



**West Marin
Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Taskforce
Zoom Meeting Notes
Monday December 6, 2021**

Attendees:

Madeline Nieto Hope, West Marin Community Services-Tomales Bay Youth Center, Inho (Eddie) Kim, Acting Regional PM/Caltrans Project Manager, Jacob.Buffenbarger- (Caltrans D4), Maile Sivert - Parent, Dennis Rodoni-County of Marin District Four Supervisor , Anne Richman -Transportation Authority of Marin- Executive Director , Rhonda Kutter- Aide to County Supervisor, Ken Levin - Point Raise Station Village Association. Steve Antonaros-Point Reyes Village Assoc. Jen Shriber- Parisi Assoc. Transportation Planner, Laura Shain Principal for Lagunitas School District, David Parisi- Parisi Assoc Engineer, Heidi Gregory- Owner Tomales Bay Oyster Company, Gwen Froh, Safe Routes to Schools-Education and Encouragement Program Director, Peggy Clark- Safe Routes to Schools Program Manager, Dan Cherrier - TAM Contract Manager, Emma-Louise Anderson - SRTS Volunteer for Lagunitas School, Peggy Day - Point Reyes Station Village Association,

Welcome – Dennis Rodoni

Thanked the Safe Routes to School staff, David Parisi and the TAM team: Anne Richmond and Dan Cherrier for attending. He is excited to have SRTS assisting with the Caltrans repaving project for a pathway to the school from Mesa Road in Point Reyes Station and addressing future issues.

Welcome- Anne Richman

Thanked the Supervisor and volunteer community members for attending. TAM is excited to have a West Marin Task Force developing; making it the ninth Task Force group supporting efforts throughout Marin County. Safe Routes to Schools and the County Crossing Guard Programs are funded by TAM

Safe Routes to Schools - [West Marin Task Force- Kick Off Meeting- powerpoint presentation](#). The notes below were taken from the presentation and the comments.

Safe Routes to School Travel plan

Developing a Safe Routes to Schools Travel Plan

The main purpose for this task force is to develop SRTS Travel Plans for Lagunitas, West Marin and ultimately Bolinas School Districts. Once the Travel Plans are developed, Issue Lists will be developed to address concerns that inhibit safe travel to schools and we will move into implementation.

A goal is to increase the number of students using active and green transportation modes to get to school, to instill healthy habits, reduce congestion around schools and create a safer and cleaner environment for everyone. SRTS also conducts encouragement events for students/families who live more than a mile away from an elementary school or two miles from middle and high school.

A “green trip” is anything that's walking, biking, bus or carpooling to school. Parking and walking is counted as a green trip; anything that reduces the amount of cars that are on the road or cars that are approaching the school. An “active trip” is walking, biking, scootering, skateboarding; active students basically getting there on their own.

Safe Routes to Schools encourages a certain percentage of green trips every year: 50% for an elementary school, 60% for a middle school, and 70% for

schools who have a bus program. Progress is tracked through student travel surveys. These surveys have been conducted throughout the county for years.

Infrastructure Needs – Issues List

Issues near schools will be identified and prioritized. SRTS does not consider any issues unimportant; prioritizing helps identify what needs to be addressed first and directs efforts to seek funding for projects. Potential recommendations are also added for each issue.

- A number one issue is something that has a high volume of students that are using it and where there are major obstacles that we need to address.
- A number two priority is something that either has a high volume of students that are using that route and encountering that issue, or it's not a high-volume area for students, but there's a major obstacle that is a safety concern.
- A number three priority is where you have a low volume of students and there may be obstacles, but they're minor compared to the other ones.

Dot Mapping Data

Data is collected from school districts on where students live in relation to a school. No family names or contact information is collected; Memorandums of Understanding will be signed to assure the information collected will not be used for any other purpose than developing maps.

The data is used to map out where students live relative to their school, particularly noting what percentage of the student body lives a quarter mile or a half mile or even a mile away from school. This helps target efforts and determines how SRTS is doing in terms of the number of students that live walking or biking distance from school.

Suggested Route to School Maps ([examples or Suggested Route Maps](#))

Every year SRTS creates five suggested route maps to schools. They are working documents that are also updated. Community members and parents

who know the area assist in developing these maps. SRTS is looking for the major routes where most kids will be walking and biking.

