing funding from the neighbors for the signs, speed humps and striping that will be needed was suggested as a way to pay for improvements. It was shared that speed humps were funded by the neighbors for installation on Manor.

Wendi said the next step is to approach Hal Brown’s office by sending the information to aid Katie Rice and to Amanuel Haile.

Education Programs

Wendi conducted a workshop during the Task Force in which input was requested from member regarding pressing education issues that need to be addressed by the Kentfield school district. The following is input received from the Task Force regarding key issues:

Speeding on Laurel Grove

Speeding on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard

Illegal maneuvers on College Avenue

Failing to yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk

Traffic congestion and poor design traffic flow issues which make it difficult for drivers to turn around

Speeding on Woodlands

Lack of parking enforcement

Lack of parking around the school

Parking in red zones

On campus violations

Lack of room for bikers because the residential streets are narrow

Bikers not yielding to a turning vehicle

Lack of reporting bike accidents to law enforcement

Children not obeying rules

No education program

Wendi passed out to the Task Force a list of the free educational classes which are available to students by Safe Routes to School trained staff during P.E. time. She noted that we are teaching classes in 30 elementary schools and 6 middle/high schools, but that Bacich has not been on the scheduling circuit. Billy noted that Bacich is now on board to schedule the Walk Around the Block class (a lesson addressing the tendency of children to “dart out” into traffic), Helmet Safety, and Wheels in Motion (An outdoor class that combines activities to practice balance, control and simulated traffic situations for bicyclists). Teen classes offered include ‘Drive your bike’ and ‘My Public Transit System.’ A copy of details regarding all the elementary and teen classes offered by Safe Routes to School is attached to this summary.

Wendi asked if anyone has suggestions regarding other ways to educate students. Dave mentioned that law enforcement does have educational components like *stranger danger*, but it’s not structured, organized and presented. College of Marin shared that they may soon be part of 511.org and/or SchoolPoolMarin and that they are engaging in the 511 trip planner. Chris shared that the CHP has just started developing an elementary school program. He also shared that the CHP is open to the idea of partnering with Safe Routes to School to host a program or special event.

Enforcement Program – Needs and Options

Wendi shared that the most dangerous drivers on the road are parents and new drivers. She asked the Task Force what are the key issues and messages for drivers?

Don't worry about being late for work, safety first.

Not enough awareness that Bacich Elementary School is located extremely close to Sir Francis Drake Boulevard (SFD) which is a speedway for drivers.

Drive slowly is a key message

More signage is needed on SFD to create awareness that it is a school zone

Education is needed about the rules of the road for bikers – for both parents and children.

Know the routes – many parents are not aware of biking and walking routes

Maps need to be created

Solutions to address the issues:

Chris shared that the CHP has a presentation about driver distractions.

Educate the new Kindergarten parents where to find the walking and biking routes

Back to School assembly at Bacich is an excellent forum to address all parents about safety issues and to encourage more walking/biking/carpooling

Riding with Youth Class (offered for both students and parents)

Include the Ross Valley Preschool in the education effort

Send out a letter from the Law Enforcement to all neighbors (Chris said CHP welcomes the opportunity to do this)

Nasty gram – Send letters to reported speeders who are on record

Action Items for the Task Force:

Create maps of walking and biking routes (Heather and Amy volunteered to develop this). Combining school routes with emergency evacuation routes was also mentioned as a way to engage parents.

Rules of the Road Pamphlet (CHP – Chris)

Rainy Day Options – protocol (Bacich – Billy and Marnie to work on procedures for stormy days)

Green Ways to School and SchoolPoolMarin.org Outreach (SR2S – Wendi)

Our next meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 22 at 10:00 am.