



**Ross Valley SR2S Task Force
Meeting Notes
Friday, January 14 10:00 am.**

Attendance:

Wendi Kallins- Safe Routes to Schools- Program Coordinator, Gwen Froh- Safe Routes to Schools Program Director, Renee Goddard- Councilmember Fairfax, Peggy Clark- Safe Routes to Schools, Christopher Whitlock- Marin Transit Operations Analyst, Nancy Vernon - Aide to District 2 Supervisor Katie Rice, Chance Cutrano- Vice Mayor Town of Fairfax, Marci Trahan- District Superintendent, Matt Farber- Lead Instructor- Safe Routes to Schools, Jonathan Goldman- Town of Fairfax Interim Public Works Director, Scott Schneider- San Anselmo Asst DPW Director, Jennifer Schiber - Parisi Transportation Planner, Kelly Zalewski- Marin Transit School Operations Manager, Hitham Hamdon - Superintendent of Operations - Golden Gate Transit, Tarrell Kullaway - Executive Director Marin County Bicycle Coalition, Rachel Litwack- School Board Trustee, Jason Cardillo-Team Leader Wade Thomas School, Malissa Reyes - Brookside School Parent,

[Safe Routes Education and Encouragement 2022](#)

[Safe Routes to Schools - Winter 2022 E-news](#)

Education Update

Safe Routes to Schools is on track for providing pedestrian and bicycle safety education to over 10,000 by June 2022; currently 5,000 students have had instruction. School administration and teachers are dealing with

illnesses related to COVID this month this will impact the program for a short time.

The events listed below provide an outline of what our program is providing for parents, students and schools throughout the county.

- Parent Volunteer Zoom Meeting
Wednesday, January 25, 2022, 11 am – 1 p.m. Parent volunteers will hear all about action inspired events for walkers and rollers on a Zoom call. Please contact 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 for all information and event supplies.
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 to continue with encouragement will be "Star Wars- May the fourth be with you".

Our annual Bike Hero nominations will be announced soon. 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 to learn more.

- 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. 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.

- 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.

Travel Plan updates

[Ross Valley SR2S Task Force Travel Plan Presentation](#) - *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 plans 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 objectives.

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.

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, and 70% for schools that have a bus program for green travel; with an

objective of increasing by 1-2% a year. 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.

Slide# 15 provides the % of green travel for each Ross Valley School. Overall schools are above average with White Hill at 63% green trips.

An important objective is to identify the infrastructure issues that are barriers and to establish Safe Routes policies in the district. Ross Valley School District does have a policy; content will be reviewed this year to ensure it is up to date.

This Task Force will be involved with creating maps, looking at the issues list and prioritizing issues, doing walk audits, developing concept plans, and then seeking funding.

Dot Maps have been generated (example map for White Hill Middle School) and gives an idea of how many students actually live within walking and biking distances of the school. The location of this school and the location of students' homes indicates why biking is suggested and how important the bus service is to assist students getting to school. This information also helps our program understand what type of encouragement program is best suited for a school.

Suggested Route Maps have also been developed for most schools; some remain to be developed. The suggested routes offer 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 safety issues at the corner of Butterfield and Francis Drake are a number one issue for this Task Force. Safe Routes engineers and the DPW will look at possible options. This location is a number one issue due to 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.

Once issues are prioritized Walk Audits are conducted during drop-off/pick-up school times to observe traffic conditions in real time. Safe Routes Engineers work together with the local jurisdiction to develop conceptual plans. The Town of Fairfax and San Anselmo and the County have been unbelievably cooperative in working with Safe Routes to Schools. Over the years major facility improvements have been implemented.

Safe Routes has not interfaced with the Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan for Fairfax as they have in other communities. This is an excellent consideration; Safe Routes will research more and make sure Safe Routes to Schools coordinates with the Bike/Ped Master Plans since they have been adopted. The Fairfax and San Anselmo Master Plans are due for an evaluation/update; they are scheduled every 5-6 years. Safe Routes will reach out to the town's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committees (BPAC) as they coordinate the master plans for the towns.

