

Kentfield School District

Safe Routes to School Task Force Meeting Notes

Thursday, April 18, 2024

9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

[VIEW RECORDING - 97 mins \(No highlights\)](#)

Participants

- Allison Fortini-Crawford – Kentfield parent/volunteer
- Gwen Froh – Safe Routes
- David Hoffman – Parametrix/SR2S
- Wendy Holmes – Kent MS Assistant Principal
- Erin Kahn – Neighborhood Captain
- Wendi Kallins – Safe Routes/MCBC
- Zack Kobic de Leon – Aide to Supervisor Katie Rice
- Jenn Mariska – Bacich parent/SR2S Laurel Grover neighborhood captain
- Heather McPhail Sridharan – Kentfield SR2S Coordinator
- John Neville – Marin DPW
- Jen Shriber – Safe Routes/Parametrix
- Cass Walsh – Bacich Assistant Principal
- Melanie Wollenweber – Kentfield parent

Safe Routes Presentations (Gwen Froh, MCBC/Parametrix)

See the attached presentation on [back-to-school](#) notifications. SR2S will send a back-to-school notice districtwide with information promoting walking and rolling and spreading awareness of SR2S programming. 10-25% of bikes on middle school campuses are e-bikes, and there are higher crash risks for ages 10-15. Messaging to parents is key to ensure proper bike models are purchased and to spread education of good behavior.

Discussion

Communications methods

Wendy Holmes suggested that messaging around safety and surveys should be sent to assistant principals as well as principals at each school.

Back to school content

Gwen shared a draft letter on active transportation that will be sent to parents at the beginning of the school year. General consensus was that the letter contained helpful information. Heather suggested adding quality time with children as another reason to



walk or roll to school. Additional messaging around e-bike safety will be sent to middle school families. The communications will be sent in August.

Melanie suggested that the communication should include a contact person to whom parents can reach out about safety concerns. Neighborhood captains could also potentially be listed on the SR2S website. A mapping tool from UC Berkeley, which SR2S will roll out in the near future, would allow parents to report issues online.

Bacich promotes events both around the school and through Parent Square. There is a lot of excitement around SR2S events, with good levels of participation and engagement. Parent Square alerts at 7 AM the morning before Walk & Roll Wednesdays have really helped.

Kentfield has not yet engaged at the district level about e-bike parking restrictions; they need to move forward with these conversations. This will mostly affect students at Kent.

School Routes Maps (David Hoffman, Parametrix/SR2S)

SR2S has overlaid route maps, dot maps, and issues maps. This will help prioritize issues that will benefit the most students and help determine where to put school route signage. SR2S should prioritize improvements based on highest usage routes and areas that impact the most students.

Most of the issues are located in the central core between the two schools. Kent and Bacich students live in the same locations, so improvements that are good for one school would be good for the other.

It needs to be decided whether school routes should be signed before or after improvements have been made. Elisio could be a good place to put signage since this is a long road that students must use. However, the county has put bike route signage in hundreds of locations; the school route signs could be redundant with these and could contribute to the overabundance of signs in Marin County.

Next steps would be to identify potential Safe Pathways or other projects based on existing issues. John Neville has a list of projects for HSIP and Safe Pathways and is open to adding to this list. SR2S will hold a captain meeting to discuss the overlay maps over the summer.

Report Back (John Neville, County Public Works)

Backup issues on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard

The County is working to fix the backup on SFDB near Bacich. The only viable solution to fix the issue would be to not allow stopping in drop-off/pick-up area; however, the county can't enforce this, and the school may not have the capacity for enforcement. The County will move forward with no right turn on red from SFDB to Bacich lot during pick-up and drop-off. SFDB and parking lot are at capacity; this would shift the problem but not fix it. The County will monitor how the change goes and fine-tune it in the future.



The County put the traffic light on a timed cycle to get past camera issues

Drivers pulling out of the Bacich parking lot waiting for the left turn arrow notice that the light sometimes misses cycles. John will pass this along to their consultant to review.

HAWK at Ash Street on SFDB

Someone complained that it takes so long for the HAWK to activate that students don't wait for the light or don't use it at all. The button doesn't react as quickly as the RRFB on the way to Kent. Due to the large traffic volumes, programming the light to flash immediately would throw off the coordination with the signals and would create congestion. Brett will reach out to CHP about enforcement for cars that don't stop at the HAWK. Part of the issue is that there is a blind curve and people are driving into the sun.

Acacia closure

Staff were going to investigate compensation for people/staff to move the barriers. Heather will email Raquel to follow up about compensation. Putting up the signs made a big difference; however, this is not currently happening. The signs are currently resting against the fire hydrant and stop sign. Since no public entity has taken charge of the signs, the County needs to authorize the road closure on a year-by-year basis. A long-term solution could be to implement a slow street, but this would need to be done as a gradual rollout paired with education. We don't have guidance from state about how to do this and don't want to do it wrong.

Macalister

A red zone was going to be implemented by Berens. The property owner was ultimately not happy with a red zone in front of his house, so the project turned into edge striping to guide people past the section.

Next Steps

- Schedule Neighborhood Captain meeting to go over overlay maps
- Gwen will supply Back to School hand out to the district to include in Back to School package.
- Heather will reach out to Raquel about compensation for putting out signs on Acacia
- County will monitor no turn on red light to see if it improves traffic back up.

Meeting Date

- Thursday 9/5 at 9:30

