



Mill Valley SR2S Task Force Notes May 18, 2022

<https://fathom.video/share/i/cqpK5GFgaziWXpzZENkxE7ZY1VYzKr2n>

Attendance:

Wendi Kallins- Safe Routes to Schools- Program Coordinator, Gwen Froh- Safe Routes to Schools Program Director, Peggy Clark- Safe Routes to Schools, Anna Russell - Communications Mill Valley School District, Jennifer Schriber - Parisi Transportation Engineer, Urban Carmel- Mill Valley Councilmember & TAM Board member, Elli Abdoli-School Board member, John Neville - Marin County Traffic and Transportation, Kevin Cuffe - SR2S Volunteer Tam High Parent, Alexandra Jenkins - SR2S Volunteer Tam High Parent, Jacqueline Graf-Reis - Mill Valley Lt Police Officer, Lisa Lund -Parent, Christina Mueller - Parent Volunteer Edna Maguire, Matthew Hartzell - WTB/Transportation Alternatives for Marin, Sharon Nakatain- Parent, Erica Gebhar- Parent, Rob LaPorte - Project Manager at Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy Bothin Marsh, Lisa Wojcik -Resident, Clay Kunz - Parent & BPAC Member,

Safe Routes Education and Encouragement

Annual Bike Hero AWARD- – May 2022

Seeking Bike Heroes – students who are stellar “roll” models by biking to school frequently while *following the rules of the road*. In May, parents, neighbors, friends, teachers and administrators are encouraged to nominate a Bike Hero during May which is Bike Month from their school worthy of receiving this county-wide award. This is an annual county wide event ending in June when nominated elementary and middle school Heros will be selected and announced to the school and student prior to the end of the school year.

[J.E.D.I. Challenge April 13, 20, 27, May 4](#)

The J.E.D.I Challenge was a four-week contest to help reinforce the habit of walking, rolling, carpooling and/or taking the bus to school. This was a huge success this spring.

[Bike to School Day- May 4th](#)- “May the 4th Be With You”

This national annual event supports walking, biking, skating, scooting and strolling to school. Students that walked or rolled were greeted by volunteers at the welcome tables.

Many high schools in the county restricted Safe Routes encouragement events due to COVID. Tam High was the only high school in the county to host the event this year thanks to Alexandra Jenkin.

[The Bridge the Bay](#) event supported and inspired high school students' climate activism, and provided education about the impacts of greenhouse gas emissions on our neighboring communities. The focus is on carbon-free active transportation and equitable rights to clean air.

Over 60 bikes were repaired by the [Bay Area Bike Mobile](#); that offered free service to bikes needing repair.

[Graphic Art Talent at White Hill Middle School](#)

The flier for BTSD was designed by a middle school student. Safe Routes web site has a gallery displaying all of the submittals by the middle school students. This was supported by the school teachers. If middle school students from the Mill Valley Middle School would like to submit artwork for our event posters, please have them contact gwen@marinbike.org.

[Safe Routes to Schools](#) has launched its new website (the web link has not changed). The improvements include; better navigation, Spanish translation option; archived pages have been removed, improved access to Task Force group information, newsletter publications, ongoing encouragement activities and education resources

Safe Routes Parent Volunteers Needed in Mill Valley

How to be a [Parent Volunteer for Safe Routes to Schools](#) in Mill Valley, A number of schools do not have a parent volunteer(s) to support encouragement activities. Please contact cooper@marinbike.org to learn more.

A special thanks to Christina Mueller for years of support Edna Maguire was expressed. Her support during COVID was especially appreciated.

EBike education Update

Safe Routes is hearing concerns about students throughout the county about EBike behavior by students. Safe Routes believes this is a needed conversation within the community with parents, bike shop owners and enforcement. This summer SR2S hopes to work with the Mill Valley Police Dept and other agencies throughout the county to develop a safety flier to be distributed at bike shops and schools.

Classes are scheduled every fall at Mill Valley Middle School; road safety for all users is included including EBike cyclists. Safe Routes will plan to include specific bike etiquette for road and pathway cyclists and provide resources for parents to make informed decisions before purchasing an e-bike for a student.

The Mill Valley Police Department (MVPD) is aware of the safety concerns of students riding e-bikes with 2 riders, no helmets, wrong side of the road riding, and excessive speeds on the pathways. Officers have a challenge catching up with the riders when observed on the roads.

