

Ross School District
Safe Routes to School Task Force Meeting Notes

Monday, September 8, 2025

10:00 – 11:00 AM

[VIEW RECORDING - 61 mins \(No highlights\)](#)

Participants

- Todd Bickel – Branson School
- Laura Dewar – Parent Volunteer
- Gwen Froh – SR2S/MCBC
- Christa Johnson – Ross Town Manager
- Wendi Kallins – SR2S
- Maria Lubamersky – Ross Middle School Principal
- Susannah Mrazek – Aide to Supervisor Colbert
- Raffaello Pata – Ross Police
- David Rice – Ross Superintendent
- Jen Shriber – SR2S/Parametrix
- Richard Simonitch – Ross DPW
- Sharanya Varma – SR2S/Parametrix

[Overlay Maps Next Steps](#) (Sharanya Varma)

Sharanya presented a comprehensive analysis of school safety issues across Marin County, using data from walk audits, task force meetings, and community feedback to score 232 issues at 39 schools. She explained the scoring system, which considers factors like equity, safety, and impact. For Ross schools, seven issues were identified and prioritized. The top three issues were presented to facilitate a discussion around priorities for walk audits and corridor plan development.

Rich clarified that while Laurel Grove Avenue sidewalk improvements and Winship Avenue crossing safety projects were already in progress or funded; he agreed that the Sir Francis Drake Boulevard pathway between Renard and Garden Center College Avenue was the highest priority for further study. The group agreed that since most students using the pathway were within Ross town limits, they could limit any future walk audit to the town's jurisdiction.

The group discussed safety concerns at the Winship crosswalk near the blind S-curve, where Parametrix studies showed it would be too dangerous to add a crosswalk without a signal or stop sign. Rich explained that pedestrians should use the crosswalk at Bolinas and Sir Francis Drake instead.

Marin County School Access Safety Action Plan (Jen Shriber)

Jen presented a new TAM project to develop a Marin County School Access Safety Action Plan, which will focus on strategies to reduce crashes involving students walking and biking to school.



The project, which is just starting its safety analysis phase, will include school safety audits and development of improvement plans for up to 10 priority locations. It will also include a safety toolkit that will help jurisdictions countywide improve road user safety near schools. The project will work closely with the Safe Routes to Schools program, using existing data and collaboration for better outcomes. Jen confirmed that the final plan would provide additional justification for infrastructure grant funding needs.

Project Updates (Richard Simonitch)

Rich discussed several ongoing and planned pedestrian and bicycle pathway improvement projects in the area. He mentioned that Shady Lane will have its existing pathway improved and bike lanes added, with single-file cycling signs to be installed. The Allen Avenue project, which will provide a safe pathway from Lagunitas to Ross School, is facing design challenges due to fire department requirements and may not be completed until 2026. The final phase of the Laurel Grove safe pathways project, which will extend from Canyon to Macon Grade, is also in the works with potential construction in 2026 or 2027, depending on budget constraints. Rich also noted that some smaller accessibility projects, such as installing ADA ramps on Winship Avenue near Bolinas, are planned to be completed as part of the accessibility budget.

Rich addressed a question from David about the Allen Avenue project, explaining that while a pathway for students is planned, it will involve some loss of parking near the back gate, and he plans to discuss this further with stakeholders and David's staff once a conceptual design is ready.

Christina brought up the need for Safe Routes and community leaders to be supportive of the new state daylighting law, as implementation has brought pushback from some community members.

Safe Routes Activities (Gwen Froh & Laura Dewar)

Gwen presented an overview of upcoming fall activities. Laura shared that the PTO school program kickoff meeting is scheduled for the next day, and she plans to follow the previous year's event structure, including a fall walk and potential Ruby Bridges education in the classroom. Gwen discussed the new e-bike and e-scooter laws, and Rafaello provided an update on enforcement, noting that the new laws will likely take effect in late November.

Street Smarts (Jen Shriber)

Jen provided details on the upcoming Street Smarts education campaign, which will run from September 29 to November 14, featuring banner rollouts, school and yard signs, and social media messaging about road user safety. Wendi and Jen discussed the program's components, including the distribution of materials and templates for newsletters and social media posts. See the Street Smarts website for more information: <http://streetsmartsmarin.org/>.

Next Steps

- SR2S will start developing a walk audit schedule in collaboration with the Safety Action Plan project and local jurisdictions.

Next Meeting



- January 12, 10 AM

