



Kentfield School District  
Safe Routes to School Taskforce  
Meeting Notes  
Thursday, January 20, 2022

**Attendance:**

Wendi Kallins- Safe Routes to Schools, Peggy Clark- Safe Routes to Schools, John Neville- County of Marin Traffic & Transportation Engineer, Jennifer Schriber - ParisiTransportation Engineer, Gwen Froh- Safe Routes to Schools, Nancy Vernon - Aide to District 2 Supervisor Katie Rice, Allison Fortini-Crawford - Neighborhood Captain, Anne Petersen - Kentfield Planning Advisory Board, Beth Rhodes - Communications Director College of Marin, Bree Eaton- Neighborhood Captain, Melanie Wollenweber- Neighborhood Captain, Kristine Duran- Bacich Vice Principal, Sandy Guldman - Friends of Corte Madera Creek Committee, Matthew Hartzell -WTB/Transportation Alternatives for Marin, Lucy Morris-Parent

**Travel Plans**

[SR2S Travel Plan Presentation - Kentfield Task Force](#) *The following notes are based on the comments made during this PowerPoint presentation.*

Safe Routes to School developed travel plans ten years ago for schools throughout Marin. Most of these plans have been implemented. Now it is time to develop new plans for the next decade. Now travel plan reports will be developed for school districts vs just individual schools. This will be a more comprehensive method; ensuring all schools are included in the

planning process with identified goals and objectives. On occasion issues can overlap from one school to another.

The goal of the program is to increase the number of students using green transportation modes to get to school, to instill healthy habits with children, reduce congestion around schools and create a safer and cleaner environment for all.

Objectives must be measurable. Green trips are basically everything from walking, biking, carpooling and bus travel. Active trips are only those trips where the students use their own power, walking, biking, skating, etc. Safe Routes to Schools is looking to maintain at least 50% for elementary schools, 60% for middle schools. Measurable data is tracked using the bi-annual student travel surveys (fall and spring annually). Pedestrian and bicycle education is presented in schools and Safe Routes offers programs for families too, along with encouragement activities.

Additional objectives include identifying infrastructure issues and establishing school policies. Kentfield School District doesn't have a Safe Routes to School policy. The School Board hopes to develop one this school year.

Dot Maps (slide #7) give an idea of how many students actually live within walking and biking distances of the school (max of one mile). The location of this school and the location of students' homes indicates why walking and biking is suggested. This information also helps our program understand what types of encouragement programs are best suited for a school. The Kentfield District should have DOT maps generated in the next one to two months.

Suggested Safe Routes to Schools (SR2S) Route Maps (slide #8) have not been developed for the Kentfield District. The district has had its own maps for more than a decade.

SR2S is in the process of taking the district's maps and turning them into Suggested Safe Routes to Schools (SR2S) Route Maps this school year or

next. These maps suggest the best options for students traveling to/from the school. These routes are never guaranteed safe. There is no such thing as “guaranteed safety”.

[The SR2S Issues List for Kentfield School District](#) has been prioritized. The next step is to look at the number one issues and develop a plan for addressing them.

The prioritization is: a number one issue is categorized by the volume of students and major obstacles. Number two issues are categorized by either high volume of students or major obstacles. Number three is an issue that has a low volume of students and minor obstacles. These are subjective; task force member input is very important.

An issue map (Google Map) (slide # 11) makes it easier to discuss. The issue(s) are visible on the map; assisting with the evaluation of the situation(s).

Once issues are prioritized Walk Audits are conducted during drop-off/pick-up school times to observe traffic conditions in real time. Many task force members have participated in these audits.

Safe Routes Engineers work together with the local jurisdiction to develop conceptual plans. SR2S works with the district and the county to seek funding. Once funded they are built. This process can take time (sometimes years).

SR2S Student Travel Surveys (slide #15) are conducted in the fall and spring annually. The district is doing very well. There are a lot of kids walking and biking to Bacich about 37% with another 4% carpooling. Kentfield Middle School has only 35% of the students surveyed being driven to school. Most of the schools are doing quite well.

The number of Kentfield improvements is vast: new, improved and widened sidewalks, improved crossings and new bike lanes. The new HAWK (slide #16) near McAllister is working well. The temporary road closure during COVID social distancing was a result of this task force efforts along with the County of Marin. And finally, the work completed on Sir Francis Drake over the last couple of years was influenced by the SR2S Task Force and engineers.

