



Mill Valley Safe Routes to Schools Task Force
February 16, 2022
Meeting Notes

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, Warren Wells, Policy And Planning Director MCBC, Ahmed Aly P.E. - DPW Mill Valley Project Manager, Matthew Hartzell - WTB/Transportation Alternatives for Marin, Jacqueline Graf-Reis -Lt Police Officer MVPD, Debbie Alley -Former MV-BPAC- Climate Action Committee, John Neville - Marin County Traffic and Transportation, Elli Abdoli - Mill Valley School District Trustee, Kevin Cuffe - SR2S Volunteer Tam High Parent, Rob LaPorte - National Parks Conservancy, Alexandra Jenkins- Parent

Travel Plans Update

[SR2S Task Force Travel Plans Presentation - Mill Valley](#)

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. This will be a more comprehensive method; ensuring all schools are included in the planning process with identified objectives. Input from Task force members will be needed on a number of tasks. In some instances, approval either from the city and from the school district may be required

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.

Objectives are outcomes that are measurable; participation in the program, completing surveys, hosting education curriculum and participating in encouragement events.

Mill Valley School District has a Safe Routes to School Policy; the district may want to update it this year.

Green trips are 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).

Middle and High school students make use of the public bus system; there is no yellow bus service any longer for elementary students.

The task force expressed interest in setting clear goals to increase the number of students walking/rolling that live within a mile of a school (where possible. Goal: 9 out of 10 trips are active trips to school; that will reduce traffic around schools.

If there are no facilities and parents do not feel safe to walk/roll they will drive to a school even if they live within a mile. In addition, address how the Task Force can educate the public on what actions to take to do this.

The psychology of driving and commuting and what's a reasonable distance has really changed over the years. In many families both parents are working and students have after school events where they are not just heading home after school. All of these factors have influenced why and when people drive.

Dot Maps (example slide #7) provide an idea of how many students actually live within walking and biking distances of a school. The location of the schools and the location of students' homes gives a good resource when setting goals and objectives: realistically, how many kids can walk and bike to school and take the bus.

The example dot map is for Strawberry School; at one time SR2S understood that many students did not live close to the school. This map indicates that quite a few families live within walking and biking distance of the school. This helps SR2S determine what kind of encouragement events to plan; Carpool, ParkNWalk etc.

The Safe Routes to School Suggested Route Maps (slide # 8) 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. Developing these maps requires volunteers from each school; they are the best resource for identifying suggested routes around their school community. SR2S is budgeted to develop five maps per year for the county.

Developing suggested routes maps for Strawberry School has been a struggle for a long time; due the lack of space on the roadways.

Mill Valley District Safe Routes to Schools Issues List Update

[Mill Valley Issues List](#)

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.

Once they are prioritized, they will be plotted on a Google map. These maps provide a detailed view of the issues for discussion. Walk Audits will be scheduled for the number one issues, then concept plans will be developed with collaboration with the local DPW and the County. Safe Routes has a very high success rate for getting these projects funded and completed. It can take a few years to have the projects built.

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. Over the years major facility improvements have been implemented. SR2S partners with law enforcement agencies and provides crossing guards.

Student Travel Surveys (slide #16) are conducted in the classroom in the fall and spring annually. Mill Valley does relatively well with green and active trips. Mill Valley has been in the program since conception of the program. The city has been very, very proactive with many, many improvements: Miller Ave improvements, bike routes and road markings, improved multi-use paths and more.

Tam High and Mill Valley Middle did not conduct the travel surveys this past fall.

Safe Routes Education and Encouragement

If parent volunteers were not able to make the meeting in February, please use this link to let us know who you would like to participate.

[Parent Volunteer link](#) to register your school for spring encouragement events. Mill Valley parent volunteers have been incredible over the years and are a valued aspect of the success of the program. MVMS annually has a great percentage of students walking/rolling due to the encouragement, education and facilities achieved in the school district over many years.

The Safe Routes to Schools [newsletter](#) has a write up. If you do not receive this newsletter (4 x a year) please email peggy@marinbike.org to register.

[Education and Encouragement Feb 2022 Presentation](#)

The following notes and comments were made during this presentation

Safe Routes to Schools is on track for providing pedestrian and bicycle safety education to over 10,000 by June 2022; currently 6,000 students have had instruction. School administration and teachers are dealing with illnesses related to COVID this month and this will impact planning classes a short time.

Tam Valley, Old Mill, Strawberry and MVMS have or will have classes presented this school year. Park and Edan Maguire have been contacted; yet to be scheduled. Tam High; has been informed about the Safe the Road Class.

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

[JEDI Poster](#)

An exciting spring challenge will be announced soon. This year's theme 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.

Safe Route received an in-kind donation from [JAMBAR](#). They are donating 5000 bars to be distributed at our participating schools.

