



Ross Valley Task Force Notes 1/13/23

Attendees:

Tyler Randazzo SR2S lead instructor; Jen Shriber Transportation Planner Parisi Transportation; John Neville Traffic Engineer County Public Works; Tarrell Kullaway San Anselmo Council Member; Erick Betancort Ross Valley Charter runs bike to school program; Cooper Miley, SR2S Parent Volunteer Coordinator; Katy Vanoni SR2S scheduling Coordinator; Chance Cutrano Mayor of Fairfax; Adrian Sterling Parent Hidden Valley; Chris Whitlock Operations analyst Marin Transit; Rachel Litwack, Ross Valley School Board Trustee; Robin Gluck Brookside parent Marci Trahan Ross Valley Superintendent of schools; Lisel Blash, Fairfax Town Council; Nancy Vernon, Aide Supervisor Rice; Scott Schneider, San Anselmo Public Works

Safe Routes Education and Encouragement 2023

SR2S will get Family biking classes going, possibly on Feb. 18th at Hidden Valley School. Tyler will revamp curriculum to include "the Dutch Reach" in response to crash on Butterfield Road near Brookside School. The next Parent Volunteer meeting is on Jan. 19th. Some of the upcoming events are: Walk and Roll Wednesday Feb. 1st; Jedi Challenge in Spring – a 2–4-week contest. Cleary is donating bikes and helmets for prizes; Bike Hero Contest in May; May 3rd is Bike to School Day

Street Smarts Feedback

While people did see Street Smarts signage, less saw anything on social media. One parent saw something on the Tram High School District. Erick offered to help with expanding the social media presence. Some people found that the graphics were confusing and too busy. While the signage is too expensive to change for now, the social media could be refined. It's possible there may be more use of social media advertising for the spring. Need to find a way to track if the partners are, in fact, posting.

Marin Transit

The Bus program service contract ends this year. There will be a new RFP coming in the next week. There will also be changes to the lottery process.

San Anselmo update

Public works is focused on bike spine improvements. The hub study is underway and will be paying close attention to bike and pedestrian improvements. Brian is most concerned with safety in the downtown area. He also reiterated that there is still issues with E-Bikes. Enforcement is not feasible. Safe Routes to Schools and the Marin County Bicycle Coalition are doing education on E-Bikes. It may need special infrastructure.

Fairfax update

The Gap closures East/West to San Rafael and going well. TAM has approved the work plan for 2022-2023. There are plans to put more visual cues to cyclists (sharrows) through the Broadway/Bolinas/Claus areas to provide some guidance on moving through this confusing area. There are also plans for new rapid flashing beacons on Center/Broadway area. Fairfax now has a permanent director of Public Works - Loren Umbertis

Butterfield Road

Brookside Parent volunteer (Chris) was involved in bike crash. A family parked on the street and the student opened his/her door out onto the bike lane. Everyone is okay but had stitches and rode in ambulance. The community was very helpful when the crash happened. It emphasizes the need to educate parents and children about the door zone. SR2S will include education on Door Zone to 4th graders. A parent volunteer wants signage on streets "don't let your kids out into the bike lane. A former Team Leader, Bridget Clark created a flier that was put on parked cars warning of the door zone. Wendi also emphasized that children should never exit the car on the street sign regardless of the dooring danger – it puts children out into traffic. They should always exit on the sidewalk side.

John Neville reported on the recently signed bike lanes on Butterfield; this has been the 4th go-around to get it in place. Some neighbors objected to losing their parking. A safety committee has been meeting over the last couple years to discuss various issues on Butterfield including the need for a bike lane. Through a community process, an online survey was created and over 1,000 households replied; 97% said "yes" to bike lanes. Problem area is by Community center as there are numerous events that require parking, so the lane went to Sleep Hollow. Trying to get more buy-in with property owners by community center. Shout out by Wendi! The effort was well organized, it brought the community together to solve the problem. MCBC survey creation was key as well as the homeowner's association. John remarked that it helped that the effort was from the community instead of being initiated by the county. He reiterated how well the homeowners, residents, bike coalition partnered with public works. Nancy Vernon said that the Kent Woodlands is currently working with using the same approach

