



# Kentfield SR2S Task Force

## Meeting Notes

### September 7, 2022

#### **Attendance:**

Wendi Kallins- Safe Routes to Schools, Peggy Clark- Safe Routes to Schools, Jennifer Schriber - ParisiTransportation Engineer, Gwen Froh- Safe Routes to Schools, Nancy Vernon - Aide to District 2 Supervisor Katie Rice, Wendy Holmes - Kent Middle School Vice Principal, Cooper Miley- Safe Routes to Schools Volunteer Coordinator, Sandy Goldman - Friends of Corte Madera Creek Committee, Ann-Marie Skaggs- Assistant Principal- Bacich School, Melanie Wollenweber- Parent/Former Team Captain Bree Eaton Parent/Former Team Captain, David Hoffman- Parisi Engineering, John Neville- Marin County Traffic and Transportation Engineer, Anne Petersen - Kentfield Planning Advisory Board, Allison Fortini-Crawford- Parent

#### **Upcoming Safe Routes activities**

##### **Safe Routes Education and Encouragement Fall 2022**

Parent Volunteer- Kick- off meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Aug 20, 2022.

Parent volunteers will be presented with a rollout of the program for the school year. This will be the first in-person meeting in three years.

Topics discussed will include: [Walk & Roll Wednesdays](#) and [International Walk and Roll Day](#) (October 12, 2022). There will be monthly encouragement events in September to December. Parent volunteers will distribute buttons to participating students. International Walk and Roll to School Day annually has about 1000 students/families participate county wide. Parent volunteers are encouraged to contact [cooper@marinbike.org](mailto:cooper@marinbike.org) to support their schools' efforts for these events.

##### **Buddy Up Contest- New Encouragement Event**

[BUDDY UP](#) is a new contest to get students to walk (park and walk), bike, carpool or ride the bus together. Now through October 31, sign up your group of two or more

students from neighboring families to travel to or from school. [Tell us your success story!](#)

So regardless of whether students are scootering, biking, or carpooling, we would like families to submit their Buddy Up Story. This is similar to the Bike Hero award; prizes will be awarded.

### **Kent Middle School- Eco Action Club**

Start-ups again this year on September 15. [Lou@marinbik.org](mailto:Lou@marinbik.org) will be the Safe Routes coordinator.

### **Family Biking- October 15, 9:30–11:30AM**

[Download a PDF Flier](#)

Location: Ross Valley Charter School, 102 Marinda Dr, Fairfax

This Family Biking class helps to prepare students for riding on roads. Students ride on our courses to practice bike handling skills and learn the rules of the road on a mock street. Family Biking shows parents, first hand, how instructors teach safe cycling skills and pro-tips for reinforcement. An optional local ride is included. [REGISTER HERE – Space is limited.](#)

### **E-Bike & E-Scooter Safety Information**

Safe Routes to School has heard from many people in our communities regarding e-bike safety concerns as students are riding them to school. SRTS includes e-bike safe education in our campus presentations.

In this [flier](#), we clarify the different types of e-bikes and recommend parents research and assess their student's ability to manage the increased speeds and challenging maneuverability of a heavy e-bike before purchasing one. There is information on e-scooters as well. Please read and share this flier with your family and friends. This flier has been shared with principals throughout the county. Local police agencies have also been sending out information on the safety concerns and are providing education.

The average speed of an average adult cyclist is 12 miles per hour (mph), and 9.7 mph for 14-year-olds. Yet e-bikes can travel 20 mph (Type I and II) and 28 mph (Type III). Communities are worried about students e-biking at twice the speed of regular cyclists, many carrying helmet-less passengers, and dodging between and around vehicles, pedestrians and other cyclists. The Type II; throttle Ebikes can cause unique issues because it takes away the organic nature of pedaling a bicycle. E-bikes can go up hills with pedal assist only; a throttle is not required.