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 March 2nd. 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.

Task Force comments:

Students can be good champions to influence their parents to change their behavior including driving. SR2S Education for students and parents can be very impactful.

Consider changing Tam High campus parking to upper class students only. The Climate Action group could be a good student resource for SR2S events and education. There is a Tam High student on the Town of Mill Valley Climate Action committee; Urban will put them in contact with SR2S. SR2S high school curriculum can be tailored to be presented in science, physical education or economics (or all); transportation influences all of the studies.

E-bike and e-scooter safety and the need for considerate behavior is in the media nationally. The recent MVPD [E-Bike Rules of the Road \(Part I\)](#) education video has been a great resource for encouraging legal and safe use. The San Diego Bicycle Coalition also has education resources that may be helpful to the issues facing Marin's towns too.

Student and Driver Behavior and Ebike/Scooter Discussion

The following concerns were expressed during the meeting. These concerns have been noted by the Safe Routes staff and instructors. Safe Routes parent volunteers plan to schedule a meeting with the principal to discuss this list and learn how Safe Routes can present the Share the Road education curriculum to high school students. The Tam High PTAS president has been contacted to assist with scheduling this class. Task force members would like to learn of more creative/effective ways to get safe and legal behavior messaging to students and parents.

The City Council has received this list of concerns and the MV police traffic officer has been contacted; a future discussion is planned. The MVPD does have officers that patrol on bikes. They have been requested to monitor for unsafe behaviors in specific areas of the schools when they are available. There are 3-4 officers on shift at a time.

- Students crossing 4 lanes of Camino Alto on foot, in the middle of traffic, where there are no crosswalks. They are often looking at their phones and/or wearing earbuds at the same time.
- Parents dropping of kids in the morning in the middle of Camino Alto, sometimes from the left lane, causing kids to cross through the right lane *and* the bike lane to get onto the sidewalk
- Kids riding way too fast on electric bikes, often with no helmets and sometimes with two riders.
- Teens riding bikes on sidewalks, often in the opposite direction of traffic flow and where drivers are making U-turns.
- Teens on electric scooters (is this legal in CA without a license).
- Teens unsafe crossing of the road in front of the high school to Safeway. Many students do not wait for the light and there are so many of them they spill into the road waiting to cross.

The **Parent BIKE Education Night- - "What we teach your kids"!** This event is scheduled for Tuesday March 8. This will be a great opportunity to learn proper and safe riding behavior for students/drivers from a League of American Instructor and from an office from the Mill Valley Police Department.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87666151834>

Meeting ID: 876 6615 1834

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,87666151834# US (San Jose)

Mill Valley Updates and E. Blithedale Project

[Safe Route to School E Blithedale Presentation 2-16-2022](#)

The following comments were made from this presentation

Phase One is 90% completed. Roadway paving is the final project. The contractor is waiting for a window of weather that is warm and dry (April). This work will be completed at night and it will take about ten days to complete the grinding and overlay.

The other two phases are currently out for bid. These phases will include some utilities to be relocated and the Marin Water District will be relocating water lines and PGE will be relocating some gas lines in conjunction with the DPW road work planned. These projects are planned for this summer.

The Blithedale Rehabilitation project is scheduled to start in April. It will be underway until 2023 to complete all the phases. This is a big project due to the sloping of the roadway; ADA requirements will enhance crosswalks, curb ramps and sidewalks. The road way will need to be built up to adjust for the slope. Included in these phases will be paving work on sections Sycamore Avenue and Sunnyside, pedestrian flashing beacons and sidewalk widening.

Some of this work will need to be completed during daylight hours. The contractor is developing a traffic management plan to manage the impact of all road closures and detours to be before and after school commute hours whenever possible. Some roadways will be open to residents only. Drivers will be encouraged to use Miller Ave vs Blithedale during this project. The roadway cones and signs will be better managed during school commute hours moving forward; they are stipulated in the contract with the contractor.

The Safe Routes program will be receiving updates from the contractor and the City Council will be pushing out project updates to the community and updates are available on the [city website](#).

The DPW has a feasibility study underway for adding a class II bike Lane in the westbound direction from Park School to Millwood Street to Milwaukie. The study will include several options due to the roadway design/space. The study will be presented to the Mill Valley BPAC in April.

County Update

Lomita Project is slated to begin this summer. It will be tight for the contractor to complete in one phase; it may fall into a second construction season.

The discussion from the last task force meeting regarding the crosswalk issue (Belvedere at East Strawberry) near Strawberry School will be on the next meeting agenda. The DPW will look into this and report back.

Almonte Update

The neighbor that requested this for the meeting was not able to attend.

Next Zoom Meeting

Wednesday, May 18, 2022 at 9:30AM