

Kentfield School District

Safe Routes to School Task Force Meeting Notes

Wednesday, August 30

9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Next meeting dates

- January 11 at 9:30 AM
- April 18 at 9:30

[Recording](#)

Participants

- Meredith Brewer – Neighborhood Captain
- Gwen Froh – Safe Routes
- Lou Goodwin – Safe Routes
- Andrew Kingsdale – Bon Air/Greenbrae Neighborhood Captain
- Langston Hazen – Marin DPW
- Wendi Kallins – Safe Routes
- Jenn Mariska – Parent & Laurel Grove/Wolf Grade Neighborhood Captain
- Crystal Martinez – Aide to Supervisor Rice
- Heather McPhail Sridharan – Kentfield SR2S Coordinator
- John Neville – Marin DPW
- Anne Petersen – Kentfield Planning Advisory Board
- Beth Rhodes – College of Marin
- Tiffany Rowe – Kentfield parent & Kent Woodlands Neighborhood Captain
- Mira Schwartz – Parent Volunteer Coordination
- Jen Shriber – Safe Routes/Parametrix
- Melanie W – Kentfield parent
- Allison Fortini-Crawford – Kentfield parent

Safe Routes presentation



[See the attached presentation.](#)

The presentation includes excerpts from the 2023 evaluation report showing progress countywide in maintaining and increasing active and shared trips to school. It then shows results from Kentfield, comparing the percentage of students walking and biking to the percentage of students that live within walking and biking distance. In both schools the percentages match up relative well. Kent has 54% of students living within a mile and 56% are walking and biking. Bacich has 36% of students walking and biking and 67% live within one mile. 14% live within a ½ mile and 22% walk. Since this is a younger population (K-4), one mile may be too far for the much younger children. Overall Bacich has 47% green trips and Kent has 68%. This indicates that the focus of increasing green trips would be more on helping those students who live farther away or up in the hills to find a green way to school either by bus, carpool, or more likely park and walk; which can include organized walking school buses from park and walk locations. The back of the [Kentfield maps](#) list the issues within each neighborhood as well as park and walk locations.

Discussion

Strategies to maintain and/or increase green trips

Walking school buses is an option for increasing the number of students who walk to school. A number of younger students in the Kent Woodlands neighborhood are interested in walking to school and neighbors are informally starting to talk about walking school buses along Woodland Ave. and creating meet-up spots in the neighborhood for students coming down from the hills. This model could be useful in Greenbrae.

Greenbrae is too far for many Bacich students to bike. A major impediment is the lack of dedicated bike lanes on Drake and other infrastructure issues. A bike train organized by parents could encourage more students to bike to school. Three captains are assigned to different parts of Greenbrae; it would be helpful to recruit Spanish speaking captains for particular areas. It was also suggested that Greenbrae be divided into two areas since they use different routes to school.

Each neighborhood has park and walk locations. Park and walk can add a level of complexity for parents that can be a barrier to use; especially if they are on their way to work. This is where organized walking school buses can be helpful. In Laurel Grove, some parents drive to the bottom of the hill and have students walk from there. There are not enough people in the neighborhood to have a big enough impact; however, people coming from elsewhere could be encouraged to park and walk from the neighborhood.

Kentfield had expressed an interest in getting some transit authority funding for school buses but did not receive any. However, there is strong community interest in school buses. A Marin Transit bus previously provided service near the school, but this bus had delays and there were issues with timing. It is unclear if the bus is still operating.

Goal setting

Bacich's goal for the year is 50% green trips; Kent's goal is 70% green trips.

Updates

Street Smarts

The next Street Smarts rollout will be from October 2 through November and will feature educational messaging on banners, signs, and social media to promote safe driving, walking, and cycling behaviors. Visit www.streetsmartsmarin.org to download materials or learn where to get a yard sign.

[Walk audit request evaluation process](#)

Safe Routes gets a lot of requests for walk audits. However, funding is only available for five walk audits per year for the whole county. The program has developed criteria to ensure that resources will go to the areas with the highest need. Task forces should submit walk audit requests, which will be scored and prioritized based on seven criteria. Walk audits will be carried out in the winter and spring.

School communication to parents

Parent volunteers are in the process of conducting back to school communications with parents. Over the summer, they revised the Safe Routes to School section of KSD website with new maps, neighborhood safety tips, and Neighborhood Captain Contact Info (<https://www.kentfieldschools.org/families/safe-routes-school/>). They also utilized the district summer print newsletter and weekly electronic newsletter for Back-to-School updates (this will be ongoing throughout the school year). In August and September, presentations will be given at all Back to School night and DELAC (District English Language Advisory Council) events about the program and introduction of Neighborhood Captains. Before the first day of school, there was email outreach by Neighborhood Captains to all families in their respective neighborhoods with Back-to-School information.

Acacia Street

School pick-up and drop-off closure was initiated during the pandemic to encourage social distancing. In 2022/2023 this was reinstated but putting up/taking down the barriers at the three different intersections has been a challenge. There has not been an institution or organization willing to take this on. If there were such a commitment, the road closure could be done on an ongoing basis.

Heather reported that the district has confirmed funding to have school district staff handle one sign, then either have the crossing guards do it for extra funding or having



someone from within the district do the rest.

The recommendation to the County will take 45 days once it is submitted. Crystal would need to talk to the County Administrator's Office to see if this can be made an urgent issue. In the meantime, perhaps parent volunteers could do it in the short-term.

Follow-Up Items

- Look into organizing walking school buses and bike trains, particularly in Greenbrae and the Woodlands area.
- See if the Marin Transit bus is still available and if it is coming on time.
- Look into having CHP do more patrolling for illegal parking around Acacia and Lilac.
- Get the Board of Supervisors to approve the Acacia closure. See if we can accelerate this process.
- Allison, Meredith, Heather, and Raquel to coordinate short-term Acacia closure volunteers.

Next meeting dates

- January 11 at 9:30 AM
- April 18 at 9:30