MVPD will be releasing Part II for their [EBike Rules of the Road \(Part I\)](#) YouTube video. Officers are working on educating and issuing citations if need be. They are notifying the parents to make sure they're aware of what officers have observed and provide education on how they can protect their kids.

The BPAC supports the efforts of Safe Routes and would like to see the bike shop owners take the time to explain the safety issues with riding too fast and having more than one person on the EBike: braking and maneuvering is compromised with a heavy load.

Suggestions provided during the meeting:

1. Address EBikes at “back to school” events in the fall

2. Require students/guardians to sign a “e-bike rider safety agreement” if a student will be riding an e-bike to campus.
3. Engage with the bike shop owners to commit to providing the education and ask them what they think is a successful way to provide safety education.
4. Tam High principal has been in conversation with the SR2S parent volunteer. The school administration is aware of the e-bike safety concerns. They support safety education.

Parents interested in supporting/developing the messaging outreach plan, please contact gwen@marinbike.org

Safe Routes Surveys

Surveys- Parent Survey

Safe Routes conducts this survey every three years at a select number of participating schools. Schools are selected to survey a cross section of the county’s demographics to learn if there are barriers that prevent students from taking green transportation alternatives. This survey will be distributed in both English and Spanish to the school districts. If possible the format will be in email and text formats.

Surveys- Student Travel Survey

The Safe Routes to Schools student travel survey is required for program funding. The survey measures the number of students traveling to and from school by various modes of transportation (bike, walk, carpool or bus). It will be conducted in classrooms during May. Data was not collected for the 2020/2021 school year. Safe Routes is encouraging all participating schools to conduct it this spring. Tam High is the only school that has not consistently conducted the student survey.

Crossing Guard Program Update

The crossing guard program is managed and funded by The Transportation Authority of Marin. It is up for renewal this year. This evaluation process will be examined including the scoring process used to evaluate where a guard is to be stationed.

The three changes will include:

1. Safety: it will be weighted as a score of ten versus five.
2. The definition of TK will be redefined to include this age group.
3. The definition of speed limits by school will be updated.

The actual speed of drivers will be evaluated to understand the safety needs at a crosswalk.

The evaluation will be conducted at the start of the next school year, in the fall. A report will be developed and presented in the spring of 2022 to the Board. The updated list of crossing guard locations will be implemented in the fall of 2023.

Crossing guard positions are available county wide. People interested should contact Dan Cherrier, TAM Crossing Guard Manager at dcherrier@tam.ca.gov.

Travel plans goals and objectives

Safe Routes is preparing travel plans for all school districts. Mill Valley School District Task Force members are requested to review the document and provide comments to Wendi as soon as possible.

Other task force groups have submitted feedback that is included county wide. An example of an edit is the footnotes that describe what Active and Green Transportation means. A bus program is considered green. Mill Valley's yellow bus program will probably not be funded in the near future. Task force members would like to learn if public transit is an option and would be considered for middle and high school students.

The objectives are the actions that will be taken that can be measurable to achieve the stated goals. Safe Routes has to be realistic when determining the percentage increments for the newer program vs the longer-term ones. Safe Routes would hope to increase green and active trips by 1% every year.

Each school needs to strive to maintain an average of 50% green trips every year for elementary; 60%, middle schools and 70% for schools with a bus program. The task force needs to identify the infrastructure issues that are barriers to students walking and biking school.

Urban expressed his desired goal for the SRTS program to reduce traffic around Mill Valley schools. He knows the numbers of students living within a quarter or half mile of a campus vary. Therefore, the percent targets need to be different for green trips. Traffic congestion across town is heavily influenced by the number of drivers during the school year vs when school is not in session. In the past the percentage of students traveling to school within a mile was close to 90%. He would like to see the percentages increase for this district.

The Mill Valley School District does have an approved Safe Routes to Schools Policy. This policy ensures the program will be supported annually especially when district and school administrators leave.

BPAC issues list

[Existing and Proposed Bike and Ped route info- MV - BPAC.pdf](#)

Several years ago BPAC members went through the list of bike routes around town and tried to prioritize ones they thought needed infrastructure upgrades. Many of them included routes (class 1 and 2) students take to school(s). The BPAC list is specific to the town and does not include schools in county areas.

Bothin Marsh/Multi-use path rerouting possibility Update

One Tam partners are the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy and Marin County Parks, who are working together on the Evolving Shorelines Project at Bothin Marsh. The project website is onetam.org/Bothin. Contact Rob LaPorte - Project Manager rlaporte@parksconservancy.org.

