

**Sausalito Task Force**

**Meeting Notes**

**Thursday, May 5th, 2022**

**Attendance:**

Wendi Kallins- Safe Routes to Schools- Program Coordinator, Gwen Froh- Safe Routes to Schools Program Director, Peggy Clark- Safe Routes to Schools- Program Manager, Aaron Roller - Chair Pedestrian Bicycle Advisory Committee., Andrew Davidson- DPW Senior Civil Engineer, Jennifer Schriber - Parisi Transportation Engineer, Matt Farber- Safe Routes to Schools- Lead Instructor, Eric Payne- Community Member, Dr. Itoco Garcia -Superintendent, Sybil Boutilier -Team Leader

**Safe Routes Education and Encouragement Spring 2022**

[Safe Routes to Schools](https://www.saferoutestoschools.org/) 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 (meeting dates are posted), newsletter publications, ongoing encouragement activities, survey results, suggested route maps and education resources. If you have not received it, please email peggy@marinbike.org

[J.E.D.I. Challenge April 13, 20, 27, May 4](https://www.saferoutestoschools.org/project/jedi-challenge/)

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. The school’s valued parent volunteers hosted welcome tables.

[Bike to School Day- May 4th](https://www.saferoutestoschools.org/project/bike-to-school-day/)- “May the 4th Be with You”

This national annual event supports walking, biking, skating, scooting and stolling to school! The Nevada Street Campus selectrated on 5/5/22. Students that walked, rolled or took the bus were greeted by volunteers at the welcome table. Students were asked why it is good to walk and roll to school and how they can do that when going to family and friends homes too.

**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 Phillips Street Campus would like to submit artwork for our event posters, please have them contact gwen@marinbike.org.

[**Annual Bike Hero AWARD**](https://www.saferoutestoschools.org/)**- – May 2022**

**(Check the** [Safe Routes to Schools](https://www.saferoutestoschools.org/) **website to learn more and nominate a hero).**

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 event.

**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 barriers and opportunities have changed over the years. This survey will be distributed in both English and Spanish to the school district. 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.

**EBikes Concerns Update**

Safe Routes has received a number of complaints and concerns throughout the county regarding students riding Ebikes to and from school. The concerns expressed include; students not wearing helmets, riding too fast, riding with more than one person and weaving in/out of vehicles on the roadway.

Safe Routes elementary, middle and high school curriculum includes the safe and legal use of e-bikes. Safe Routes high school program “share the road” has a very specific curriculum addressing Ebikes and driving awareness.

This is a county wide issue that needs to be addressed and discussed. The safe and legal aspects of riding an Ebike by students is an important issue for parents to address with their children before one is purchased. The law states an individual must be 18 or older to ride an Ebike that goes 28mph.

Safe Routes is available to work with the school district to develop an informational flier to be distributed next school year. It would contain the do’s and don’ts when riding an Ebike.

Task Force members expressed their safety concerns for students in the Sausalito/ Marin City School district; however, they are pleased to see students getting around the community without other vehicles on the roadways. There are very few Ebikes parked at the local schools and most observed behaviors are safe.

On occasion the e-scooter riders have displayed unsafe behavior. This school district would like to see that education provided along with the encouragement for walking and rolling is presented.

**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**](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GlxAi14j-xB3Erbc7UgC9iVRCgIlgQp9/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=105875531065085630502&rtpof=true&sd=true)

Safe Routes is preparing travel plans for all school districts. Sausalito / Marin City 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.

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 percent increments for the newer program vs the longer-term ones.

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.

The Sausalito/Marin City School District does not have an approved Safe Routes to Schools Policy. Most districts in the county do. This policy ensures the program will be supported annually especially when district and school administrators leave. Safe Routes would like assistance to present a policy to the Board of Trustees.

The Superintendent supports creating a system and an infrastructure that actually stands the test of time and turnover. Safe Routes will provide a draft policy to be presented to the Board.

**Bridgeway corridor study**

There are a couple of safety projects that the city Council has authorized the DPW to move forward on. It is now a matter of beginning that process of signing on the consultants; start dates have not been set. The Napa to Johnson has been highlighted as an area of focus of the study.

**School bus Program Update**

The district does have a budget for the bus program for next year with Michael's and to focus and support the chaperone program to establish a strong walking school bus program for Golden Gate Village to the bus stops.

In addition, in the warm weather months the district would like to encourage students and chaperones to walk or roll the additional .7 of a mile to the Nevada Street campus (on Walk and Roll to School Days or consider bike trains or walking school buses).

The Superintendent is hopeful to receive grant funds to support a position for a community school director. This person could potentially organize the walking school bus routes, and recruit the parents. The Superintendent would like to meet with Safe Routes to Schools to re-address how such a program/person(s) could support a stronger Walk and Roll Program in the community.

“Safe routes to schools and walking school bus routes really improve safety and timely school attendance and other positives”. The chaperones in time could become the core “go to people” for parent engagement efforts.

**Nevada St. update**

The DPW has the submittal for both the drawings and specifications; once the specifications are reviewed it will go out to bid. Construction could be for the summer of 2022.This project is a traffic calming effort, to narrow the travel lanes, add curb ramps and additional striping.

**Coloma Street**

A design firm is lined up. It is a bigger project with a construction budget of $350,000 roughly and design of $50,000. The DPW anticipates the design to cost more; creating the need for additional funds potentially. Construction would not be planned until 2023.

This project is much bigger in scope; including new sidewalks on the Northern side of Coloma, improving the crossing at the paper street (currently a gravel path students use) and Tamales with the rapid reflection beacon, and drainage improvements. Additional Improvements are planned for the north end of the MLK campus at Ebbtide Street and the MLK parking lot: curb ramps, striping and a pedestrian refuge. An additional consideration is to add a barrier to prevent students from rushing out into the crosswalk before stopping. This will improve the route for students traveling from Marin City.

Comments will be welcome; the design team will be BKF Engineers once the next phase of planning is established.

**Other updates**

The district is going out for a community engagement process to design the field on the Marin City campus. The design would include an ingress and egress off of Drake Avenue. It is going to change the way adults and students access the campus by foot and vehicle and be a place for all community members to gather and host community events. The Safe Routes to Schools Task Force would be an important partner on this design.

In time the district will be seeking input for Safe Routes to Schools and the community for the design of the new campus. It will be a major construction project including walking, biking, parking access, EVO charging stations. The older unoccupied building near the field will be taken down.

**Update Requested from County on Marin City**

Eric Payne requested an update on the issues he has presented for years to the County. The requests have been to address traffic calming options to reduce speeds, curb and crosswalk improvements. He would like to learn how to get some action taken by the county.

Safe Routes recommends taking the concerns to the Supervisors office. Safe Routes will keep it on the meeting agenda for the fall and invite a supervisor's aide that can possibly help to get things moving. Marin City has not received facility improvements for some time; understanding the county DPW is short staffed. The task force agrees this is a good time for applying for grants to provide the funds to support the improvements the community is asking for.

The plans for the new school campus and these traffic issues coupled together and presented to the county could be a successful process. The new field will have more foot and potentially vehicle traffic; safe transportation will be a key element.

**Safe Routes event Promotion**

A request was made to the Superintendent for events to be announced to the students via back-pack flyers in addition to the on-line messaging that is currently the process.

**School Populations Changing**

New school year “out of district’ students will no longer be able to attend Sausalito or Marin City Schools. This will potentially change the flow of traffic near the schools.

**Next Zoom Meeting**

**Wednesday, September 14, 2022 at 5:00pm**

The meeting time has changed from the AM. Safe Routes would like to be available for more parents to attend these meetings.