



West Marin Task Force Meeting February 27, 2023 @ 7PM

[VIEW RECORDING - 35 mins \(No highlights\)](#)

Participants:

Wendi Kallins, SR2S

Monica Leifer, SR2S

Jen Shriver, Parisi Transportation Consulting

Alexa Davidson, Associate Director San Geronimo Community Center

Michelle Stephens: Superintendent and Principal Bolinas School

Laura Shain, Superintendent and Principal Lagunitas School

Dave Cort, San Geronimo Community Center

John Neville, West Marin County of Public Works, transportation engineer

David Parisi, Parisi Transportation Consulting

1. Updates on Safe Routes to Schools:

EDUCATION & ENCOURAGEMENT:

Wendi asks the Principals whether they have scheduled the SR2S education program this year. They say no. Wendi thinks that it might happen in April and proceeds to talk about the JEDI Challenge. She mentioned that participating schools will be entered in the raffle of donated Cleary Bike and a helmet from Mike's Bikes.

Schools said they didn't hear about it before, but they would like to sign up, so Wendi shared Cooper's information. cooper@marinbike.org We would have to ask Gwen if we still have more bikes available. Monica shared that she is raffling off one single bike for both West Marin and Inverness schools because there are not too many students.

Monica explained that there are five dates established for this contest since the price is a little bigger this time. The kids are going to have to work a little harder. Normally it is 3 - 4 events and this time it's 5: March 1st, March 15, April 5th, April 19, and May 3rd, which concludes with National Bike to School Day.

The kids that walk or roll the most, probably four or five times, are the ones who are going to be entering the raffle. Depending on the number of students that you have, we will have one bike

per school or we will probably join two smaller schools for the raffle of one bike, but she will have to check.

BIKE HERO AWARD:

Wendi talks about the Bike Hero Award in May. Students, teachers, principals, parents or whoever can nominate a good role model throughout the month of May. And this is a student who follows the rules of the road and is also encouraging other students to ride their bike. And Cooper is also the person to contact who. Find out more about that.

2. EBikes:

Wendi says that we're working on developing education for Ebikes due to the large number of middle school kids riding Ebikes recklessly. She got a complaint from somebody who was walking on the old golf course and some kids on an Ebikes nearly ran him over.

Parents are buying the throttle Ebikes, which is called a Type 2 Ebikes, which are not really suitable for that age group, but they're cheaper than the other Ebikes. So that's what parents are buying for their kids and they're piling other kids on them. They are not wearing helmets. They are riding too fast. And they are not respecting other road users. They don't know how to handle them, so we are developing education programs. We did a pilot program at White Hall School and the Marin County Bicycle Coalition is also developing a program in conjunction with that.

Alexa says she is surprised how fast one of those bikes can go in a residential area.

Wendi says that one of the big things is really getting the word out to parents to not buy that Ebike for their kids but to get the type one, which is the pedal assist.

Dave Cort says that throttle bikes are not really an Ebike. It really is basically a motorcycle hidden as a bicycle. I can get up to like 38-40 miles an hour on the thing. It really is like riding a motorcycle.

Alexa thinks that it's not for kids. She also mentioned the climate fest the community center is hosting on April 22nd with booths with local climate organizations. She wonders if Safe Routes would want to have an Ebike education station or anything like that, just to put that out as just an option or if you want to do something else, but just to put that on the table. She says they have a venue with lots of people at that event. Wendi says she will consult with Gwen Froh.

3. Issues at Laquintas School:

Laura Shain is looking at their crosswalk situation. "We are unusual in that we don't qualify for a crossing guard, so we have our own. It feels really dangerous to him. When he feels scared, that's a problem. And because it's out there in that rural area, people really build up great speed. Even with the lights, it's really hard to get them to slow down unless the highway patrol is out there. That really helps. She also noticed that there was a traffic counter that was up the last couple of weeks.

Nobody appears to know what the device was or what it was doing there. John's info was shared on the chat for people to reach out to him directly with their concerns. Laura noted that the main issue is the speed. Wendi thinks the problem is down to enforcement. David Parisi agrees. Wendi asked if Street Smarts signage which is starting in April could be available.