Suggested maps/routes identify the routes we encourage students to use. They help SRTS to focus on potential safety barriers that are along the suggested routes for the Issues List.

Walk Audits (SRTS conducts about 5 each year)

Can be conducted using Google Maps during a Zoom meeting and/or in person. During the audits SRTS representatives, engineers along with agencies and school representatives begin the process of developing potential recommendations. In person audits are scheduled at the start of the school commute and/or at the end of the school day to observe traffic conditions in real time.

The data collected will be used to develop concept plans based on the priorities of the issues. A lot of time is devoted to developing good plans that have consensus for implementation. It is very important to have the West Marin Task Force participate in developing the consensus; TAM grants require it and it is helpful when applying for other grants too. Public involvement and engagement are important.

Plans can include addressing a sidewalk gap closure, curbs or a new crosswalk. SRTS would be working with the County and Caltrans, depending on the jurisdiction of the improvement.

Plans may include low cost, possibly short-term solutions. In many cases the longer term, higher cost types of projects must be addressed. Cost estimates are developed for these improvements and help develop grant applications. TAM funding is available every 4-5 years only, and while very helpful, it is limited therefore outside funding options are also explored.

SRTS has a tremendous track record of moving these plans through and actually getting them funded and built, even though it does take time.

Now is a really a good time for the West Marin Task Force to get involved because it is a year or two before the next cycle of TAM funding. Good projects can score well for funding; identifying issues is very important now for future call for projects. In the last couple of cycles, TAM has offered small grants of up to \$25,000 for small improvements like crosswalk enhancements. Historically TAM's awards have been pretty geographically diverse and West Marin could have projects to present.

SRTS contracted budget with TAM is for the entire program; including all nine Task Forces. SRTS would like to plan for at least one Walk Audit and one concept plan; in time they would be developed for all the West Marin Districts.

TAM funding is relatively small; some of their resources are:

- The Transportation Sales Tax which is countywide. The specific funding program is for Safe Pathways projects. Many are for Safe Routes to Schools type projects. Funding is awarded every three to four years.
- The Safe Pathways are less frequent. Typically, the amount of funding that Tam can provide for projects is somewhere between \$75,000 to a million dollars.
- TAM just awarded the non-sales tax, Measure B, county wide for about 1.4 million; it funded about seven projects throughout the county.

Various regional, state and federal funding have been used for Safe Routes to School projects. A lot of them go to disadvantaged communities. SRTS will learn if West Marin would qualify; as information is gathered that can be determined.

Emma Louise asked if SRTS identifies "high volume" relative to the number of students that attend a school that are walking and biking. A school with a small number of students would not be compared to a school with a very large number of students. Wendi responded that the volume would be relative to the school population and now be compared with other, larger schools.

Issue List Items

- For West Marin Schools there's a lot of travel on Highway One where young people are traveling by bike. Many are visitors to the area that do not know about the location of the schools. This creates unsafe conditions.
- The French Ranch pathway is not passable in the winter, trees come down and there are some muddy areas.
- Students cannot walk or bike to Lagunitas School because there is no infrastructure. Infrastructure and strategies need to be discussed.
- Caltrans 2023 Project West Marin Project comments were shared requesting this project collect community feedback on how to best address students traveling in this corridor now and in the future. There are students who live within walking distance of the school that do not have a safe route.

Caltrans Project- 2023

Comments and questions were addressed regarding the Caltrans Project not related to the Caltrans projects underway in front of the school. The project covers a large area of roadways in West Marin: Tamales, Point Reyes; it is in the “concept phase” currently. Caltrans has been meeting with town and county agencies and Safe Routes to Schools engineers. Community meetings will be announced and scheduled as the project concepts move forward. The Caltrans budget has strict restrictions.

SRTS involvement will only be addressing Mesa Road to the local school; the other areas are outside of school zones. SRTS has successfully worked with Caltrans on many projects. Funding has been made available via TAM and [Caltrans Shopp](#) program.

Inho (Eddie) Kim, is the Acting Regional PM/Caltrans Project Manager; he can be contacted for additional information at inho.kim@dot.ca.gov . He offered to present at the next meeting to address the Safe Routes to Schools project area.