Town of Fairfax has not had a Public Works Director or Access Specialist involved in recent facility improvements. A recommendation was made to SR2S when contemplating making improvements in the public right of way, that a certified access specialist is involved in the design process to include compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Bus update- bike ped count included

The Yellow Bus Program services White Hill, Hidden Valley and Ross Valley charter. This year, 579 passes were sold; the goal was 650. During the last year of operation student ridership is down 33%. This has been the trend in all school districts. To better understand how families are considering transportation options since COVID a survey will be sent out in the next few weeks.

Bus 23x stops at Sir Frances Drake and Olema for White Hill School students. This is a “fixed route” bus service managed by Marin Transit (MT). This bus is operated by Golden Gate Transit; Marin Transit manages the contract. Golden Gate Transit employs the drivers.

It is the first bus that arrives at Whit Hill School after the dismissal bell. There are a lot of issues with students on that bus: overcrowding, students pushing each other, not wearing masks, rushing the bus, stepping out into the road way (8ft in the road in front of a bus) and using bad language.

MT recently met with School District representatives and the Principal of White Hill to address these safety issues. When available school staff do try to supervise students at this stop. Golden Gate Transit has a limited number of supervisors addressing safety issues for four counties. They have scheduled them for the Drake/Olema stop when available and have observed drivers having difficulty safely pulling into the bus stop with students in the roadway. They are very concerned a student(s) could get injured.

The White Hill Principal will be communicating with the parent community and specific families of students that have been identified displaying unsafe and poor behavior. Due to the number of teachers and administration out due to COVID, it has been difficult for an adult to be at the bus stop every day. All involved organizations understand the severity of these issues and are working on addressing them as soon as possible.

There have been similar issues for another bus route in the past. The major change influencing these current issues is the new bell times. MT hopes the data received from the survey help them to manage the bus schedule better and understand ridership interest and needs.

Marin Transit and Golden Gate Transit were asked if they could provide feedback/suggestions on how the town can look at addressing these issues. This would help with future yellow bus planning for the town and school district.

[WHITE HILL Car, Bike and Ped Count \(May and October 2021\)](#)

This document was referenced during the meeting and the following comment was made.

These counts were conducted by Nancy, Renee and Chance (their time is greatly appreciated) on a Monday, Tuesday and Friday last year. They counted walkers, cyclists and students using the bus. Vehicles were also counted for the week by Parisi Engineering. On two days the number of students walking was low yet in the afternoon the number increased significantly; probably due to adults working in the PM.

The takeaways:

In May, 50% of the kids were walking and biking home from school. More walkers and bikers in the afternoon. More car traffic for the morning drop-off than afternoon.

October 2020 the results (counts) were very similar. However, in the afternoon there was a 26% decrease in cars from May.

In summary when the Yellow Bus was in service there was a significant drop in vehicle traffic.

The Safe Routes Student Travel Survey has also documented an increase in “active trips” for White Hill students.

The Task Force is interested in learning if the number of students walking after school are going to after school activities or walking home. The travel data that Safe Routes is using indicated students live more than 2 miles from the school; on average this is a long distance for students to walk.

Another issue observed during the counts was the number of vehicles idling on Glen Drive for 15-20 minutes. This is an emissions/pollution concern that should be addressed.

Overall, there were positive observations for the number of students walking and biking. It is good to see the facilities put into place to encourage these healthy behaviors are being used.

Town updates

San Anselmo

The town is close to completing phase one of the Brookside Elementary Sidewalk Gap Closure Project. They had enough funding to do the Sir Francis Drake section. The sidewalks are all in and they need to patch asphalt and complete striping by the bus stop (across the little piece of field that comes into Drake). In the future, the town will apply for more funds to continue the section at Butterfield to Brookside Elementary.

Last summer the town went out for bids for the bike spine project. It's a federally funded project to install sharrows on the back route that goes from the Town of Ross by Wade Thomas, along Cedar to Saunders and San Anselmo Ave, back of the high school up to Butterfield Ave.

Due to the bidding process not being completed correctly the project had to go out for bid again. The town hopes to do the work this spring or summer.

Funding is available for a [HAWK Beacon](#) at Saunders and Sir Frances Drake. Here is a [Link](#) to directions for using a HAWK from the County of Marin. This will be similar to the ones that the County installed by College of Marin and by San Rafael High School. The town hopes to get this out to bid in the spring.