Marci noted that there were two episodes at Hidden valley recently; one was when a student was afraid to leave the bike lane to go around a car so the student hit the back of the car; the other was when a student asked his mom if he could cross Butterfield. The Mom said "no" but the student heard "yes" and went. Fortunately, the car stopped in time and there were no injuries. Marci wants Bike classes to happen earlier than 4th grade. The principal at Hidden

Valley will do reminders to parents re: safety. Tyler would like to work on a 3rd grade curriculum whereby 3rd graders will get some more education. Marci asked about Zooming and Gwen said that all curriculum is on the Safe Routes website for teachers to use

Parent Survey issues

Safe Routes to Schools conducted a parent survey last spring that included an open ended questions asking for issues that impeded families' ability to walk and bike to school. One takeaway was that many parents were not aware of the many infrastructure improvements that had already occurred. Some comments such as : "Our town isn't doing anything", "no improvement", "wanting more crossing guards". Wendi recommended beefing up P.R. to make sure the residents is aware of recent improvements.

Here is a summary of the issues:

Brookside and Hidden Valley

- Butterfield road – many complaints
 - Trash cans in bike lane
 - Cars parked in bike lane
 - Need bike lane
 - Speeding
 - Distracted drivers
 - Crossing Butterfield at every intersection
 - Dooring bicyclists
- Stop people from dropping off on Hidden Valley
- Crossing Guard requests
 - Along Drake Corridor especially Butterfield – many requests
 - Arroyo and The Alameda
- The Alameda – speeding and generally dangerous conditions
- Crossing Butterfield at Suffield
- Broadmoor and Brookside intersection
 - Overgrown bushes
- Broadmoor – speeding and crossing Drake
- Teen drivers
- Driver behavior
- Lack of sidewalks
 - Butterfield
 - Suffield
 - Ridge Road at Berkeley Road
 - Rosemont to Fairview

Manor

- Manor traffic circle
- Manor and Scenic – driver behavior

- Need Crossing guard at kindergarten entrance on Oak Manor
- Driver behavior
- More enforcement
- Sir Frances Drake
 - Speeding cars
 - Bike lanes too narrow (?)

Wade Thomas

- From Laurel
 - Narrow Congested roads – parked cars etc.
 - Driver behavior
 - Woodland
 - Cedar
- Barber and SFD
 - Request for crossing guard
- Sunnyside and Ross
- Red Hill / Miracle Mile @ Sequoia Dr – light is too short
- Austin and Waverly
- Rutherford – no sidewalks

The issues of crossing guards across Drake is problematic because the TAM evaluation process score lower when there is a controlled intersection with a traffic light. Some of these such as Butterfield Road and Barber Ave are repeatedly brought up by parents as too dangerous to let their kids cross alone. Brian says there is not enough money and usually not enough justification for getting more crossing guards in these locations. He's like to see data.

Some issues that have come up before include:

- Suffield and Butterfield crossing
- Archie Williams teen driver education
- In Fairfax, Manor traffic circle
- Barber and Sir Frances Drake
- The Alameda issues

Some new issues that were mentioned by more than one parent were:

- crossing guard at kindergarten entrance at Manor
- narrow bike lanes on SFD in Fairfax
- Issues along the Wade Thomas bike spine
- Sunnyside/Ross St.
- Miracle Mile light too short

Tarrell recommended working with the San Anselmo Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Brian says that in relation to Wade Thomas, the BPAC should focus on Cedar Ave.; Tamalpias/San Anselmo Ave. where White hill kids are dodging cars to get to the bus stop.

Tarrell says we can lower the speeds using the new law. DPW has already lowered some speed limits around school campuses. Scott reported there will be a change at the Broadmoor and SFD intersection. He also noted that at Barber there is a pedestrian lead signal that gives those crossing a head start over the cars. Wendi says there's a general distrust. Parents don't trust kids' abilities, and parents don't trust drivers. How much is real and how much is projection. Can education address this?

Other issues

Robin wanted a status update on steel barrier at SFD and Butterfield; Scott said it's on order. There will also be signal improvements and DPW is getting an easement for more space on sidewalk in the works. There were plans for more sidewalks by the triangle but it had to be cut because of the budget. But the plans are still in the works. She also noted that cars park on the sidewalk in front of pink house next to Brookside where the crash took place. Scott suggested that parents should call the police to ticket the cars

Next meeting Friday April 21st