- A suggested route map was requested to identify routes students can use to West Marin School from the neighborhood streets: Dance Palace, Mesa Road, B Street, Lois Lane, Cyprus Road. Some of the land for a pathway is private and public and there are some easements behind the school; community members feel there would be support for student travel.
- Consider a route using the old North Marine Water trail to Pt Reyes that would connect to the cul de sac near the Coast Guard property for students.
- Develop an awareness campaign to commercial businesses (employees/large truck drivers) that they are driving through and near school zones and students are in the area to drive safely and slower. Use local radios stations and publications to get the word out.
- Kids from Inverness Park do not have a safe route to Point Reyes away from the road. A bridge or walkway over the wetlands of Giacomini from Inverness Park over to Point Reyes could help. Kids from Inverness now must be driven or walk or bike on the road with vehicles traveling at very fast speeds.
- Lagunitas School students need a route that does not have them exposed to vehicles traveling at high speeds and does not flood, making it impossible to travel on.

Lagunitas School Issues

Long term issue for this school is there is no infrastructure to encourage walking and biking to school. Parents don't want their kids biking on the

very busy road where they're not going to be safe, and they don't have a way for them to school safely unless they live very close to school. Unless the infrastructure is provided people aren't going to take alternative trips to/from school.

Currently some students who live in Forest Knolls and San Geronimo do walk. Some students ride bikes from Lagunitas and Woodacre. Bike trains have been successful there in the past.

History of Safe Routes to School - West Marin

SRTS has worked with many individuals to deal with some of your issues over the years. For instance, in Lagunitas, we put in the rapid flashing beacon in front of the school. That's something that we've been wanting for a long time. We also improved the crosswalks and helped get a rapid flashing beacon planned at Mesa Road.

SRTS worked with the Open Space District to finally get the French Ranch pathway so that it's passable in the winter.

SRTS supported efforts along the Sir Frances Drake corridor and we worked with the County on the rapid flashing beacon and crosswalk improvement at Lagunitas and Forest Knolls, as well as other signage.

In Point Reyes SRTS worked with Caltrans to put in the Mesa Road crossing improvements, pathway improvements and new signaling in front of the school. We also helped to develop the plans for the pathway from downtown Bolinas to the school.

Student Travel Surveys

SRTS conducts student travel surveys throughout the county in the fall and spring annually; asking how students get to school. This past fall we saw that 13% of the kids walk and bike to Lagunitas school in the AM and that

increases to 25% in the afternoon. There is no school bus but there is robust carpooling. There are some students who are taking transit. It is possible some are coming from over the Hill.

No students are biking to West Marin School, but in the morning there are 8% who walk; in the afternoon, that's almost tripled to 21%. You do have a school bus, and about a third of the students take the school bus and a few students carpool.

Bolinas School did not conduct the survey this fall.

Safe Routes to Schools Programs

SRTS teaches upwards of 10,000 student hours every year. We have been teaching classes previously in West Marin, Bolinas and Lagunitas.

Instructors deliver pedestrian and bicycle education curriculum to students in grades 2nd through 6th. Safe Routes plans to teach at the three campuses again this school year. Please contact peggy@marinbike.org to schedule soon. We are scheduling now for winter and spring 2022.

The education is very fun, and is extremely meaningful for the students and for the confidence level of riding to and from school. Our education program is not perceived as stand alone. Instructors encourage and talk with students about ways that they can think about using a green way to school, specifically active transportation to school. Madeline Hope and Emma Louise are very active and support encouragement programs at their schools.

Encouragement Events: Please contact Gwen@marinbike.org to schedule these events at your school and to learn more.

- [International Walk and Roll to School Day](#)
- [Walk and Roll Wednesdays](#)
- [Park and Walk](#)

Safe Routes to School has a bilingual coordinator that works with family liaisons and works with representatives at Marin Health and Human Services. SRTS Lead Instructor is also bilingual and can present a portion of our classes in Spanish.

SRTS is actively recruiting representatives for the West Marin Task Force from the Latinx community. It is important for SRTS to be inclusive to the entire West Marin community. If they can also speak English that will be helpful; translation will be available also. Please ask them to contact Wendi Kallins wkallins@igc.org to learn more.

Trails Youth Center has a bike club. The Youth Center has an enrollment of 58 students; about half of the students are Latino. This may be a resource to reach adults that would be interested in the Task Force.

Next Steps and set next meeting

The next Zoom meeting will be February 7, 2022 at 7:00pm. An issues list will be presented and reviewed at this meeting.