The popular Type II throttle e-bike offers riders the option to travel up to 20mph without pedaling. Many manufacturers state that “children under the age of 16 may lack the necessary judgment and skill to safely operate the e-bike.” Many will not sell their bikes to individuals under the age of 16 yrs even though CA law does not have age restriction for Type 1 & 2 Ebikes. Type 3 Ebikes are restricted to 16 yrs and above; this Ebike can reach a top speed of 28mph. They are not recommended for middle school age students by the manufacturers.

The school district recently distributed a letter to the school community; requesting parents be thoughtful about the decision to have their child use an ebike because of how quickly they travel and to make sure that their student is ready for that big responsibility.

### **Education Update for District**

Bacich classes are scheduled for September and Kent Middle School classes will be scheduled this school year.

### **Parent Volunteers**

Amy Wheeler has volunteered to support the first event in September; however, 1-2 parents are needed for the remainder of the school year at Bacich. Please contact [Cooper@marinbike.org](mailto:Cooper@marinbike.org) to learn more. Parents volunteers are essential for the encouragement program annually.

Students at Kent MS host their encouragement events.

### **Safe Routes to School Fall Student Travel Survey**

Marin County schools have been emailed the directions regarding the fall travel study. This survey is conducted in the fall and spring in classrooms. The Travel Survey measures the number of children traveling to and from school by various modes. This survey is required by Safe Routes to Schools funding source and gives them an assessment of the success of the program at your schools throughout the county.

The survey was conducted Sept 13-14-15; make up week is Sept 20-21-22. Please contact [peggy@marinbike.org](mailto:peggy@marinbike.org) for all questions.

### **Street Smarts Campaign Overview- “Eyes Up Marin”**

Link to [Street Smarts Campaign](#)

The following notes were made during this PowerPoint presentation.

Street Smarts is a traffic safety program run by the Transportation Authority of Marin.

The goal is to provide education to drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists about safety issues. It is designed to make streets safer and friendlier and reduce the number of traffic related collisions.

The prior campaign focused on speeding, stopping drivers from running red lights and stop signs, addressing distracted driving, crosswalk safety and bicycle violations. The signs and banners aged out and needed to be replaced.

The new campaign has engaged more community partners. New data is available that identifies roadway hotspots where collisions occur and the most common types of collisions. This data will help engineers develop roadway designs to help prevent collisions.

Moving forward, this is a data driven campaign. There will be new targeted messaging, updated branding, and new media platforms.

Safe Routes to School engineers collected and analyzed data of all collisions in Marin County from 2016 to 2020. The information helped to develop relevant messaging. During this period there were over 14,000 collisions; about 4% resulted in a fatality or severe injury, and about two thirds for vehicles only, while 5% involved bicycles and 3% involved pedestrians.

Even though the percentage of collisions involving pedestrians and cyclists were low; disproportionately they resulted in injuries or fatalities. 20% of collisions resulted in a fatality or severe injury for pedestrians; and for cyclists, 15% of those collisions involved a fatality or severe injury. SRTS wants to target behaviors that would hopefully prevent these collisions.

Collision factors = the main behavior that caused the collision. The trends identified are: speed, improper turning, driving or cycling under the influence, and pedestrian right of way violations. Distracted driving is unfortunately not recorded in crash reports; however, surveys have found that more than 54% of California drivers say that they had been hit or were nearly hit by a driver who was talking on a cell phone or texting. Ignoring traffic signs and cycling on the wrong side of the road is also an unsafe trend noted.

A Task Force was created with representatives from many cities and towns including TAM, school districts and other community leaders to focus on six target behaviors and

help develop the messaging. The campaign “Eyes Up” models what was organized by the Butterfield Road Safety Committee. This new campaign has over 100 partners to help spread the word using their organization resources and social media. COM will be contacted to be a partner too. The School Districts Communication manager has been working with Wendi to share the information with the community too.

The new banners and yard sign design will be distributed in many cities and towns and the unincorporated counties starting in mid-October-November. It will come back in the spring of 2023 (annually Spring/Fall). Residents can contact their local DPW for lawn signs in English and Spanish. Messaging will be focused on driver and cycling behavior and to help people who are walking.

