

Novato SR2S Task Force Meeting – January 18, 2023

[Listen to the meeting](#)

Attendees: Wendi Kallins – SR2S; Jen Shriber – Parisi Transportation Consulting; Manijeh Larizadeh – City of Novato DPW; Gwen Froh – SR2S program director; Jim Larson – Novato High School (NHS) VP; Diane Gasson – NUSD School Board; Greg Mack – NUSD School Board; Allie Greene – NHS VP; Verona Tanihara – NHS PTSA; Leslie Benjamin – NUSD communications; Mac Grosel – Parisi Transportation Consulting; Monica Leifer – SR2S bi lingual coordinator; Pat Eklund – Novato City Council; Mark Brewer – NHS principal; Lori Nuno – Olive Elementary principal; Dabney DJ Smith – resident near San Jose MS; John Neville – Marin County Department of Public Works; Cooper Miley – SR2S volunteer coordinator; Sarah Donelson – NHS parent

Next Meeting May 3, 5-6:30 PM

- SR2S Education & Encouragement
 - [Helmet giveaway](#) – Safe Routes gave out almost 70 helmets at Lynwood, Lu Sutton, and Loma Verde for kids who can't afford helmets. Huge shout out to Diane Gasson who organized the whole thing.
 - [Buddy Up contest](#) – participants from San Jose MS and Novato HS were nominated by parents
 - Activities for next semester:
 - Walk & Roll Wednesday February 4
 - JEDI Challenge March & April with bike donation for every elementary school in the county
 - Bike to School Day May 3
 - Bike Hero Award
 - Nine Novato schools have SR2S education classes scheduled for spring 2023, including some schools that weren't able to accommodate SR2S last year
 - San Marin HS introduced Share the Road class for high school freshmen in fall 2022; Novato High will have this class in the spring
 - Working on an e-bike safety class
- Street Smarts Feedback
 - Participants reported seeing yard signs more than the vertical banners
 - One report that the orange banners didn't stand out
 - No one reported seeing social media posts; Leslie and some schools sent messages out
 - Participants may not remember since the campaign was several months ago
- Novato High School Walk Audit - [Notes from Walk Audit](#)
 - Attendees included school officials, parents, and task force members
 - Parking lot
 - Issues
 - Vehicle queues turning into the parking lot
 - Current parking lot circulation pattern creates conflicting paths for vehicles and causes congestion, disorder
 - Students walking from the northwest cross through the parking lot with no defined path

- Parking lot has been repainted several times – painted arrows are unclear
 - Potential solutions
 - Reverse vehicle flow through parking lot to reduce conflicts
 - Several participants not supportive of this. Would need to repaint a lot of spaces and could encourage use of the roundabout, which has led to congestion before it was closed off.
 - Define a walking path/crosswalk through the parking lot
 - Support for restriping parking lot to make directional arrows clearer
 - Arthur Street at Hayes Street
 - Considering daylighting to allow better visibility as well as other safety enhancements such as bulb-outs.
 - Suggestion for flashing beacon
 - Turning left onto Arthur from the parking lot is dangerous due to parked cars
 - Very difficult to see people using the crosswalk across Arthur due to parked cars. However, students cross Arthur closer to the school where there is no crosswalk
 - Arthur and Cambridge – also a major problem for Rancho and Lynwood students
 - Lots of vehicles queuing on westbound approach towards school and on Cambridge Street
 - A lot of students crossing in all directions
 - Proposed parking lot circulation changes may help alleviate downstream queuing
 - There used to be a crossing guard at this location, but no longer.
 - Proposed safety enhancement include paint/posts to calm traffic and increase pedestrian visibility
 - Arthur and South Novato
 - Safety enhancements for students who take the bus and walk: high visibility crosswalks, stop bars for vehicles, etc.
 - Coming from South Novato, people take a back route, park on Washington, and go through the path.
 - Next steps: Parisi to develop concept plans in collaboration with the City, will report back at future task force meetings
 - General comments
 - Suggestion to suggest different routes for drivers coming from different areas.
 - A lot of near misses on shortcut streets
 - Suggestion to identify remote drop-off locations
 - Not a lot of students arrive by bike, in part due to a lack of facilities
 - 1/3 of the students are for the School for the Arts and they come from all over Marin per the dot map
- City Updates
 - Citywide enhancement project – one crosswalk with a rectangular rapid flashing beacon will be installed at South Novato and Midway

- Issues from Parent Surveys
 - Olive reconfiguration since the survey may have mitigated some issues. Plum issues persist due to student drop-offs
 - Olive and Railroad: plan to add sidewalks, potentially bike striping

Novato Parent Survey issues

General – bring back buses

Hamilton

- Hamilton Parkway
 - Speeding
 - Blind curves
 - Crossings
- Bel Marin Keys Blvd.

Novato Charter

- Aberdeen road at Hamilton parkway: no way to cross safely, bike path dead ends
- Overpass at Nave and Bel Marin Keys
- Palm Ave at the train station
- Need to complete the Smart bike path

Loma Verde

- Speeding issues
 - Ignacio Blvd
 - Sunset Parkway
 - Entrada Dr.
 - Fairway
 - Country Club Dr.
 - Alameda De la Loma
- Crosswalk in front of the Nugget – people don't respect peds
- Calle de La Selva and Via Escondida.

Lu Sutton

- Drop off/Pick up is a mess
- Speeding on Center
- Lack of continuous sidewalks on Novato Blvd.
- Many narrow roads with no sidewalks
- Could a pathway be added to the back of Lu Sutton?

Lynwood

- General lack of continuous sidewalks and bike lanes
 - S. Novato and Center
- Morning traffic at Cambridge and Arthur

- Cars turning left from S. Novato to Arthur
 - Note – these are both issues that were brought up at the Novato walk audit

Olive

- Olive and Railroad
- Speeding on Atherton and on Olive
- No bike lane on Olive and sidewalks not great
- Plum Street
- Crossing the train tracks on Olive
- Olive in front of Trader Joes

Pleasant Valley

- Center and Sutro
- Eucalyptus and Sutro
- Vineyard and Sutro
- San Marin intersection
- Santa Maria Dr.- big hills and no bike lane
- Center is long with few crossing opportunities
- Speeding on Indian Valley road
- Lack of sidewalk on Sutro nearest San Marin
- Road dividers, lane and road markers
- Walkway on Sutro disappears in front of the horse stables
- Lack of lighting

Rancho

- Arthur and Cambridge – an issue for Lynwood and Novato High as well
- Arthur and Washington
- Clear trails and paths that lead to the school
 - Pathway connecting Redwood to Novato Blvd.
- Indian Valley speeding
- Taft and Arthur

San Ramon

- Crossing Simmons at Benton
- San Marin intersection
- General heavy traffic and speeding