Jen Shriber says she will be ordering a couple of three foot by three foot signs or even larger signs with the messages, "Check your speed" and "Watch for pedestrians." They could be hung on fence or buildings. She thinks they also can do a better job with outreach for the yard signs this time around, having a central location where to bring the signs, publicize that and then have residents come and pick them up.

Wendi proposes that a group of kids go out on the streets with banners.

Michelle Stephens wonders if Supervisor Rodoni has been invited to these meetings to which Wendi says yes, his aid was invited

Michelle proposes speed feedback signs warning drivers when they are exceeding the speed limit. Those lights make people more aware and she would love to have that.

John Neville: What we have is we have the moveable signs, but we haven't been able to deploy them for a couple of months. We lost our field technician, probably. And power to deploy them. That technician position will be filled next week.

Wendi asks if the schools have called CHP for help. Laura says they haven't to which Wendi insists that they need to call them if they want them to show up.

Wendi goes back to the idea of having kids with signs. "Just a couple of days just saying, Hey, we're here, you know, slow down. There's a large enough group of them people will get the message because it's usually the same people going through every day."

Laura points out that most of the problems happen during the morning commute hours.

Dave Cort says that the students making their own signs is good idea and also some we can put up. He thinks that could be a good topic for them when we look at the Wellness Committee and their priorities for this year on April 24.

Laura Shein mentions that they have a lot of kids riding bikes to schools.

Dave Cort asked about having a non-road alternative for tstudents coming from Woodacre accessing the Commons

Wendi Kallins said they went to the MMWD facility about the possibility of going through there, they're very resistant to allowing us to do anything on their property or even moving the fence over a little bit so that we could get a path on the other side of the fence. We can certainly revisit that. We also looked at the connection through the PG&E property. And that's going to take some doing and it will be expensive to put a bridge in there. Trust for Public Lands was going to look into that. Dave and Wendi can work on that and see if at least we can find the right people to talk to and who would be responsible and how to get out of the funding for it.

Dave Cort: Alexa was actually going to be reaching out on something different to Erica

Dave Cort: Within a year, it probably will be Marin County Parks and Open Space. And you know, they're taking a lot of responsibility there.

4. Issues at Bolinas School

Michelle Stephens explains problems with a path from the school to downtown.

If you cross in the crosswalk and go to the right towards town, there's a beautiful asphalt path that runs all the way to the top of the hill and then ends there. But if you go left, it's dirt and there's lots of obstructions on the road. And we have about five students who need to go left to get home. And what's happening is the traffic there is very fast. I personally witnessed one of the students who lives across the street almost get hit because of all the obstacles on their side of the street. She jaywalked to avoid all the obstacles on that side of the street. I have received complaints. What is the process? How do we go about getting a path similar to the bike path that runs up the hill? How do we get it just to go down the street always just right in front of the garden on the corner. I would say it's about the length of a football field.

John Neville says the bike path that is there was very controversial. The population was deeply divided over the installation of a bike lane at all. They put it on a public measure, which passed 51% to 49%. But extending it at all or doing anything beyond what was adopted by that voting measure would be very hard. John would like to involve the Supervisor's office and ask them for direction and how they want us to embark on this.

Wendi wonders if oftentimes people don't like something until it's there. And now that there is a bike path there, it might boost the chances of being able to extend it. Wendi doesn't know who owns that land and thinks construction could require an agreement with a private property owner in order to put that pathway in.

Michelle asks if the city or the County comes through and check on the bushes, gravel, etc for accessibility. John mentioned that if the put gravel down on the path for kids to walk on, it wouldn't meet ADA standards and he is not sure how the project could get done. Wendi thinks the best option is to get the attention of an elected official from the PBUD and build some grassroots support before acting. You would need to find out who your allies are. Wendi thinks that if it's private land, the owner needs to be involved. Dave Cort suggested getting Annie Densmore involved as she was instrumental in the original pathway. Wendi and Michelle can set up a meeting with Dennis and maybe Annie and anybody else who you think might be important to get involved.

Dave mentions that Wendi should be in touch with Barbra Snekkevik at Nicasio school, the principal there because they have major issues at Nicasio school.

It was established that Wendi will meet with the participants individually in the near future and there was no need to set up another Task Force Meeting at this time.