



Novato SR2S Task Force Meeting Notes Thursday September 1, 2022

Attendance:

Wendi Kallins- Safe Routes to Schools- Program Coordinator, Gwen Froh- Safe Routes to Schools Program Director, Peggy Clark- Safe Routes to Schools, Diane Gasson - School Board Trustee, Leslie Benjamin - School District Communications Director, Jennifer Schriber- Parisi Transportation Engineer, Pat Eklund- Novato City Council, Monica Liefer- Safe Routes Bi-Lingual Coordinator, David Hoffman- Parisi Transportation, Joakim Osthus - Parent and Novato Complete Streets Pathways Oversight Committee, Cooper Miley- Safe Routes Volunteer Coordinator, Scott Brandt- San Ramon Parent Volunteer, Tyler Randazzo- Lead Safe Routes to Schools Instructor, Christopher Blunk - Public Works Director, Dabney (DJ) Smith- Neighbor, Manijeh Larizadeh - DPW Assistant Engineer, Laurie Jepma- PTA President Pleasant Valley School, Kevin Lee Parent Novato Charter, Stacey Pogorzelski - Parent Pleasant Valley, Diane Gasson - School Board Trustee

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. Currently all of the schools in Novato Schools have Safe Routes to School Parent volunteers; great support from Novato continues!

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 to support their schools efforts for these events. Pat Eklund is welcome again this year; annually she has supported a school campus on IWalk.

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.

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

Safe Routes Education Planning

During the summer Safe Route staff met with the Superintendent and administrators. It was a very successful meeting; San Marin High School will be hosting the Share the Road program for 9th grade students in November. In addition, all schools that have not been available to schedule elementary and middle school pedestrian education curriculum will be encouraged to schedule classes this school 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.

Street Smarts Campaign Overview

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.

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. The Novato School District, Police Department and City have agreed to participate (Leslie Benjamin and Chris Blunk are on the committee).

All materials will be available at streetsmartsmarin.org. If you have additional questions, please contact jennifer@parisi-associates.com

Pleasant Valley map

[Safe Routes to School Suggested Route Map](#)

The development of this suggested route map has been reviewed and updated several times with input from the community. Updates included: crossing guard locations, added additional routing (green line) for Vineyard, Westbrook and Brook Drive. No “Park & Walk” locations have been identified on the map yet. They can be added once identified and the map can be updated.

Comments made:

- No crossing guard at Sutor and Nevada Blvd
- There is a guard at San Ramon Drive and San Marin. Safe Routes will review the current location of all the guards with TAM before the final draft is published.
- There is a walk/bike way between Center & Station students use to get to the school. This could be a location for a future Park & Walk location.
- There is a little trail at Dominic Drive that could use a marking.
- DPW requested a route (green line) be marked for the Ruben Court area. It is a path that was recently improved with striping.

The next step is for the Novato DPW to sign off on the suggested route map and share with the school and community.

Ignacio Blvd Interchange Updated

[Highway 101 Interchange and Approaching Roadway Study](#)

TAM undertook a countywide study of several intersections where safety improvements could be made for traffic, bicycle and pedestrian user safety. The intersection of US 101 Ignacio exit at Bel Marin Keys and Nave Drive was selected for further study. This and other interchanges have been on the radar for Safe Routes to Schools for years.

One short term scenario proposed includes using the existing structures and reconfiguring the lanes to better serve traffic, bikes, pedestrians; adding bike lanes, reconfigure lanes as they approach the intersection, traffic signals would be updated, moving the bus stop to a safer location.

A long term, much larger and costly scenario proposed would be to redesign/build the intersection. Similar changes in the short term would be included as well as changes to the medians, widening of the roadway and addressing the weave at Nave Boulevard headed toward Bel Marin Keys Boulevard, right after that, southbound US 101 on the

ramp. This would redirect traffic and remove the conflicts between pedestrians and cyclists.

Marin County was recently awarded a Highway Safety Improvement Grant which included 13 intersections in Novato. This intersection is included and will address the current bus stop location. A lead pedestrian interval signal that allows pedestrians to start crossing the intersection before drivers can go, making them more visible.

Helmet giveaway

A “Go Fund Me” account will be developed to raise approximately \$2,500 to purchase at least 100 helmets from Mike Bikes at a discount rate. The PTA will be requested to support this fund too. These would be provided to Novato schools students and distributed by Safe Routes staff. Much Thanks to Diane, who has been spearheading this campaign!

Town Updates

Construction on Vintage Oaks behind Costco and Target has started; the roadway is being reduced down to two lanes. The improvements include a multi-use path and on street parking. This will close one of the gaps in the multi-use pathway that will hopefully encourage more funding to close other gaps in the future.

A crosswalk enhancement and traffic calming project with many locations identified is in the design phase right now. This was supported by input from many residents. The town hopes to have this completed by the end of the year if possible.

The city submitted applications for two OBAG grant applications to be decided on by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. Funding for selected projects should be announced in late October. Locations are:

- Novato Boulevard at San Marin and Sutro; enhance the intersection by reducing the length of the pedestrian crossings by installing bulbouts and narrowing lanes.
- Grant Avenue Bridge widening project. This project is shovel ready; funding is needed.

Issues

San Marin High School- crosswalks of concern:

Many students cross the roadway (including diagonally) near the horse ranch to the dentist office with no crosswalk. The DPW’s improvements include bulbouts and

crosswalks for the entire intersection. A multi-use path is planned for the current dirt path. A refuge is also planned for the very wide crossing.

Construction at Sutro & Center by Pleasant Valley School

The Novato Sanitary District is replacing a sewer line. The DPW was disappointed this was scheduled during school as the DPW makes every effort not to schedule projects when school is in session. Restrictions were placed on work times; outside school hours. Please notify the DPW if work is underway during school hours. The DPW understands this is impacting traffic congestion too and they are staying in communication with Novato Sanitary District.

During this time of year, the angle of the sun can impair drivers' vision near the school zones. This is especially challenging during construction projects. The suggested routes may help redirect students as they are trying to avoid traffic congestion.

Complete Streets Oversight Committee Meeting Updates

Some residents are advocating for an accessible pedestrian signal by San Marin High School. They would like a signal that would help visually impaired students cross the street from the bus stop before drivers move into the intersection.

The DPW is working with the community and Marin Transit to adjust the drop off location; re-signaling an intersection can take a very long time.

Next Meeting Date

January 18, 2023 at 5:00pm