

Miller Creek School District

Safe Routes to School Task Force Meeting Notes

Monday, January 29
3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

[View Recording](#)

Participants

- Gwen Froh – SR2S/MCBC
- Langston Hazen – Marin County DPW
- Brad Honsberger – MCSD trustee
- Wes Howell, Mark Day Director of Facilities
- Wendi Kallins – SR2S
- Nick Miller – MCMS Assistant Principal
- John Neville – Marin County DPW
- Nhat Phan – San Rafael DPW
- Julia Reinhard – Aide to Supervisor Sackett
- Becky Ruden – Lucas Valley parent
- Jen Shriber – SR2S/Parametrix
- JC Van Rooyen – Miller Creek School District
- Dante Williams – Mark Day School Campus Security Manager
- Carrie Wurlitzer – Vallecito parent/SR2S volunteer

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, 33% prefer virtual, and 16% 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 (Wendi Kallins, SR2S)

Student Tally Surveys

The student tally results for fall 2023 were reviewed and compared to the spring 2023 results. At Lucas Valley, green trips are down to 32% from the spring; however, active green trips rose to 23% from 19% and carpooling also increased. Mary Silveira's share of green trips went from 50% to 40%, including a reduction in the percentage of active green trips. Mill Valley Middle School saw a small drop in green trips. During this time a



lot of students started biking, accounting for a jump in active green trips from 31% to 51%. About 27% of students at the school use e-bikes and e-scooters as of the fall semester. Most of these are Class II and include some illegal models (e.g. Super 73). At Vallecito, green trips dropped slightly from 47% to 43% but active green trips stayed the same.

Identify Park & Walk Locations

Vallecito: The corner of Trellis and Montecito could be a good park and walk location. Students can walk across the grass field to get to campus from this location. Families coming from the high school to Vallecito currently use a curb on Nova Albion to pull over and let their children out.

Lucas Valley: There are not a lot of options for Lucas Valley Park and Walk. A lot of parents currently use Idleberry as a park and walk location. The retirement home opposite Big Rock could be another option.

Mary Silveira: The Marinwood Market is an option. This is about a 10-15 minute walk from school.

Miller Creek Middle: Options for park and walk locations include Ellen Drive, Erin Drive, and Pinewood (students could come in through the back of school).

Challenges

Hilly neighborhoods, zoning (students live far from school), and parents' busy schedules are challenges to using green modes. Park and walk can be an option for students who can't walk or bike the whole way to school.

For families in the Mont Marin area, the only way to walk or bike to school involves crossing Lucas Valley Road. This is a very challenging crossing. Families can park and walk or organize carpools. The crossing should be added to the district issue list for pedestrian safety enhancements.

The district owns its own school buses; however, there are not enough drivers to drive them. This is a regional issue.

Opportunities

Mark Day has had good success with carpooling. The school sends communications at the beginning of the school year to make parents aware of families living nearby. Parents can also see where other families live through Blackboard. The bus routes are based on this information. During campus tours the school lets parents know that alternate forms of transportation are ideal. The administration encourages and seeks to reestablish these habits every year.

A potential option could be an "opt out" form for families, who would otherwise

automatically be enrolled in an email system to help coordinate carpools, walking school buses, bike trains, etc. This would need to be facilitated through the school and addresses could not be shared. Nick Miller will bring this idea to the site leadership team to see if this would be a good option for MCMS.

Parent Square has some functionality to have a group, but this would require someone to manage the group.

Any school-sponsored or school-run carpooling could face insurance/liability issues. Something managed by a home and school club would not run into this issue.

Updates

Education & Encouragement (Gwen Froh, MCBC/SR2S)

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 was held on January 25 in San Rafael.

E-bike safety messaging and guidance can be found on the Safe Routes website.

Mapping Workshop

Currently MCMS is the only school in the district with a suggested route map. On event days, volunteers can put out a map and have students mark their route to school. These maps can then be discussed at a workshop where task force members and others can fill in the routes, create suggested route maps, and identify park and walk locations. Terra Linda School for Environmental Studies could potentially be involved in this effort.

New Issues

AB413 (Wendi Kallins, SR2S)

New state legislation has gone into effect prohibiting parked cars within 20 feet of the approach to a marked or unmarked crosswalk and within 15 feet of a crosswalk with a curb extension. The law will go into full effect in 2025; in 2024, drivers can be issued a warning for parking too close to a crosswalk. This law would require enforcement even in locations where there is no red curb.

A four-way crosswalk with bulb-outs and red zones was put in on Blackstone near Mary Silveira; additional red curb in this area is not needed.

AB413 also expands school zones from 500-1000' and allows jurisdictions to reduce speeds to 15 MPH in the 500' zone. The department of public works can actively start reducing speeds in June under this bill. Enforcement is needed; there can be adverse effects if people are expecting enforcement but there isn't any.



Next Steps

- Identify park and walk locations
- Begin creating suggested route maps
 - For Vallecito, include Mark Day and Terra Linda High
- Pursue e-bike education in schools for students and parents

Next Meeting Date

- April 29 at 3:30 PM