A comment/request was by Melanie Wollenweber that “safety” be emphasized in communications of SR2S goals. Encouraging Walking and Rolling is great for the environment; this Task Force spends a good portion of their time trying to make it safer too.

Each SR2S task force, we will be looking at the goals and objectives. At that time SR2S task force members can talk about adjusting the wording. SR2S is always striving for safety; even though it can never be guaranteed. Goals and Objectives will be an agenda for the next meeting. Task Force members are encouraged to provide suggested wording.

### **Safe Routes Education and Encouragement**

SR2S is very grateful to the Bacich and Kent (over 200 student) administration in facilitating the scheduling of the pedestrian and bicycle education classes for grade 2-3-4-5-6 this fall and winter To date: Bacich (433 students) and Kent (over 200 students) have received SR2S curriculum. SR2S is on track to teach 10,000 students this year in our education program.

The [Safe Routes to Schools - Winter 2022 E-news](#) was sent out in mid January. If individuals are not receiving it, please check your SPAM and contact [peggy@marinbike.org](mailto:peggy@marinbike.org). We will confirm your email is on our list.

- **Parent Volunteer Zoom Meeting**

Wednesday, January 25 & 26th, 2022. Parent volunteers will hear all about action inspired events for walkers and rollers on a Zoom call.

Please contact [cooper@marinbike.org](mailto:cooper@marinbike.org) for all information. Typically these meetings are held in person during a luncheon. We plan to resume them next spring.

- Walk and Roll Events

Schools are encouraged to participate in these monthly events.

Please contact [cooper@marinbike.org](mailto:cooper@marinbike.org) for all information and event supplies. [English Poster](#) [Spanish Poster](#)

Wednesday, February 2, I love to Walk and Roll Day

Wednesday, March 2, Happy Pi(e) Walk and Roll Day

- National Bike to School Day is on May 4th-Spring Challenge 2022

An exciting spring challenge will be announced soon. This year's theme(s) to continue with encouragement has the acronym "J-E-D-I" and "May the fourth be with you". It's a four-week contest, kids will have their cards stamped and enter into a raffle on National Bike to School Day on May 4. [Spring JEDI Poster](#)

Our annual Bike Hero nominations will be announced soon; to be hosted in May National Bike Month. This has been a very popular event for students to nominate other student(s) that demonstrates safe and positive cycling behavior with good humor of course! Please contact [cooper@marinbike.org](mailto:cooper@marinbike.org) to learn more.

- Family Bike Education

The next virtual class is on February 24. Advance [registration](#) is required. In the spring/ summer they will resume in person with locations throughout the county. These classes provide a fun and interactive learning opportunity for parents and students to learn the "best practices" for cycling on streets.

- Parent BIKE Education Night!

In March, Mill Valley School District is hosting Marin's first ever Parent Bike Ed. Night. The district requested Safe Routes to Schools schedule this presentation to provide information on what their

children are taught with the SR2S curriculum. Parents are students' best role models when demonstrating good cycling behavior. Not all parents know correct cycling behavior; the content in this presentation will cover what is taught to students annually. Parent Ed. Nights can be scheduled at other schools. Please contact [Peggy@marinbike.org](mailto:Peggy@marinbike.org).

### **Acacia Closure Update**

During the last meeting it was understood that to maintain the temporary Acacia Road closure, the Task Force had to go through a process with the County.

The County sent out 110 letters to neighbors outlining that the Acacia Road closure was a social distancing measure for COVID. It no longer is a standard for COVID. The County's letter stated they are interested in doing the temporary closure of Acacia in Perpetuity. The County received two letters from neighbors with comments and felt the tone of the letters was not complete objection but some refinement could help. The people that provide the comments will remain anonymous. The county's interpretation of the comments is the road closure did not create a public safety issue. However, the process needs to be fine-tuned.

One comment "can the county not enforce no parking during the closure times". The county response is "that is not really doable because there's no way to communicate that effectively". The no parking signs that are there either have to be removed or enforced.

The other five comments the county would like feedback on are:

1. "The signs did not show the times of the closure" They say during pick-up and drop off; that was decided on because they can change given the day of the week; for simplicity.

Feedback: The AM is consistent and the PM can change due to grade level. The sign text is specifically addressing parents that know when their kids get off school. The residents are permitted to enter the

area. It is important for people to understand the rules (timing) so they can follow the rules.

After further discussion during the meeting, the comments provided by neighbors will be shared with specific SR2S volunteers who live on Acacia Road. A small task group will meet separately to address these issues and report back to the county.