The town has a robust slurry seal program for most of Butterfield Road and on Drake Blvd by the high school planned. Once the sewer district finishes up their Butterfield Road, the town will do more paving to make the bike lane more smooth including slurry seal and re-striping.

The town's BPAC has been re-instituted and will be meeting in the spring. Many of the projects in the current plan have been completed. The BPAC will be tasked with reviewing the town's Bike/Ped Master Plan and the Cross Marin Study that addressed bike travel from San Rafael to Fairfax through San Anselmo and generate a list of future projects.

Many of the Bike Master Plan projects have been completed and have applied for funding like the Bike Spine project. When federal funding is awarded it can take many years to progress. The East/West hub study is currently a project underway. This would address getting cyclists through the hub from Greenfield to San Anselmo Ave. to improve East/West travel.

A request was made regarding the corner of Butterfield and Drake at the North/East corner. Will a galvanized steel barrier be included in the improvements? DPW- yes, a more substantial railing has been ordered and a radar feedback sign for west bound traffic approaching Butterfield has been installed.

The North/West corner redesign creates more space and is great; especially for the cargo bike riders. Will the sidewalk roots be removed? DPW- yes bushes have been removed and roots will be removed.

At a prior Safe Routes meeting it was suggested the school parent group look into raising funds for a crossing guard at Butterfield and Drake. If they can raise the funds, they would work with the Transportation Authority of Marin who manages the crossing guard program. They provide and supervise the guard and receive the funding for the cost. The funding should be budgeted for future years to keep the position funded.

Town of Fairfax

There has been lane closure on Sir Frances Drake since Dec 13, 2021 due to a sinkhole. The work is taking a long time due to the layer of repairs that were linked and needed to be addressed first. The sidewalk will be repaired, along with the roadway being repaved. Pavement markings will

include; crosswalks, adding sharrows and remarking worn out bike lanes along Drake.

Sharrows are also planned for Bolinas Road in the future. This is a short-term solution. A more comprehensive circulation study is needed for Fairfax. The town is hoping that study will support a better plan for capital improvements and infrastructure in that Broadway corridor. Future improvements will ultimately link the ferry terminal with West Marin via both Sir Francis Drake and other routes that are not on Drake.

There has been only one complaint received; thanks to the community for their patience. A major percentage of road users including drivers and student/ adult cyclists are obeying the traffic laws.

A thermoplastic pavement marking contract has been authorized to refresh the crosswalks on Sir Francis Drake in Fairfax. The project has not been scheduled yet.

The Town Council authorized a Paving Project Design consultant to review the Pavement Management Plan. They will not only consider pavement conditions but also road segments and who the primary users are, such as students and ADA requirements.

The Fairfax Bolinas Road from Fairfax town limits to the town of Bolinas has had significant structural and drainage issues for many, many years. Many cyclists have not felt safe cycling this road segment for a long time.

Jonathan submitted a \$5 million project estimate request to TAM with the guidance from civil engineers that have applied for grants in the past. This would be a multi-agency project that would take years; it is not just a pavement project.

The Safe Pathways project intended to construct a rectangular rapid flash beacon and sidewalk improvements at Drake at Azalea is on hold. The

ADA requirements drove the costs up and they are looking at other ways to use the funding.

Butterfield Road committee report

The Sleepy Hollow Homeowners Association and Safe Streets Safety Committee achieved wonderful outcomes on Butterfield Road. One committee is working on the Eyes Up Campaign. The campaign focused on crosswalks; it was well received by the community. The Butterfield Safety Group is focused on a new crossing at the community center and learning if they can get support for making the shoulder an actual bike lane on Butterfield.

Marin County Bicycle Coalition has put together a survey asking people how they feel about safety on Butterfield and how they use the roadway. An important question is; has an individual been involved in an accident or near miss on Butterfield. Many incidents are not reported; no accident report is logged by the police.

Anyone who uses Butterfield is asked to complete the survey. It does not matter what town individuals live in. [Survey Link](#) please complete by February 7th.

Next Meeting

April 15, 2022 at 10:00AM

Agenda Items:

The Issues list will be reviewed and updated at this meeting.