

Ross School District

Safe Routes to School Task Force Meeting Notes

Monday, January 12, 2026

10:00 – 11:00 AM

Participants

- Todd Bickel – Branson School
- Christy Berg – Ross School Parent Volunteer
- Laura Dewar – Ross School Parent Volunteer
- Gwen Froh – SR2S/MCBC
- Wendi Kallins – SR2S
- Susannah Mrazek – Aide to Supervisor Colbert
- Raffaello Pata – Ross Police
- Jen Shriber – SR2S/Parametrix
- Rich Simonitch – Ross Department of Public Works

Marin County School Access Safety Action Plan Update (Jen Shriber)

Jen presented an update on the Marin County School Access Safety Action Plan. The project, which began last summer and will continue through the year, involves developing a data-driven safety action plan focused on improving road safety around schools for children walking and biking. Jen highlighted key findings from the county-wide safety analysis, including trends in crashes involving youth active transportation users and the factors contributing to these crashes. She also discussed work to develop the draft high injury network and school travel priority locations, which will be further discussed at the next task force meeting. The project team aims to finalize these items and conduct safety audits in collaboration with the school community and task forces.

Raffaello clarified that ‘unsafe speed’ is a category in the manual for reporting collisions. It refers to speeds that are unsafe for the particular context or situation: unsafe speeds are not necessarily fast speeds.

Corridor Priority Projects (Wendi Kallins)

Based on the Safe Routes prioritization process, Sir Francis Drake Boulevard rose to the top for Ross. Rich noted that the Town’s shorter-term priorities for this road are mainly fixing the existing pathway on the northeast side and improving accessible ramps and crosswalks. He mentioned that installing a pathway on the southwestern side towards Poplar Avenue would be a significant project requiring curb, gutter, and sidewalk installation, which is not included in the current five-year capital improvement plan. Rich also noted ongoing work to replace the sidewalk near a storm drain and improve the Winship crosswalk, which was planned to be deferred until the bridge replacement, though this likely won’t happen for several years. This will also include access to Shady Lane.



Town Updates: Shady Lane Bike Markings (Rich Simonitch)

Rich gave an update on the work to install shared lane markings (sharrows) on Shady Lane between Lagunitas and Bolinas. The pavement needs to be fixed in a number of places before the sharrows can be installed. Given a good weather window, it's estimated that the work will be completed in March or April.

During construction the Town would like to keep one lane open at all times. However, a full closure of about 6 hours during an afternoon will be needed to allow the slurry seal to set. Rich will notify the Branson School and Ross School in advance once a date is confirmed.

Rich noted that all Ross pathways are envisioned for K-6 students to ride their bikes on. The sharrows are primarily for the large volume of teens and adult bike riders in the area. E-bikers should also be in the roadway.

Education & Encouragement (Gwen Froh)*Education*

Safe Routes taught the fourth-grade indoor bike classes in December and is currently scheduling the outdoor classes for fourth and sixth grades. The Ross School had also requested a class on e-bike safety that includes a discussion of which types of bikes are legal.

Encouragement

Gwen noted the upcoming parent volunteer meeting on February 12. She mentioned that supplies for the second semester are being ordered and distributed, with the theme focused on Jane Goodall's work. Other upcoming events include the first Walk & Roll Wednesday on February 4 and National Walk and Bik to School Day on May 6. Laura confirmed that the Ross School will continue the walk and roll days from last year and do an event for National Walk and Bikr to School Day and is planning a week of activities during Earth Week.

Vision Zero (Wendi Kallins)

The Vision Zero Action Plan is a next step from the countywide Local Road Safety Plan and is for unincorporated areas in the county. The hope is for incorporated jurisdictions to follow their lead. The [project website](#) includes more information and a map-based survey.

Branson School Update (Todd Bickel)

Todd mentioned that, at a recent neighbor meeting, neighbors had requested a path going down Fernhill. Rich mentioned that a pedestrian pathway to Branson is programmed in the Town's bike/ped master plan, but underground work to be completed first. Work could be done to compact a shoulder for pedestrians in the meantime if there was desire. Gwen noted that there is room in the schedule for education classes at Branson.

Next Steps

- The Marin County School Access Safety Action Plan team will finalize its High Injury Network and priority areas and will report back in the spring.
- Safe Routes will develop a list of priority walk audits and corridor plans for the county.
- Rich will notify the Branson School and Ross School in advance of the Shady Lane closure



once a date is confirmed.

- List of countywide priorities for walk audits
- Gwen will connect with Todd on Safe Routes education offerings.

Next Meeting

- March 30, 10 AM