The county must have neighborhood consensus and buy in on this temporary closure in perpetuity before it can be presented to the Board of Supervisors. The SR2S Task Force input and attention to detail is valued.

A few recommendations were made:

1. Have the school and county send out letters and use social media to update the neighborhood of the exact hours
2. Consider a font size that is used on other county roadway signs that could include the times.
3. Develop a process for placing and removing the signs daily.
4. The Nextdoor site should be used for all such issues; recruit a neighbor that can push information out.

A request was made to remove the signs that remain; they address maintaining 6 feet of distance.

### **Wolf Grade Crosswalk**

This location did qualify for a TAM crossing guard. One is located on Drake and one on Wolf Grade. This is great news for the school district.

### **COM updates – Bank building**

COM students will be back on campus in February for in person instructions.

COM purchased the building at 830 College Avenue; it is directly across from campus. It will be the welcome center, cashier office and enrollment services building. COM is almost fully complete with the interior renovation.

COM has been in communication with the School District regarding the intended use of the building and concerns for the shared driveway easement with the school. COM has put together a mitigation plan. It has been shared with the Principal and Superintendent. They have provided feedback and communication will continue to assure safety is the priority for all the users as they move forward.

The mitigation plan includes:

- increasing sight lines to access that driveway; trimming foliage to make sure that the site lines are better for drivers as they use the shared driver for pickup and drop off.
- Improved signage; no right turn and the appropriate stop sign and location.
- COM agreed to close off the existing covered driveway. It will be closed off and only emergency vehicles could use it. There will be ballards in place and emergency vehicles only stripping.
- The drive will be re-stripped.
- Campus police will be onsite to monitor and assist with the new roadway conditions to ensure safety. There is a concern parents will try to use the new facility to bypass the traffic in the drop-off/pick-up lines.

Melanie expressed her concern regarding the school district's original request that the fire lane be closed and that has now changed. Also, that site lines will still be difficult if the columns for the outside teller window remain. She will be following up with the district staff regarding her concerns and that she feels the task force should have been notified.

### **Other Issues**

Manor Road- The county received concerns about students darting out across Manor in the morning. This is the location where ballards were

installed to split/calm traffic and make cyclists aware of the road conditions. Another issue is traffic backing up on Drake due to traffic and crossings at Manor.

There is a crossing guard at this location and when present students are directed through the crossing. The current guard is doing a very good job at this location. The expressed concern is “what happens when a guard is not present?”

The county is going to install cameras and have the Traffic Operations Manager observe the issues to develop solutions and report back. This is not a dangerous issue at this time. The improvements made at this location; removing the guardrail that made the sidewalk wider has been a positive improvement. The number of walkers and the quantity and sizes of the bikes (cargo bikes) has also impacted this location.

Roadway speeds are a real and big concern for the traffic engineers. Since COVID highway death rates went up 4% for the first time in 45 years. This is when there were less vehicles on the roads. Now more people are back out on the roads and fatalities are trending up to 17% due to drivers going over 100 mph. These safety concerns impact the work Safe Routes to Schools is working toward.

#### Wolf Grade Sidewalk Condition

Approaching Sir Frances Drake Blvd there is a sidewalk condition: rock and a dirt spot where the sidewalk would continue if it was there (on the east - up hill direction) of Wolf Grade. A neighbor would like the county to fix it. Nancy will present this to the DPW and report back to SR2S.

If Safe Routes determined this was an unsafe issue for students, it could be evaluated. In the past the engineers did not determine it was. If the county determined the sidewalk gaps on Wolf Grade were to be improved it would take retaining walls and acquisition of private real estate. It would be a capital improvement project.

### South Eliseo

Poor roadway conditions on the west bound lane makes it an unsafe route to school. Student riders are weaving in the road to avoid potholes on the lower portion of the roadway. A request was made to have short term repairs made until the re-surfacing is completed (possibly in June).

Nancy will be meeting with the DPW Director soon and will report back. She will also check in on the repainting of the sharrows. Lucy was requested to record the issues when she rides her bikes to help explain the issues.

### **Issues list - 1st priorities**

#### [Kentfield SR2S Issues List](#)

The list will be addressed in more depth at the start of the next meeting.

All of the #1 issues are being addressed or have been completed. Task Force members are asked to review the list before the next meeting. During that meeting SR2S will determine what they will focus on for immediate and future issues. There will be a few new issues added before the next meeting.

### **Next Zoom Meeting- Thursday, April 21, 2022**

- Task Force members are asked to come prepared with proposed content for updating the goals and objectives.