

Novato Unified School District

Safe Routes to School Task Force Meeting Notes

Wednesday, April 24

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

[VIEW RECORDING - 95 mins \(No highlights\)](#)

Participants

- Gwen Froh – SR2S/MCBC
- David Hoffman – SR2S/Parametrix
- Ed Schulze – CSPOT, City of Novato
- Wendi Kallins – SR2S/MCBC
- Pat Eklund – Novato City Council
- Manijeh Larizadeh, Novato Public Works
- Diane Gasson - NUSD
- Monica Leifer – SR2S
- Gretchen Schubeck – Sustainability Coordinator, City of Novato
- Casey Ward – CSPOT Committee
- Leslie Benjamin – NUSD
- Joakim Osthus – Novato Complete Streets Committee

Safe Routes Presentation Communication

See the attached presentation on [Back to School](#)

Safe Routes is working with the Novato School Travel Working Group to develop a communications plan to better promote the program. A flyer will go into the back to school package and Leslie will be using Peach Tree to deliver messages.

E-bike Discussion See the attached presentation [Ebikes](#).

- E-bikes over 20 mph are considered motor vehicles and not legal on streets without license and registration. Manufacturers allow them to switch into "off-road mode" over 20 mph.
- ER doctors seeing injuries like motorcycle crashes. Central Marin PD will register bikes at Tam High and start enforcing illegal e-bikes.
- Parent education critical - they must decide if device is age appropriate. Buy from local shops, beware false labeling.
- Sinaloa has a registration system for Ebikes but there is now new information on throttle bikes that can be switched to an “off road” mode that increases the speed. These should not be allowed on campus.
- Pat requested information to provide to the Council and Mayors meetings



- Casey suggested changing the language to “kids on motorcycles” if that’s what they are. EBikes are the future. Change language to identify whatever brands are electric motorcycles instead of identifying them as Class I, II, III, etc. so that parents can differentiate between EBikes and electric motorcycles.

Parent Surveys (School Travel Committee)

Casey presented – [see attached presentation.](#)

Survey put out by the School district in December 2023 for NUSD parents.

- 700 responses, even split across grades. 60% live within 1 mile.
- 56% drive daily, 24% walk, 13% bike/scooter. 30-35% walk or bike 2+ days a week.
- Top concerns preventing walking/biking: speeding cars, dangerous intersections, lack of bike lanes/sidewalks.
- 260 comments received on the surveys – most talking about dangers on the roads.
- Parametrix is working on creating the Suggested Routes Maps for the elementary schools. These maps will then be overlaid with the dot maps and issues map to determine where the priority areas are.
- Diane: Some crossing guards are paid for by the district where some are shown as missing in the presentation. Attempts at mitigating crossing guard concerns still seem to need additional work.

Lu Sutton Walk Audit (Martin Lezama-Lopez, Parametrix)

Martin talked through the various potential upgrades that came out of the Walk Audit. In general:

- Improve lighting and trim vegetation throughout corridor
- Upgrade three main crosswalks to High Visibility crosswalks
- Consider removing parking for active transportation improvements
- Pavement striping throughout corridor
- Curb ramp upgrades to ensure ADA compliance
- Tamalpais/Center intersection bulb-outs and/or striping
- Eliminate tripping hazards on Novato Blvd.
- ADA-compliant curb ramps throughout corridor
- St. Paul Circle intersection: potential bulb outs, refuge island, RRFB, PHB/Hawk

Encouragement Activities (Gwen Froh)

Gwen: Coming up in the Spring:



- National Bike to School Day - May 8
- Bike Hero

Next Steps

- Gwen and Diane will meet with Superintendent on EBikes
- Gwen will get a flyer to Pat
- Work on the Suggested Routes Maps over the summer
- Casey will add missing issues to issues list
- Parametrix will be working with City of Novato on Lu Sutton recommendations
- Martin will get the concept plans to Manijeh
- Call for projects in September; will work with Public Works and Parametrix to identify projects
- Working group meeting again in May

Next Meeting Date

- September 11th, Wednesday – 5:00-6:30 PM

