

Ross Valley School District

Safe Routes to School Task Force Meeting Notes

Friday, April 18

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Participants

- Erick Betancourt – SR2S parent volunteer
- Eileen Burke – San Anselmo Town Council
- Jason Cardillo – Wade Thomas parent volunteer
- Gwen Froh – SR2S/MCBC
- Josh Goldberger – Brookside parent volunteer
- Chris Landles-Cobb – Ross Valley School District Trustee
- Wendi Kallins – SR2S
- Scott McDonald – TAM
- Bryn McKillop – Town of Fairfax
- Susannah Mrazik – Aide to Brian Colbert
- Nick Pappas – Wade Thomas parent
- Susannah Saunders – San Anselmo Climate Action Commission
- Scott Schneider – San Anselmo DPW
- Jen Shriber – SR2S/Parametrix
- Talia Smith – County of Marin Intergovernmental Affairs
- Sharanya Varma – SR2S/Parametrix

E-Bike Ordinance (Talia Smith)

Talia discussed the increasing number of bicycle crashes involving school-aged youth in Marin County, particularly those related to e-bikes. She highlighted a significant spike in accidents from 2019 to 2023, with a 110% increase among school-aged youth. Talia also mentioned that the crash rate for 10 to 15-year-olds using e-bikes was five times higher than any other age group.

In response to these findings, Assembly Member Damon Connolly introduced a bill in December 2023 to classify Class 2 (throttle) e-bikes in the same category as Class 3 e-bikes, requiring riders to be over 16. The bill was passed as a Marin County-only pilot in March 2025, allowing municipalities to pass ordinances limiting throttle e-bikes to riders over 16. Implementation is planned in the summer to ensure coordinated implementation and messaging from all jurisdictions. The County is also in conversation with various police agencies for coordinated enforcement.

Enforcement will be limited to those incidents where students are caught breaking other laws, since it is not practice/legal to pull over people based on their suspected age. This gives law enforcement officers an additional tool for behavior stops and would be a secondary infraction on a primary infraction. Some agencies may also choose to



temporarily impound bikes or issue mandatory safety courses.

Talia also mentioned the formation of a special committee on youth e-bike safety and a countywide safety campaign to improve youth safety on e-bikes. Materials are currently under development.

The importance of education for parents as well as students was raised, and the County is currently discussing strategies. The issues of education for student drivers was also discussed, and Gwen will follow up with the Archie Williams principal about the SR2S Share the Road class.

Review Overlay Maps (Sharanya Varma & Jen Shriber)

Sharanya presented the newly created overlay maps, an internal tool combining existing data with task force-identified issues for each school. The maps include data on existing and proposed bikeways, high collision network locations, crossing guard locations, student populations, and suggested walking and biking routes. The tool is intended to help prioritize schools for safety improvement plans and guide long-term planning for improvements. By the next task force meetings, Parametrix will complete the issue prioritization and will provide next steps for the timing of the plan development.

The formation of a BPAC for Fairfax was mentioned. The BPAC will be formed as a temporary steering committee for the town's bike plan update. Contact Bryn for more information at bmckillop@townoffairfax.org.

Education & Encouragement (Gwen Froh)

Student Tally Dashboard

Gwen highlighted the new [Student Tally Dashboard](#), which allows people to see the results of the bi-annual student tally surveys assessing travel modes at each school. Currently only Fall 2024 data is available on the dashboard, but more data will be added in the future. The student tally surveys are typically carried out in September and May.

Past Events

Lucas Valley Elementary School won a virtual visit by Ruby Bridges on March 28. Ruby Bridges is a popular event held at more than 30 Marin County schools each year to honor Ruby Bridges' courageous walk to school at just six years old, when she faced hostile crowds daily as the first African American child to integrate an all-white elementary school in the South.

Upcoming Encouragement Events

The Spring Adventure Challenge is a monthlong event ending on National Bike to School Day. Students who walk, roll, carpool or ride the bus will receive stickers at the welcome tables to mark on their challenge cards. At the end of the challenge, students will have the chance to win raffle prizes. National Bike to School Day will be celebrated with bike trains, welcome tables, and a fire truck escort from Town Hall to Wade Thomas on May 7. The challenge kick-off went very well at Wade Thomas, but



Brookside had some challenges. Jason offered to help Josh out and invited all the team leaders to join in a chat group they had formed for Wade Thomas.

Nominations for the Bike Hero Award are now open. Parents, administrators, teachers and friends are invited to nominate a student Bike Hero, any student who gets up early to ride regularly, inspires others to bike, and obeys all rules of the road. Two Marin County elementary and middle school students are selected to win a \$50.00 gift card to a store of choice. Last year 150 nominations were received from around the County.

Grants Received (Towns)

Fairfax

Fairfax received TAM Safe Pathways funding for one large project and two small projects. The large project will update the traffic signal at Glen and Sir Francis Drake to support White Hill Middle School. The small projects will refresh the bike spine markings and implement crossing improvements at Marinda and Sir Francis Drake.

San Anselmo

San Anselmo received Safe Pathways funding for two large projects and four small projects, all of which will close sidewalk gaps. The large projects are phases 2 and 3 of an ongoing gap closure project at Brookside Elementary. The small projects will close gaps on Santa Cruz, Woodland, Brookmead, and Sycamore.

New Issue: Visibility at Green Valley Ct. (Wendi Kallins)

A substitute crossing guard at Hidden Valley raised the issue that cars leaving the school pull into the crosswalk to turn left onto Butterfield, as bushes on the left side of the road impede drivers' views. Susannah Mrazek has previously discussed this with the Butterfield committee. Susannah is working with the County DPW on the issue, but the specific location may be private property, which could complicate improvements.

Next Steps

- Parametrix will finalize overlay maps and issue prioritization and will report back with a timeline and direction for safety plans.
- Gwen will follow up with the Archie Williams principal about offering the Share the Road class for student drivers.
- Parent volunteers will coordinate to share ideas and strategies for encouragement events.

Next Meeting Date: September 12, 10 AM

