

San Rafael School District

Safe Routes to School Task Force Meeting Notes

Wednesday, May 1
5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Participants

- Leo Bezard – Office of Supervisor Sackett
- Gwen Froh – SR2S/MCBC
- Matthew Hartzell – WTB/TAM
- Monica Kainz – Former Laurel Dell parent, neighbor
- Wendi Kallins – SR2S
- Monica Leifer – SR2S
- Maika Llorens Gulati – San Rafael Councilmember
- Bob Marcucci – SRCS Asst. Supervisor, Business Services
- Craig Murray – Merrydale Road resident, HOA president
- Julia Reinhard – Aide to Supervisor Mary Sackett
- Pilar Sanchez – Family Liaison, Laurel Dell
- Mira Schwirtz – SR2S/MCBC
- Patrick Seidler – WTB-TAM
- Jen Shriber – SR2S/Parametrix

Back-to-School Presentations (Gwen Froh, SR2S/MCBC)

Back-to-School Communications

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. SR2S can coordinate with Christina Perrino to help communicate to the district.

E-Bike Presentation

[Presentation on E-Bikes](#)

Gwen discussed the increasing popularity and accessibility of e-bikes, particularly in schools, due to decreasing prices and the introduction of a rebate program. She emphasized the need to prioritize the safety of children when advocating for cycling, and presented [data](#) showing that e-bike crashes involving 10 to 15-year-olds were the most prevalent, with significant injury risks. Gwen also explained the different classes of electric bikes under California law, and recommended pedal-assist bikes for younger riders. Wendi mentioned upcoming legislation that would initiate a pilot program in Marin County to restrict the use of Class II e-bikes by children under the age of 16; each jurisdiction would be responsible for passing its own ordinance. Patrick predicted that 90% of adult bikes sold in the U.S. would be electric within the next five years. Gwen



confirmed that e-bike safety was included in their education program, which teaches around 10,000 students annually.

Spring Encouragement Program (Gwen Froh, SR2S/MCBC)

End-of-year encouragement events include National Bike to School Day on May 1. The ongoing Rainbow Quest Challenge will wrap up with this event. A raffle will be conducted at Davidson and the Bike Hero Award nominations are currently open. More information on events can be found at the [SR2S website](#).

Laurel Dell Mapping (Wendi Kallins, SR2S)

A workshop was held with Laurel Dell parents to identify walking and biking routes to school. Identified routes include on-road facilities and trails. A [suggested route to school map](#) for distribution to families is being developed based on this input.

Wendi presented a [map](#) of student locations, routes to schools, and issues near the school. A work in progress, this map can be used to identify priority issues along routes that a high number of students would take to get to school. Several issues were located along Woodland. Meeting participants proposed various solutions, including the creation of a park and walk area behind Davidson Middle School. The team agreed to explore creating wider sidewalks, encouraging drivers to use Andersen instead of Woodland, and implementing a new concept for safe routes to make the industrial streets surrounding the schools more pedestrian-friendly.

School District Update (Bob Marcucci, SRCS)

In the 2024/2025 school year the district will reactivate the Short School campus as the San Rafael Early Learning Center with 7-8 classes of TK students. After one year some of the classes will go back to their home schools, as TK facilities are currently being built at three school sites. School bus will be available to transport students to the campus.

Report Back – City of San Rafael (Jen Shriber, Parametrix/SR2S)

Civic Center Pathway Grant

The City received a federal Reconnecting Communities & Neighborhoods grant for \$1,940,000 for design and construction of a multi-use pathway filling a critical gap under Highway 101 at the Marin Civic Center SMART station. The grant represents 80% of the project cost, and the City is obligated to provide a 20% match. The project will particularly benefit students traveling to Venetia Valley School, as well as connecting community members who live west of the highway to parks and public facilities on the other side. Currently students walking or biking to Venetia Valley need to navigate busy roads, highway ramps, and train crossings. This project is possible through collaboration between SMART, the City, County, and community.



The City plans to issue an RFP this summer to bring on a consultant team to assist with the project design and preparation of the PS&E. The City anticipates there being community outreach as part of the design process.

Other Grant Applications

On behalf of the City, Parametrix is preparing an Active Transportation Program grant application to fill one of the few remaining gaps in Marin County's North-South Greenway. Project extents within downtown San Rafael are Misson Ave from the SMART Trail to Tamalpais Avenue, Tamalpais Avenue from Mission Avenue to Second Street, and Second Street from Tamalpais Avenue to Grand Avenue. The project will involve construction of a Class IV bicycle facility along this extent to connect to the existing local and regional bicycle network. This project will also enhance last-mile connections for bicyclists who use the Downtown San Rafael Transit Center as well as the future bike share station to be installed at the SMART light rail station at this major countywide transit and rail hub.

Citywide Bike & Pedestrian Plan (CBPP)

The update to the existing plan will be forthcoming. The City anticipates issuing an RFP for this effort in the summer. To check in for updates and/or to provide suggested projects, please visit the CBPP webpage: <https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/citywide-bicycle-and-pedestrian-plan/>

Safe Pathways Funding (Wendi Kallins, SR2S)

Wendi led a discussion of potential projects for the upcoming TAM Safe pathways call for proposals. This includes the following projects:

- Canal/Bellam (the City recently applied for grant funding but was not successful)
- Concepts from the Sun Valley and Coleman walk audits
- Addition funding for the Civic Center Community pathway

San Rafael Crossroads (Patrick Seidler, WTB-TAM)

Patrick presented a concept to improve safety and connectivity around Davidson and Laurel Dell schools. The concept would add Class IV or Class I facilities on Andersen, Lindaro, Jordan, and in front of Davidson. It would also include a protected intersection at Andersen/Lindaro. This would connect to the Mahon Creek Path and the North-South Greenway.

The team discussed the sanctioned encampment along the Mahon Creek Path, which could pose a barrier to use. San Rafael and the county applied to the state for funding and received nearly \$6 million to serve the unhoused people along the path; more information can be found on the [county's website](#). Project Homekey is also building housing throughout Marin for the chronically homeless.

Next Steps



- SR2S will send the back-to-school flyer to Christina and will coordinate with her on the communications process
- SR2S will study how to use the overlay map to prioritize Laurel Dell issues
- SR2S and WTB-TAM will follow up on the crossroads concept, potentially with the San Rafael BPAC

Next Meeting Date

- September 4 at 5 PM (tentative). The meeting date may be adjusted once the City's back-to-school open house schedule is published.

