



**San Rafael Safe Routes
Task Force Meeting Notes
Tuesday January 25, 2022**

Attendance:

Wendi Kallins- Safe Routes to Schools- Program Coordinator, Gwen Froh- Safe Routes to Schools Program Director, Peggy Clark- Safe Routes to Schools, Jennifer Schriber - Parisi Transportation Engineer, Tom Kordick- Davidson Dean of Students, Brooks Nguyen - School Board Trustee, Maika Llorens Gulati - San Rafael Council Member, Lauren Davini- San Rafael Traffic Engineer, Matthew Hartzell-WTB / Transportation Alternatives for Marin, Bob Marcucci - Asst Superintendent Business Services, Mary Sackett- Supervisor Aide, Craig Murray Neighbor, Matt Farber- Lead Instructor for Safe Routes to Schools, Christopher Whitlock - Marin Transit Operations Analyst, Carrie Wurlitzer - Vallecito Parent, Jean Severinghaus -Marin Resident, Linnea Rich - Coleman Parent, Wes Howell- Mark Day Director of Facilities. Warren Wells- Policy and Planning Director for the Marin County Bicycle Coalition, Lauren Davini- San Rafael Traffic Engineer

Marin Transit (MT) – Middle and High School

Marin Transit reported that the Board of Directors allocated funds to support yellow bus programs in the county. It was for a three-year term that ended this year; the new term begins July 1, 2022. MT has been in communication with the San Rafael School District to learn of their plans to continue with the program. MT will be funding \$600,000 annually to county participating schools. This could be increased by 5% in the next 3 year term. The amount of funds distributed will depend on how many schools are participating and the size of the program.

MT is addressing this upcoming new term due to the strains their service has encountered since the implementation of Bill 328. Countywide bell times changed for middle and high schools; they are starting and ending at the same time. In addition, there is a nationwide shortage of drivers.

MT is again reviewing a study conducted a few years back; the results of that study found a yellow bus service was more equipped to help students K through 8 and students that were more independent were better suited for the public transit system. MT is hoping more schools would get involved and take action in starting their own Yellow bus programs. This process will take a good amount of time and funding. MT is willing to help with the service planning and facilitating those funds.

The School District expressed their gratitude to MT for their support and funding. The district currently has 1,300 students (T-K through 8th grades) participate in our Yellow Bus program. The PayPass is \$250 for the year, with 563 students participating and about 750 students receive free or discounted rates. There are 23 routes in the morning and 27 in the afternoon. Davidson Middle School students can receive a public transit pass after completing forms at the school. The number of passes awarded was not available for this meeting.

The total cost of the program is \$1.2 million and the funds MT provides is significant about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the cost of the program (\$230,000). In addition, Miller Creek District received about \$42,000 from MT; they too are extremely grateful for the support. All of these funds are provided by Measure AA via the Transportation Authority of Marin.

Travel Plans Update

[San Rafael 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. The new travel plans will be developed for school districts vs just individual schools (Miller Creek and San Rafael School Districts). 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. These goals and objectives will be updated this year; task force members will be asked to submit suggestions for updating the goals and objectives if that is decided upon.

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.

The primary work of this Task Force is identifying the infrastructure issues that are barriers to students walking and biking to school. 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 will be generated (example map is 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 the schools and the location of students' homes indicates why biking is suggested and how important the bus service is to assist students getting to school. Especially important in those districts where students live more than a mile from their school. This information also helps our program understand what type of encouragement program is best suited for a school.

The Miller Creek Dot Map is almost completed. Assistance to develop the San Rafael Dot Map is needed. A request was made to Bob to help this project move forward. Safe Routes is currently working with Dan Zaich and the process has stalled.

Suggested Route Maps have been developed for some of the schools; many remain to be developed. Safe Routes is budgeted to complete only five maps a year for the county. A Coleman map is under way now. The support from Task Force members is very important as you all know the routes most likely used by students. If parents pull together most of the information; SR2S staff can add additional information such as crossing guard locations. All maps developed need to be reviewed by the City of San Rafael except for Venetia Valley and Marinwood which are in the county.

The San Rafael Bicycle and Pedestrian (BPAC) Committee has been very helpful. Many of the items in the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan have been added to the SR2S issues list.

The suggested route maps offer the best options for students traveling to/from the school. These routes are never guaranteed safe. They are not called Safe Routes to School maps. These maps are developed to assist students and families to determine the route best for them. A SR2S task force focuses on facility improvements that assist

with walking and rolling to school. SR2S does not take a political position on issues outside of these goals.

San Rafael Safe Routes to Schools Issues List Update

Safe Routes Issues list

The issues list for the two districts is very large. The first task will be to make the list more manageable to assist with getting suggested improvement addressed.

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. They are all important and will be addressed in time.

The issues list has a Google Map that identifies each issue and provides a better resource especially during these remote meetings. It is a very useful tool.

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. SR2S has a very good success rate once this stage of the process is achieved. This process can take time (sometimes years). Slide #13 is an example; existing conditions and recommendations.

SR2S Student Travel Surveys (slide #15) are conducted in the fall and spring annually. Most of the schools are above 50%. Middle schools and even one of the SR elementary schools are above 60% and active trips are high too.

San Rafael has completed many facility improvements and the Second Street improvements project will be one of them. Many sidewalks, street crossing, bike lanes and pathway improvements have been addressed by the DPW on recommendation for SR2S engineers. A good deal of great work has been done by the city.

Safe Routes Education and Encouragement

SR2S has started the school year off pretty well in San Rafael Schools. Miller Creek Middle School scheduled the 6th grade bike safety curriculum in the Fall vs the Spring.

