

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

Friday, January 12
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Participants

- Heather Abrams – Fairfax Town Manager
- Lisel Blash – Fairfax Vice Mayor
- Jason Cardillo – Wade Thomas Parent Volunteer
- Chance Cutrano – Fairfax Town Council, TAM Rep
- Sean Fahy – Central Marin Police
- Gwen Froh – SR2S/MCBC
- Matthew Hartzell – WTB/TAM
- Langston Hazen – Marin County DPW
- Wendi Kallins – SR2S
- Michael Mason – Manor parent
- Katie Rice – County Supervisor for District 2
- Mira Schwirtz – SR2S
- Joey Shepp – Manor parent volunteer
- Jen Shriber – SR2S/Parametrix
- Adrienne Sterling – Hidden Valley PTO
- Loren Umbertis – Town of Fairfax DPW
- Warren Wells – MCBC
- Malissa Reyes – SR2S Liaison and Walk & Roll Organizer, Brookside

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, 40% prefer virtual, and 10% wanted to meet in person. Based on the poll the next meeting will remain virtual.

Safe Routes Presentation (Gwen Froh, SR2S/MCBC)

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

Discussion (Wendi Kallins, SR2S)

Student Tally Surveys

At Archie Williams, about 35% walk or bike to school while 38% use a family vehicle. This is better than other high schools in the county. At Brookside, about 45% walk in



morning while slightly less do in the afternoon. 14% bike and 33-40% drive. At Hidden Valley, 35% walk and bike, up to 14% use the school bus, and a lot more students carpool in afternoon (13%) compared to the morning. At Manor, up to 28% walk, 19% bike, and 47-54% drive. At the Ross Valley Charter School, about 20% walk/bike in morning while fewer do in the afternoon. 77% drive, and students typically live longer distances from school compared to other schools. At Wade Thomas 13% bike, 28% walk, and 52% drive. At White Hill 8% walk, 19% bike, about 40% use the bus, and about 25% drive.

The latest student tally results are available on the Safe Routes website Resources page.

Park and Walk Locations

Butterfield is a challenging place for Park and Walk locations. There is a small parking lot at Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and Butterfield, but the intersection is challenging. Butterfield could be used for Drop and Walk locations, as could Hidden Valley.

The Fairfax library has been used for park and walk for Fairfax schools. Downtown San Anselmo is also used for Wade Thomas.

Opportunities

At Wade Thomas, more than half of families live up a big hill. A core group of families already do Park and Walk using side streets. The program could build from this core group.

Consistency helps make events “cultural institutions.” Continuity, communications, and giveaways all help with this.

There is room for growth at Manor for Park and Walk. Making/distributing maps and posters could help.

Crossing guards are a big help in changing behaviors. The crossing guard on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and Butterfield has really a difference. The crossing guard on Green Valley helps direct traffic so cars move more safely.

Student leadership/green teams/clubs could participate, particularly in places where parent volunteers are lacking.

Schools can use Street Smarts social media messages to spread awareness of safe behaviors.

Challenges

Driver behavior, including new drivers going to Archie Williams, makes it challenging to promote walking and biking. Physical traffic calming infrastructure as well as driver education are needed to change behaviors. Lowering speed limits around schools could also help.



Updates

Education and Encouragement (Gwen Froh, SR2S/MCBC)

Many spring activities are planned, and more information is 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.

Butterfield Safety Committee updates

- Bike lane extension from Hidden Valley to Irving and Van Winkel was approved, signage and striping will go in this spring
- Worked with county traffic engineers on a crosswalk at the community center; will need grant funding to implement
- Launched vegetation campaign along road to work with fire district and homeowners assn. to see where vegetation removal would help fire risk and safety
- Green Valley Court afternoon congestion – working to address this

AB-413

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.

New Issues

Bike Spine on Olema

The bike spine comprises back roads that have school route signage. The intention is to add Olema Road to the bike spine. Signage may be all that is needed for this, in which case it could be bundled with other neighboring improvements to be more competitive for funding. Parametrix will work with Loren on this.

Cycle Tracks on Sir Francis Drake

The placement of vertical delineators isn't complicated or overly expensive. If a plan and/or cost estimate were to come forward through SR2S, the Town could try to come up with some budget for the improvements. Otherwise, a lot of the town's resources will go to updating the bicycle and pedestrian plan, in which this would be included. This would be a longer process. TAM's Safe Pathways call for projects will be this year and small projects have a good likelihood of being funded.

Link to view the MBSC Slide deck w/ visualizations for different bike lane configurations on Drake:



https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1MfVal0eFmvDKP8fA_vbeYotzcRhKxgotRwVfz_2vOFM/edit?usp=sharing

TAM Countywide Transportation Plan

TAM is developing its first countywide transportation plan, which will include the Cross-Marin Bikeway. Workshops will be held in spring and a draft plan will come out in summer.

Next Steps

- Encourage schools to use Street Smarts graphics year-round for education purposes
- Get a Share the Road program at Archie Williams
- Consider opportunities for more student involvement where parent volunteers are unavailable
- Work with San Anselmo Public Works for Wade Thomas to consider 15 MPH zones and bike spine traffic calming opportunities
- Consider protected bike lanes and Olema Road as candidates for upcoming Safe Pathways funding
- Get more information on the Safe Pathways call for projects from TAM

Next Meeting Date

- Friday April 19, 10 AM

