

Ross Valley School District

Safe Routes to School Task Force Meeting Notes

Friday, April 19
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Participants

- Fel Agrelus – Aide to Supervisor Katie Rice
- Lisel Blash – Fairfax Vice Mayor
- Jason Cardillo – Wade Thomas parent volunteer
- Chance Cutrano – Fairfax councilmember, TAM board member
- Glen Newcomer – Marin CHP
- Gwen Froh – SR2S/MCBC
- Scott Schneider – San Anselmo DPW
- Jen Shriber – SR2S/Parametrix
- Adrienne Sterling – Hidden Valley parent/PTO rep
- Loren Umbertis – Fairfax DPW
- Amanda Wagner – Brookside Principal

Safe Routes Presentations (Gwen Froh, SR2S/MCBC)

See the attached presentation on [back-to-school notifications](#) and a discussion on e-bikes. 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

SR2S wants to increase communication to parents on program offerings, events, and bike/ped safety. They currently rely on volunteers and school newsletters. The district is having conversations about shifting its districtwide opt-in policy. Amanda Wagner can mention in the context of SR2S at the next meeting. Gwen and Amanda will coordinate directly on communications.

E-Bike Safety

10-25% of bikes on middle school campuses are e-bikes. There are higher crash risks for ages 10-15. Messaging to parents is key to ensure proper bike models are purchased. E-bikes are integrated into bike safety curriculum; the focus is on education, with law enforcement as the last resort. Local bike shops have disparate approaches.



Providing shops with informational materials could help.

AB 1778 is currently in the works and would make it illegal for children under 16 years to ride Class II e-bikes.

Local councils should become well-versed in the different kinds of e-bikes, including what's legal and what's not. If a device can exceed 20 mph on throttle alone, it is out of compliance with the law unless the user has a license and registration. Currently any rider can ride a Class II. Jurisdictions can look at the Mill Valley ordinance, which puts children in a diversion program for dangerous behavior.

SR2S is not allowed to teach students who ride out of class devices. SR2S has had to cancel classes when not enough students have compliant bikes. A lot of bike behavior seems to be children's expressions of behavior they see adults doing. It is difficult for children to follow the rules when they see adults not doing the same. SR2S will include this in their messaging.

Wade Thomas Walk Audit

A walk audit was held on March 19 with SR2S, the Town, and community members. Issues found included parking in crosswalks, visibility concerns, and sidewalk tripping hazards. Potential solutions include striping, daylighting, ADA curb ramp updates, and other traffic calming measures. A traffic circle at Sunnyside & Foss could help formalize illegal U-turns and calm cut-through traffic. The next step will be for Parametrix to create a concept fleshing out these ideas.

The Town recently identified areas where trees are disrupting the sidewalk. These trip hazards will be fixed and the school will pay for improvements.

San Anselmo Sidewalk Improvements

TAM will issue call for Safe Pathways in the fall. San Anselmo is planning to submit a proposal for a large project around Brookside. This would fix the Brookmead Place walkway, put in a regular curb gutter sidewalk, and remove existing poles. A retaining wall may be needed given slope issues. A smaller sidewalk gap closure is planned to continue Butterfield Road's sidewalk on the west side of the street.

Class IV Bike Lanes on Sir Francis Drake & Olema Road Bike Spine

Fairfax, in collaboration with Parametrix, is looking at a few options on SFDB, and at the Marinda intersection.

Warren Wells of MCBC had previously done some high-level drawings with bollards; the Town can put in bollards or delineators if a design is created. Chance will circle back with Loren on this.

The Town is also looking to do something at the Broadway/Bolinas intersection.



Improvements could include adding surface color and/or bike buffer zones. The Town is also exploring Broadway in front of Fairfax Lumber for traffic calming as a lot of cyclists and pedestrians use this road instead of SFDB. Improvements could include traffic cushions and improved pedestrian facilities.

Fairfax received approval to update its bicycle and pedestrian master plan. Funds will be available in the next fiscal year.

Next Steps & Next Meeting Date

- Gwen will provide a back-to-school flyer to the school district
- Amanda will get back to Gwen on whether an opt-in option for communications is feasible
- Parametrix will continue working on the Wade Thomas concept plan
- Chance or Wendi will send Loren Warren's drawings
- Parametrix will come up with high level designs for Fairfax
- Next meeting: September 13 at 10 AM