These grade level students typically ride by themselves (without an adult); therefore, receiving the education at the start of the year is beneficial. SR2S encouragement events are being hosted at most of the San Rafael schools due to the strong support by parent volunteers.

Davidson Middle School did host an International Walk and Roll to School Day last fall. The [Bay Area Bike Mobile](#) is scheduled for Davidson and did visit Miller Creek this past fall. The service provides free bike repairs for student bikes.

The list below reflects the schools that annually schedule classes. SR2S staff has met with the administrators at the schools that have not received our curriculum in a few years. Safe Routes to School has a [San Rafael District Policy](#). It supports SR2S requests to all schools to host our free education classes annually.

Davidson has hosted the 6th grade curriculum in past years during PE. They do have a complicated PE schedule. Tom offered to speak with the PE teacher to learn what options there may be for this school year. SR2S will reach out to Venetia Valley again and follow up with Bob if needed. Thank you all for your support!

- Bahia Vista - Feb 2020
- Davidson- 2018
- Coleman- Feb 2020
- Vallecito - Oct 2021
- Venetia Valley- None
- Sun Valley - Nov 2021
- Glenwood- April 2021 Virtual
- Laure Dell- Dec 2021
- Miller Creek- Fall 2021
- Mary Silveria- Fall 2021

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. We will confirm your email is on our list.

The Parent Volunteer winter meeting was held in late January via Zoom. If you did not attend and would like to support your schools' encouragement activities, please contact cooper@marinbike.org to learn more. In person meetings will hopefully resume in the spring or next fall.

- [Walk and Roll Events](#)

Schools are encouraged to participate in these monthly events. Please contact 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](#)

SR2S 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 to learn more.

- Family Bike Education

The next virtual class is on Wednesday, March 2, 2022. 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 and to become road-ride-ready.

- 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.

Las Gallinas and Las Colinas intersection/stop sign

This issue was presented by a council member that has not been able to attend the meetings. The safety issue is that the drivers are running the stop signs. This is an enforcement issue.

Lauren Davini- San Rafael Traffic Engineer can be contacted if there are questions (lauren.davini@cityofsanrafael.org)

City Updates

Mission Ave RFBs are completed; these are a TAM funded project.

Laurel Del/Davidson issues

A big project with the city and the sanitation district is under way. Once all the utility work is completed, the city will be able to resurface the streets. An extra curb ramp and crossing was added to the project at Lovell Ave & Woodland Avenues. That will be signed as a school crossing and striped. Davidson Middle School would like to know when the repaving is planned to notify the school community.

Terra Linda High School Update

A two way bike path and sidewalk improvements are being added along the frontage of the school and the city is planning to make sure a two way bike facility reaches the all way stop intersections beyond the school frontage. The improvements will include bike lanes and sharrows (combined) mainly due to the street parking needed by residents.

Nazareth House, San Rafael

There is a proposed housing project for this location. The city has requested, as part of the project, that the intersection at Nova Albion and Monticello be improved. The improvements would include curb extensions to shorten the crossing distance and high visibility crosswalks

Second Street Update

On February 7th the DPW will be presenting at the City Council meeting; open bids just went out. The public is encouraged to attend the meeting. The project packet will be available on the city's website on Thursday by Feb 3rd.

Vallecito Update

A second set of delineators has been added on the ring road at Mark Day campus. Other recommendations have been made as well pertaining to the path that comes down next to the garden. There are high visibility bollards and striping in place now.

There are additional long-range plans for this area. The property is owned by the school district. SR2S is hopeful that the Transportation Authority of Marin next round of funding (possibly 3-4 years) could be awarded for the proposed long-range improvements. The school district would apply for the funding.

A concern was presented about the lack of space for pedestrians, and bicycles in the 3-foot space. There is dirt, pavement and bollards that are easy to move. All of these conditions still add to hazardous conditions to families using the pathway.

There were other additional improvements under consideration for this area. The city is requesting a priority list; there are a number of locations that could benefit from quick build improvements. The city needs to be strategic with planning.

Venetia Valley Pathway Update/Report

[Venetia Valley Safe Routes to School \(SR2T\) Report](#)

The following notes are based on the comments made during this presentation.

This project is addressing the safety issues of getting students from the west side of 101 to the east side that are headed to Vallecito School. There are a number of large apartment complexes with students traveling to school. This route is the quickest route that students are going to take and it needs improvement. There are locations along this route that are currently marked for cyclists.

There is currently a long-distance route that leads students to cross the SMART train tracks twice. The city has reported there is no active work planned for Civic Center or North Saint Peter Road to improve the safety of that route.

A direct route on the southside has been researched and is presented in the report link above (see photos). The property crossed by this route is owned by the city and Caltrans. There are easements for this dirt path; this needs to be confirmed. There have been community efforts to clean up the pathway; a county supervisor and city manager attended a clean-up.

SMART has a new Real Estate Manager and a Chief of Engineers that have agreed to take a look at this proposed project. The school district would also need to be involved in the project to make sure access from the back side of the campus is open.

SR2S is proposing a Walk Audit with the city engineers, county council members, BPAC members, SMART and CalTrans representatives.

North San Pedro Road Crosswalk Upgrades Coming

[Link to press release](#)

Please read the press release for updates; this was a last minute update during the meeting.

Next Zoom Meeting

Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 5:00pm

Agenda item

Prior to the next meeting, SR2S would like task force members to review the current [Safe Routes Issues list](#) and provide feedback on how it can be improved and the Walk Audit will be conducted.