

Mill Valley School District
Safe Routes to School Task Force Meeting Notes

Thursday, September 21
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Next meeting dates

- February 1, 2024 (Thursday) – 9:30am
- May 9, 2024 (Thursday) – 9:30am

Recording available on request wkallins@iqc.org

Participants

- Gwen Froh – SR2S/MCBC
- Wendi Kallins – SR2S
- David Parisi – Parametrix
- David Hoffman – Parametrix
- Jennifer Imbimbo, Aide to Dist. 3 Supervisor Stephanie Moulton-Peters
- Al Grumet – Sustainable Mill Valley/Active Mill Valley
- John Selix – Retired MV teacher/Mill Valley BPAC rep.
- Jared Barrilloux – Mill Valley Public Works
- Mira Schwartz – Parent Volunteer coordinator
- Langston Hazen – Marin County traffic engineer
- Bria Larson, Park School PTA
- Stephen Burke, Mill Valley City Council
- Matthew Hartzell, WTB/Transportation Alternatives for Marin
- Kirsten Kennel – TAM High (historical Task Force representative)
- John Neville – Marin County Public Works, Traffic Engineer
- Steve Mnich – Community member near Strawberry Point ES
- Julia Royal – MVSD, Dir. of Maintenance, Operations, Safety
- Kimberly Russell – Pricipal, Strawberry Point ES
- Ted Joseph, Tam HS teacher
- Rob LaPorte, Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy
- Sgt. Ryan Smith – MV Police Department
- Jen Burke - parent
- Nick Bockh – Chair MV BPAC
- Alexandra Jenkins, Tam High parent liason
- Alex Pocaro – Parent, Tam Valley ES
- Mike Woolard, TAM HS development coordinator

Safe Routes presentation (Jen Shriber, SR2S/Parametrix & Gwen Froh, SR2S/MCBC)

[See the attached presentation.](#)

The presentation included excerpts from the 2023 evaluation report showing progress countywide in maintaining and increasing active and shared trips to school. It then showed results from Mill Valley, comparing the percentage of students walking and biking to the percentage of students that live within walking and biking distance. Most Mill Valley Schools are doing exceptionally well, with over 50% green trips and Mill Valley Middle School generating 65% green trips. Strawberry Point is the exception with 72% still driving their children to school. Details can be found in the [presentation](#).

Discussion (Wendi Kallins, SR2S)

Strategies to maintain and/or increase green trips

Bria Larson: For Park ES - Miller/E. Blithedale crossing still tricky, crossing guard was recently removed. Some parents unhappy with this. Possibly put up flags at intersection? Additionally, some of the steps/lanes/paths near the school are not ideal due to blind corners or no good place to cross.

Steve Mnich: Near Strawberry Point ES – How do we prioritize schools with high vehicle rates for infrastructure improvements? Ricardo has some high danger areas with a lot of traffic. Some issues include narrow lanes, lack of sidewalks in some areas, and the sun in driver's eyes at certain times of the year. There is a lot of vegetation overgrowth, too. Potential to put some temporary barriers up near the first 2-3 houses that are on the first and second block of Ricardo heading downhill?

Langston Hazen: Speaking to Steve Mnich's comments – the homeowner with a lot of overgrown vegetation has been contacted. Lots of issues, and not a lot of good solutions, but we're aware of them and we're working on them.

Alex Pocaro: Parent of new kindergartener at Tam Valley ES – feels very unsafe when biking with their daughter to TVES. There is a lot of conflict between people who are trying to get to work and the families that are trying to get to school using the suggested routes. On Marin Avenue it is narrow, no sidewalks, curves, feels unsafe. Possible solutions – sharrows? Lights? Anything other than nothing is a good start.

Wendi: we've looked at Marin Avenue and adding bike lanes is not an option, but any kind of traffic calming or simply putting in sharrow like on Sycamore can be looked at.

Matthew Hartzell WTB/TAM: 35% of students at MVMS bike to school, but that number drops to 8% at Tam HS. Perhaps this is because of the lack of secure bike parking? Spaces for 100 bikes, but often 125 or more are observed. Those extra bike block the

emergency exits sometimes. Additionally, Ebikes take up three times the space of a regular bike. Tam HS should consider banning Super 88 Ebikes. MVMS also needs more bike parking; current capacity is 190 bikes, but 200 are parked there every day. MVSD doing a new master plan - encouraged to look at adding bike parking.

Tam HS- further investigate increasing safety corridor along Almonte.

Updates

Street Smarts (David Parisi, Parametrix)

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.

New Issues

(Wendi Kallins, SR2S)

Tam Valley – Shoreline south of the Junction does not have a safe walkway. Can drainage ditch be covered to accommodate active travel?

Mike Woolard with TAM HS talked about new construction on campus coming up as well as talking about safety issues for bicyclists, pedestrians, and additional bike parking is under consideration. More student parking is planned with access from Miller rather than Almonte. Plans can be viewed here: <https://www.mvschools.org/Page/8680>

Next steps

- Strawberry Pt. - look at infrastructure and overgrown bushes along Ricardo
- Park - Work on overgrowth along pathways and cut-throughs that impact visibility.
- MVSD - School District encouraged to look at increasing bike parking.
- Tam HS - encouraged to look at increasing secure bike parking, look at increasing safety corridor along Almonte (explore walk audit information)
- Tam Valley - Explore traffic calming or sharrows on Marin Ave

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