

# Kentfield School District

## Safe Routes to School Task Force Meeting Notes

Thursday, January 11, 2024  
9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

### Participants

- Fel Agrelius – Aide to Supervisor Katie Rice
- Meredith Brewer – Safe Routes Neighborhood Captain
- Jaqueline Distler – Safe Routes volunteer
- Allison Fortini -Crawford – Kentfield parent/volunteer
- Gwen Froh – Safe Routes
- Lou Goodwin – Safe Routes/MCBC
- Langston Hazen – Marin DPW
- Matthew Hartzell – WTB/TAM
- Wendy Holmes – Kent MS Assistant Principal
- Erin Kahn – Bacich parent, Murray Park community captain
- Wendi Kallins – Safe Routes/MCBC
- Beth Karlsson – Kentfield parent/resident/Neighborhood Captain
- Heather McPhail Sridharan – Kentfield SR2S Coordinator
- John Neville – Marin DPW
- Beth Rhodes – College of Marin
- Katie Rice - Supervisor
- Mira Schwartz – Safe Routes Parent Volunteer Coordinator
- Jen Shriber – Safe Routes/Parametrix
- Cass Walsh – Bacich Assistant Principal
- Melanie Wollenweber – Kentfield parent

### Poll

The group was polled on whether they would like to meet online or in person for the spring task force meeting. 50% could go either way, 42% prefer virtual, and 8% wanted to meet in person. Based on the poll the next meeting will remain virtual.

### Safe Routes Presentation

[See the attached presentation on walking and bike buses and park and walk.](#)

### Discussion

#### *Student Tally Surveys*

Student tally results show that 27% of Kent students walk and 23% bike, which is above



the county average for active green trips. An additional 10% carpool. At Bacich, about 50% of families drive to school while 27% walk and 17% bike. This is in line with the county average.

### *Opportunities*

An opportunity to increase active trips is to increase the number of bikes among students who don't have them. Safe Routes could reach out to local bike shops and Trips for Kids to see if surplus bikes could be donated to the program. A survey could be done to identify students that need bikes. One neighborhood captain has a direct connection to Latino community and could help reach this community. Lou Goodwin has experience with a bike donation drive at Kent School. Any future event should go bigger and include the broader community. It could be helpful to change the messaging around donated bikes to focus on sustainability rather than the economic need.

Past bike train successes come from parents who ride to school regularly. It's harder for working parents to commit, but important to get the momentum going and to ensure that it doesn't all fall on the shoulders of the neighborhood captains. The trend towards working from home could give parents more flexibility to help with bike trains/walking school buses. Biking with small children can be difficult. Safe Routes' partnership with Extracycle could allow parents to borrow a cargo bike to bring their smaller children along.

Blurbs in newsletters could encourage families to connect. More intentionality is needed for younger students, as connections happen more naturally in middle school. Walk & Roll Wednesdays can be used to encourage bike trains/walking school buses and can help form connections. Encourage parents to exchange contact information and plan for more trips together. Participation is high for Walk and Roll Wednesdays.

### *Challenges*

Parents may be nervous to have their children cross busy intersections or use bike lanes that aren't very clear. School route signs and pavement markings have been used in San Anselmo, Fairfax, Mill Valley, and elsewhere. Signage needs to use national standards. Once routes are identified for signage, Safe Routes can look at issues along those routes.

## **Updates**

### *Education & Encouragement*

All classes have been taught at Bacich and Kent.

A number of spring activities are planned, and more information can be found on the Safe Routes website. These include Walk and Roll Wednesdays, Rainbow Quest Challenge, National Bike to School Day on May 8, and the Bike Hero contest in May.

The parent volunteer luncheon will be held on January 25 from 10:30-12:30 in San Rafael. RSVP to Mira@marinbike.org.



### *County Updates*

AB-413 is a new law that prohibits parked cars within 20' of a marked or unmarked crosswalk or 15' from a crosswalk with a curb extension. The law goes into full effect in 2025 but vehicles can be given warnings in 2024. This law presents opportunities along suggested routes to schools.

### *College of Marin*

Construction has been sensitive to peak traffic periods on College Avenue. The next step is erection of steel; the steel will come in over time and won't have a large impact on the schools or broader community. The project is on track to be completed in August 2025.

### *Prioritize Issues List*

A number of new issues have been added to the list and need to be prioritized. Heather and Wendi can meet to coordinate before neighborhood captains are brought into the prioritization discussion. The County can provide volume and crash data if needed.

### **New Issues**

The County recently notified residents of an intention to add red curb along McAllister between Bacich and Lilac. The County had concerns that cars parking at that location forced moving vehicles into the center of the road, risking head-on collisions. The County is reaching out to neighborhood to get feedback, at which point they will decide whether to proceed.

Parents queue in the Bacich driveway starting at 2:20 for the 2:53 dismissal bell; the lot is full by 2:35 and creates backups on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard. This has affected the automated traffic signal, which identifies waiting vehicles as objects and adjusts signal timing; this has led to people running red lights. The traffic signal will be switched to time demand. Cass and John will discuss offline to see if parents could be convinced to arrive later. Katie Rice will share Hidden Valley communication strategies. Park and walk could be a strategy here.

Priority items from the Greenbrae safety list are related to the intersections with Sir Francis Drake Boulevard:

- Manor and Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, when there is no crossing guard
- Bon Air and Eliseo intersection that no longer has a crossing guard
- Local neighbor repeated concern regarding Los Cerros where there is no safe way to walk/bike between Corte Cordova and Corte Allegra

### **Next Steps**

- Explore bike giveaway opportunities



- Consider Walk & Roll Wednesdays as an opportunity to encourage parents to coordinate, exchange contact information, and see who would be available to walk and bike together for Walk & Roll Wednesdays and other days
- Do more encouragement and communications to facilitate walk and bike trains
- Use dot maps to see how many people live near each other
- John and Cass will discuss afternoon queuing at Bacich; Katie will share Hidden Valley communication strategies
- Wendi, Jen, and David H. will overlay information to determine walk audit locations for school signage

### **Next Meeting Date**

The following meeting dates are pending district confirmation:

- Thursday, April 18 at 9:30