Rob specifically presented on the re-route concept for the trail and influences to SRTS. The trail reroutes opportunities and constraints. The project team is looking at the large-scale habitat restoration for the Marsh and maintaining public access. They are looking at shifting the multi-use pathway out of the way of flooding. Storm and tidal flooding must be managed with this project and throughout the county.

Concept A includes elevating it along Miller Ave over to Tam Junction and then bridging it across Coyote Creek; connecting it with the McGlashen Trail to the multi-use pathway south of Coyote Creek that connects to Marin City/ Sausalito. The very long-term concept is to connect to higher ground along Shoreline Hwy.

There are no current plans in this project outside of the Open Space Preserve. Caltrans is looking at the Hwy 101 and Manzanita area.

They are looking at presenting a whole new trailhead experience right at the corner of Almonte Boulevard and Shoreline Highway that would include the trail and vehicle parking spaces. This would be several years down the road; if street improvements are needed, they should be incorporated into the project. Including crosswalk and bus stops. The concept includes an 18ft wide pathway for a better separation for pedestrians and cyclists.

There is a sewer line along Almonte that will influence where the elevated trail will run. Concepts include an elevated trail or a causeway that would elevate Miller Ave and a pathway.

Currently this project would not influence the path area by the middle school or Bayfront Park. In the future these sections will need to be addressed too.

Comments included how this future project will increase access to many people that may have not used the pathway and enhance the North South Greenway in the county. In addition, increasing the width and including a buffer zone would accommodate the high volume of student and adult users. A request was made and supported to increase the bike patch section to 10ft vs 8 due to the volume of cyclists on the path at any one time. A wider path would help ADA users feel more comfortable with the high-speed cyclists.

Urban mentioned there could be an opportunity for State funding. This area from Miller Ave to Hwy 101 south to Sausalito/Marin City is a vital roadway.

Some geotechnically work has begun; there are many factors and constraints to include on how they will affect the wetlands. An EIR, at least 6 permits from state and federal agencies and endangered species include some of the financial requirements. A very ambitious schedule would be for construction to begin in 2027 (best guess).

The Task Force with the County DPW will be tasked with looking at temporary infrastructure to ensure students traveling to school have a safe route.

E. Blithedale Project Update

This project is scheduled to be completed before school resumes in the fall. The final completed project is not planned until the fall of 2023; the road will be open during that phase.

More cycling has been observed since this project started which is a good thing. A request was made to the MV police to enforce no vehicles in the bike lanes.

The information below was provided post meeting by Urban.

1. Sidewalks are open. There are no signs saying the sidewalk closed, (except maybe a couple special circumstances). Bike detours or similar signs were recently added as cyclists were going through the construction zone.

2. Street reopens at 5pm. MMWD went over the 5pm stop time 3 times since the project started on April 11 (almost 6 weeks) due to either contractor planning error or unforeseen conditions.

3. Blithedale will be open all day June 9 to accommodate the various graduation ceremonies.

Some of the bus service has been impacted by the construction. The [Marin Transit](#) website will have the most up to date information.

County updates

Meadow Drive Walk Audit Update

The DPW observed that on average speeds are 27mph; there is no real speeding. Therefore, no new or additional signs will be posted.

East Strawberry Drive

A request was made to consider a mid-block crossing on East Strawberry Drive. The DPW conducted some speed surveys; resulting in the average speeds being 26 miles per hour. No speeds were recorded at 29mph; there is not a speeding issue at this location.

The location for a crosswalk is difficult because the site distances for traffic coming off Hwy 131 towards the school is limiting. A location for a mid-block crossing is limited because you can't put a crosswalk that goes into a driveway. The DPW could not identify a safe location to put in a mid- block crosswalk by Strawberry Circle.

There is currently a speed feedback sign at the top of the hill for drivers headed toward the school. Unfortunately, speed feedback signs become “background noise” to the local drivers. The radar feedback signs that can be moved from one location to another tend to be more effective. Safe Routes will plan a walk audit with the County to learn if there are additional resources to consider.

Comments were made regarding the speed of vehicles exiting Hwy 131 onto Strawberry Drive. A request was made for traffic engineers to consider options for slowing the speed. This issue will be included in the planned Walk Audit.

Next Zoom Meeting

Wednesday, Sept 28th at 9:30am