



Mill Valley Safe Routes to Schools Task Force Notes September 28, 2022 [Meeting Recording](#)

Attendance

Wendi Kallins- Safe Routes to Schools- Program Coordinator, Gwen Froh- Safe Routes to Schools Program Director, Christina Mueller -Parent Volunteer, Cyd Amaral - School District - Executive Assistant to Cabinet and Communication Specialist, Elli Abdoli - School Board Trustee, Jonna Palmer - Mill Valley Middle Assistant Principal, Urban Carmel- Mill Valley Vice Mayor, Jen Reynolds - Parent of Tam High Student, Cooper Miley- Safe Routes Volunteer and Encouragement Coordinator, Lisa Lund - Parent, Jacqueline Graf-Reis - Lt for Mill Valley Police Dept., Karen Jaber- Mill Valley BPAC, Alexandra Jenkins - Parent Volunteer Tam High, Kathy McLeod -Crossing Guard Sup/Outreach Coordinator Southern Marin, David Parisi- Safe Routes Engineer for Parisi Transportation.

Safe Routes Education and Encouragement Fall 2022

Parent Volunteer- Kick- off meeting was on 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.

Parents interested in volunteering are always encouraged to contact

cooper@marinbike.org to support their schools' efforts for these events. Parent volunteers are needed at Mill Valley schools to assist with 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.

Education Update

Tam Valley and Mill Valley Middle School have classes scheduled for this fall. Typically all Mill Valley schools schedule classes each year.

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 will be conducted Sept 13-14-15; make up week is Sept 20-21-22. Please contact peggy@marinbike.org for all questions. Annually the survey results are posted on the website: About> [Resources](#)

E-Bike & E-Scooter Safety Information

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

Currently SRTS staff are not aware of any state legislation changing on what types of Ebikes students can and cannot ride and where. SRTS is not encouraging parents to purchase Type 3 Ebikes.

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

Escooters 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 E-bike 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 Ebike 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 e-bikes are restricted to 16 yrs. and above; this Ebike can reach a top speed of 28mph.

Task Force members commented that Next Door is posting many comments on the concerns adults are observing of students not following the rules of the road. It seems many may be riding the Type 2 bike that does not require the rider to pedal and the Type 3 that can go up to 28mph. This type is restricted from anyone under the age of 16yrs.

The Mill Valley Police Department has distributed an information flier (based on the information from the SR2S flier) as well to the community. They have updated their citation program for minors who get issued minor traffic violations. They along with their parent/adult guardian will need to attend an internal training. This type of citation will not be recorded on their personal history. The department is focused on education of both the student and adult guardians/parents.

The Marin County Bicycle Coalition does have a bicycle citation diversion class. To learn more. [Basic Street Skills](#)

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. Pedestrian: 20% resulted in a fatality or severe injury 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, then 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 115 partners to help spread the word using their organization resources and social media. Marin City,

School District, Sausalito City, waiting to hear back from the County Sheriff, have offered to support this campaign.

The new banners and yard sign design will be distributed in many cities and towns and the unincorporated counties starting in mid-October to 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 behavior and to help people who are walking.

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

Meeting comments:

All Mill Valley PTA's have social media sites; they would be a great resource for the campaign. Cyd at the district office can share the PTA contact information to Safe Routes.

The phase of the campaign will end in November; supporters are requested to take down all email campaign signatures etc. The 2nd phase of the campaign will start up in the spring again.

E. Blithedale/Tiburon Blvd. Overpass Study

The Transportation Authority of Marin conducted a study on all the interchanges in Marin County. Information on this area can be found at [Highway 101 Interchange and Approaching Roadway Study](#).

This interchange ranked in the top three out of the 11 + interchanges in the study. This is a priority project with a very expensive cost. Short term and long-term improvements will be considered and driven by Caltrans. This may include the southbound ramp that has been left out of any planned improvements in the past. Engineering and environmental impact assessments along with others will need to be planned and conducted. It will be years before many of these improvements are completed mostly due to funding.

Another safety issue for students cycling near the interchange is the bike lane on the Tiburon side leads cyclists to the on ramp. Students get confused and do not

know where to ride safely; many near misses. This is part of the study and MCBC has been addressing this safety issue at meetings.

Strawberry Issues

Many students are walking in the middle of the street due to the lack of sidewalks and when vehicles and other obstacles are blocking their route to school. On Ricardo Lane and Strawberry vegetation has overgrown and the sidewalk has not been maintained. The intersection for Richardson, Ricardo Rd and Ricardo Lane all converge and there is no safe way for students to cross. Students are walking in the road where vehicles are coming from four different directions.

Many students are coming from Reed and Ricardo, the sidewalks and roads do not provide ample space for them to walk safely on a hilly roadway. In addition, accelerating vehicles are driving up the hill and there is no stop sign; often students are in the road crossing and do not see a vehicle coming.

Safe Routes will schedule a Walk Audit with the county engineer, Safe Routes engineer and local parents. The audit will be scheduled when the safety issues noted above can be observed in real time.

Updates

E. Blithedale Project Update

The most impactful parts of this project (replacing the old water line) is complete. Most of the traffic issues have been reduced; however, there are several more phases to this project. Improvements will include roadway repairs, sidewalk improvements and approximately 40 curb ramps. Partial road closures will be scheduled through October and possibly when other phases to the project begin. Project could take another year. Project completion is fall 2023.

Bothin Marsh Update

[EVOLVING SHORELINES PROJECT](#) information

A representative from the project could not attend the meeting. Wendi provided the following comments:

The project plans to complete the design phase of spring 2023. Several community engagement opportunities were hosted last summer and included input from local high school students. This project is in the design phase and

would not be completed for many years and funding would need to be identified. It addresses surging sea level (sea wall) and restoring the marsh.

Concept II - "Ring the Marsh" was selected by the community and the design team. This concept would relocate the trail to the upland end of the south end of the marsh and is elevated along an earthen embankment. This configuration would have the trail along Almonte and Miller Avenue going around the perimeter of the marsh. The multi-use path would no longer go through the middle of the marsh/wetlands.

Safe Routes to Schools has been following this project and is excited for a multi-use path that would encourage students to use it. All walking and biking would be off the roadway.

Tam Junction

Task Force members wanted to know if Tam Junction would be included in this project to make it safer for students. Signs are needed to notify drivers to slow down when students are present. This area is not in the school zone. The roadway is managed by the State and County of Marin.

Safe Routes will ask the County of Marin DPW to comment on reducing speeds in the future. Safe Routes explained the [85th percentile rule](#) and how it may be changed/updated state wide (2024) to reduce speeds in specific locations by 5mph. Another consideration is if the Evolving Shores project moves forward, it could address this safety concern in time. An issue to consider is how this project will address pedestrians and cyclists traveling north and south.

Next Zoom Meeting

February 16, 2022 at 9:30am.