

Larkspur-Corte Madera School District
Safe Routes to School Task Force Meeting Notes

Thursday, February 8
5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

[View Recording](#)

Participants

- Scott Candell – Larkspur Mayor
- Demetre Copeland – Corte Madera DPW
- Gwen Froh – SR2S/MCBC
- Melanie Harris – Neil Cummins and Hall VP
- Matthew Hartzell – WTB/TAM
- Wendi Kallins – SR2S
- David Parisi – SR2S/Parametrix
- Jean Severinghouse - Resident
- Jen Shriber – SR2S/Parametrix
- RJ Suokko – Corte Madera DPW

Poll

The group was polled on whether they would like to meet online or in person for the spring task force meeting. 67% could go either way, 33% prefer virtual, and 0% 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 walking and bike buses and park and walk.

Discussion

Student Tally Survey Results

The results of the fall 2023 student tally surveys were shared with the group and compared to the baseline and spring 2023 statistics.

At Cove, there was a big push for green trips when the school first joined the program. Since then rates have fallen and have continued to drop in the spring and fall semesters. Hall has a high percentage of green and active green trips. This change happened when Doherty Drive was closed and stuck; e-bikes have also played a role. The parking lot closure at Neil Cummins led to increased green and active green trips. These percentages continue to climb. Redwood's percentages are down from the baseline to spring but increased a lot in the fall semester. St. Patrick's has had no



volunteer for a long time, contributing to low percentages of green and active green trips. Marin Primary almost doubled its green trips from the baseline levels. This is impressive for a private school where many students live far from campus.

School	Baseline			Spring 2023		Fall 2023	
	Year	Green Trip %	Active Green Trip %	Green Trip %	Active Green Trip %	Green Trip %	Active Green Trip %
Cove	2014	59%	43%	46%	29%	37%	28%
Hall Middle	2009	54%	30%	68%	49%	67%	56%
Neil Cummins	2001	52%	25%	60%	55%	62%	58%
Redwood	2009	47%	17%	38%	20%	48%	25%
St. Patrick	2001	45%	23%	31%	19%	21%	14%
Marin Primary & Middle	2008	16%	10%	30%	15%	33%	24%

Current and past student tally results can be found on the Safe Routes website at <https://www.saferoutestoschools.org/about/resources/>.

Park & Walk Locations

Neil Cummins families highly use park and walk locations. There are two parks with good-sized parking lots.

Cove has several park and walk locations, but it is unclear if people still use them. The park parking lot is small, which can be challenging.

Potential Park and Walk locations for Hall include the Piper parking lot, old Luck shopping center, and racquet club. Safe Routes must have permission from private property owners before these locations can be added to suggested route maps. The future Larkspur Library on Rose Lane will be another potential park and walk location. Hall and Redwood start and stop times coincide a few days each week; these days could be targeted to encourage families to park and walk.

Hall Bicycles

Hall has two designated areas for bicycle parking and added three more racks this year. These are almost completely full on good days. The school is considering adding an additional rack designed specifically for e-bikes as the current racks don't fit them as well.

When bikes on campus were last counted, there were about 20 e-bikes. Some were Type 1 but most were Type 2. The school is talking about messaging to parents around Type 2 e-bikes and already reached out to parents about this before Christmas. Additionally, the school has notified parents that Type 3 e-bikes are not allowed on



campus. Some community members have contacted the school about bad student behavior. The school is considering a strong stance on e-bikes next year and would welcome MCBC education to complement this.

Updates

Education & Encouragement (Gwen Froh, SR2S/MCBC)

There is a new parent volunteer for Hall. She will need support if the school would like to run the spring challenge.

Spring encouragement events include Walk & Roll Wednesdays and a Rainbow Quest Challenge that will take place across four days in April/May and culminate in National Bike to School Day on May 8. The Bike Hero awards will be named in May. A nomination link will be posted on the Safe Routes website soon to nominate elementary and middle school students who are good “roll” models.

Fifer & Lucky Intersection (David Parisi, SR2S/Parametrix)

The Fifer/Lucky intersection is challenging for people walking and biking, particularly students.

The main vehicle movements are from Fifer to Lucky, and the intersection has unconventional traffic controls. Northbound drivers and eastbound drivers turning right have free movements, while the eastbound through movement is yield-controlled and westbound drivers have a stop sign. As a result, the intersection’s heavy traffic is constantly moving through it.

There are no crosswalks or bicycle facilities at the intersection. Cyclists and pedestrians typically go straight through the intersection on Lucky. Pedestrians use the north sidewalk, and some eastbound cyclists go the wrong way on the north side to avoid crossing through the uncontrolled intersection. The California vehicle code prohibits wrong way cycling in the street; however, Corte Madera does not have a code against cycling on the sidewalk.

Constraints include a drainage inlet on the southeast corner, a lack of curb ramps, and three different jurisdictions right-of-way along the corridor (Larkspur, Corte Madera, and the County of Marin). The intersection is too small for a modern roundabout or traffic circle, and people carpooling tend to park along the County-owned portion of the street immediately to the east.

Parametrix and the jurisdictions have previously considered different bikeway and crosswalk options along Lucky Drive. However, none of these are ideal and any improvements may eventually need to be redone if the City raises the road for sea level rise. As a result, no progress has been made at this intersection.

A crosswalk across Lucky on the east side of the intersection could be considered, along with tightening the northbound right turning movement and adding a pedestrian

refuge in the crossing. This is not currently in the Town's budget. Turning movements, ADA provisions, and other considerations would need to be made as part of this process.

Grant Opportunities

A number of federal and regional active transportation grant opportunities are coming up, including Safe Streets for All and the Active Transportation Program. These typically fund big projects. TAM will make a request for Safe Pathways projects in the summer or fall. This funding does not require a funding match, and over \$3 million will be available. Projects will need to be endorsed by the SR2S task forces. The Town of Corte Madera is also exploring sea level rise grant opportunities.

AB413

A new assembly bill will prohibit parking within 20 feet of the approach side of a crosswalk (marked or unmarked) and within 15 feet of a bulb out. Corte Madera has been in discussion about implementation with other Marin Public Works directors. This ruling will be similar to fire hydrants in that red curb will not need to be present for the law to be enforced. Agencies will be more passive about enforcement where there is no red curb and will only enforce it based on need. Conflicting red curbs will need to be grayed out or extended to match the new rule.

Next Steps

- Wendi will contact Michelle at Cove to inform her about the study tally trends
- Revisit strategies from when Cove first joined Safe Routes
- Look into park and walk location suggestions and see if they can be added to the suggested route maps
- RJ will share the student letter with Safe Routes
- Explore crosswalk/refuge islands at Lucky & Fifer, confer a meeting with Safe Routes and the three jurisdictions to discuss possible improvements along the corridor

Next Meeting Date

- May 9 at 5 PM