The committee will discuss how the program can be tracked and what the impact is. All materials will be available at [streetsmartsmarin.org](https://streetsmartsmarin.org). If you have additional questions, please contact [jennifer@parisi-associates.com](mailto:jennifer@parisi-associates.com).

### **Safe Routes Suggested Route Maps**

#### [Kent and Bacich DRAFT maps Sep 8](#)

Last year SRTS was tasked with collecting information to update the suggested routes for both Kent and Bacich Schools. Input was provided by task force members and parents and was consolidated into two maps. There's an inset in the upper right-hand corner for each one of the schools on each map.

Safe Routes would like to differentiate between walking routes and biking routes and clarify additional information during this meeting and future ones before the final draft is shared with the school district and County of Marin DPW. Task force members were encouraged to download the maps, add comment and send to David Hoffman [dhoffman@parisi-associates.com](mailto:dhoffman@parisi-associates.com)

The original map was created a number of years ago by the Neighborhood Captains and included all suggested routes. A good deal has changed in the last 10 + years. If problem areas are identified for the Safe Routes Issues list to seek engineering improvements and funding.

#### *Clarification needed:*

- Should some of the routes be teased out to identify; only walking or only cycling by or are the routes appropriate for both cyclists and bicyclists?
- Park & Walk locations have not been identified because they can change from year to year. SRTS would like to know the location for this year.

- Crossing guard locations need to be clarified.

*Comments provided:*

\* Good time to think of the unsafe areas and where there are issues. One location is the McAllister loop. Students that cycle this route must cross four intersections. Can the color coding be specifically labeled as a recommended route or not? And can it call out cycling on the sidewalk or not?

\* The green line includes the bike route on Sir Frances Drake Blvd. This would not be a route student are encouraged to ride. Could be labeled- "use caution"

\* Need to ask the remaining Team Captains, parents who live and experience what is going on, the PTA president and Wendy Holmes to provide feedback.

\* Requested the draft be temporary be labeled for people to add specific feedback

### **Acacia Closure Update**

The DPW received approval from the Board of Supervisors for the drop off and pick up closure for this school year. The process for placing/removing the signs each day has not been identified; until that is confirmed the closure approval is for this year only.

A neighbor has agreed to help place the signs when she walks/from to school early before drop off starts. SRTS will look into rewarding their support for putting up the signs.

The school has not sent out any information regarding McAllister because they had been waiting to get information for the DPW (as of this meeting). The DPW will provide a map detailing the route drivers need to follow for drop-off. At the start of each school year there is confusion.

Bree has unfortunately observed some of the worst driver behavior in the neighborhood in years during drop off time. Drivers are not paying any attention to the signs.

This area could be a good location for the "school streets" program. Where permanent signs are placed calling out a "neighborhood street only". Through traffic is not encouraged.

Enforcement may be needed once the signs are posted and letting the community know tickets will be issued if behavior does not change.

### **Crossing Guard Support**

A neighbor is actively standing at the crosswalk at Manor where students are cycling across the street. She is requesting the crossing guard take steps to encourage the students to get off and walk vs continuing to ride. The TAM crossing guard manager has been contacted to address this request. This is challenging because the crossing guards are not tasked to direct traffic nor tell the kids exactly what to do.

Unsafe behavior at many Intersections across the country is being observed. Students need to follow the education they have been provided; get off the bike, walk it in crosswalks and when on the sidewalk; being cautious of other users. Safe Routes likes to catch students doing it right and acknowledging the good/safe behavior to encourage others.

### **COM Update**

Earth moving is scheduled to begin for the Learning Resources Center soon. COM would like to request the school communicate that one of the suggested routes will soon have major construction underway on College Ave by Kent MS.

COM is planning for the storing and moving of materials in this very tight area. They want to be in dialogue with the school district about students using the pathway. COM will report back on the construction logistic plan for the next three years.

### **Creek Restoration Update**

The project has been recommended for \$1.4 million of construction funding by the Coastal Conservancy. If all goes well in the county a bid package will go out and construction could start as early as next August.

The construction would be done on the college side. It would not affect the official bike path along the creek or the stadium way bridge.

### **Next meeting**

January 19, 2023 at 9:00am