

Novato Unified School District

Safe Routes to School Task Force Meeting Notes

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

[View Meeting Recording](#)

Participants

- Chris Benigni – Novato Public Works
- Leslie Benjamin – Novato Unified School District
- Pat Eklund – Novato City Council
- Molly Graham – TAM
- Sgt. Trevor Hall – Novato Police Department
- Matthew Hartzell – WTB-TAM
- David Hoffman – SR2S/Parametrix
- Ali Iqbal – Novato Public Works
- Wendi Kallins – SR2S
- Manijeh Larizadeh – Novato Public Works
- Natalie Levine – SR2S parent volunteer (Lu Sutton)
- Ray Rodriguez – TAM
- Geoff Rubendall – Fehr & Peers, Olive parent
- Gretchen Schubeck – Novato Sustainability Coordinator, School Travel Working Group
- Jen Shriber – SR2S/Parametrix
- Sharanya Varma – SR2S/Parametrix
- Audrey Veysiere – TAM

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

Jen and Sharanya presented findings from the project's second phase, which identified 24 priority areas countywide for deeper safety assessments, including four locations in Novato:

1. Novato Boulevard from Sutro Avenue/San Marin Drive to San Miguel Way
2. Novato Boulevard from Sierra Vista to McClay Road and Wilson Avenue from Novato Boulevard to Monte Vista
3. Novato Boulevard from Seventh Street/Tamalpais Avenue to Fawn Court
4. Diablo Avenue from Shasta Lane to Redwood Boulevard

The team analyzed crash data and identified common causes such as pedestrian right-of-way violations, unsafe speeds, and improper turning.

Next steps include three upcoming walk audits. Task force members are encouraged to attend and to spread the word to anyone who would be interested in joining:



Date & Time	Location	Meeting Point
May 19 at 8:00 AM	Novato Boulevard from Sierra Vista to McClay Road	Novato Boulevard/Sierra Vista
May 26 at 8:00 AM	Diablo Avenue from Shasta Lane to Redwood Boulevard	Diablo Avenue/Shasta Lane
September 15 at 8:15 AM	Novato Boulevard from Sutro Avenue/San Marin Drive to San Miguel Way	Novato Boulevard/Sutro Avenue

Community feedback will help inform specific safety recommendations for each location to be included in the safety action plan, which can be used by jurisdictions when applying for grant funding. A draft plan is expected in early 2027.

Please email jshriber@parametrix.com with any feedback on the priority areas.

Chris gave an update on ongoing and future work in the priority areas:

- On Novato Boulevard from San Marin Drive to San Miguel Way, the City has plans to update the existing Thorsson Court crosswalk with a rectangular rapid flashing beacon. The City also plans to update the intersection at San Marin High School, but this is contingent on other agencies' work and won't happen for several years.
- No specific work has been identified on Novato Boulevard from Sierra Vista to McClay Road.
- Novato Boulevard from Seventh Street to Fawn Court is in the middle of major roadway renovations from Diablo to Grant. There will be a three-lane road plus bike lanes and new sidewalks. This project is going to construction in summer 2026 and will last 24 months. The project also includes redesigns corners with tightened radii to slow turning vehicles.
- No capital projects are set to make major alterations to Diablo Avenue from Shasta Lane to Redwood Boulevard. Future proposed projects include a major residential development that could go in on Diablo at Redwood and would involve frontage improvements.

Corridor Planning (Wendi Kallins)

Wendi mentioned that Safe Routes will develop corridor plans for sites where recent walk audits were conducted: Lu Sutton (Center between Diablo and Wilson) and San Ramon. The City has already addressed Olive Avenue at the intersection: in the future, Safe Routes will look at Olive Avenue from the intersection to the school.

Other Novato Projects for Funding (David Hoffman)

David discussed the City's efforts to secure an Active Transportation Program (ATP) grant for design and construction of four critical sidewalk gaps on Redwood Boulevard. The segments



are located near the SMART station, from Rush Creek Place to Atherton Avenue, from Lamont Avenue to the shopping center, and near Landing Court and the Marin community clinics. The projects are in the early stages of development so far.

The application team will frame the project as serving an Equity Priority Community (EPC) to strengthen the application. Letters of support will also help strengthen the application. Task force members suggested that Marin Community Clinics and the Rancho Elementary School/Rancho Riders would be good sources for support letters. David will follow up with Pat and Natalie for contacts.

15 MPH Zones (Wendi Kallins)

Wendi discussed the County's work to implement 15 MPH speed limits on eligible roads in unincorporated areas. At this point, schools have been notified and are providing feedback until the end of April. In Novato, a school speed zone would be implemented within 500 feet of Loma Verde Elementary School on Alameda de la Loma.

Crossing Guard Program Update (Molly Graham)

Molly provided an overview of the crossing guard program's history, evaluation process, and upcoming changes. Crossing guard locations were assessed starting in fall 2025 based on established metrics. Changes were recently presented to the TAM Executive Committee and the TAM Board.

From 2023-2026, 100 guards, 96 of whom were funded by TAM, were stationed at 99 locations. Going forward, 100 guards will be stationed at 94 locations; 90 of these will be funded by TAM. Four lane roads are now required to have 2 crossing guards, and thus some guards had to be moved to those locations.

In Novato, the San Marin/San Ramon intersection will get two crossing guards. Two previously unguarded locations will get crossing guards: Center Road/Tamalpais Avenue and Center Road/Diablo Avenue. However, three locations that currently have crossing guards will have their service discontinued: Wilson Avenue at the crosswalk to the field, Sutro Avenue/Center Road, and Trumbull Road/Vineyard Road.

Outreach about the changes is ongoing and they will take effect for the fall 2026 semester.

Safe Routes Spring Events (Wendi Kallins)

Almost all schools have had education classes at this point except San Jose Middle School. San Ramon has scheduled its classes for the fall.

A bike festival was held at Sinaloa on March 28. It included helmet and bike giveaways and bike education.

A monthlong contest, Let's Planet Together, started on April 15 and will end on National Bike to School Day on May 6. Lu Sutton will feature its principal riding the Safe Routes bike blender as part of the National Bike to School Day celebrations.



The Bike Hero contest will run through May, allowing people to nominate good “roll” models at their schools. The contest typically receives 100 nominations, which are shared with school principals.

Announcement

Leslie, Wendi, and Gwen will all retire at the end of the school year. They will be missed! Jen Shriber and David Hoffman will take over facilitating task force meetings. Gwen’s job is [currently available](#), and interested candidates are welcome to apply.

Next Steps

- The Safety Action Plan team will hold three walk audits. Task force members are welcome to attend and spread the word to anyone interested in attending.
- Email jshriber@parametrix.com with any feedback on the priority areas.
- The Safe Routes team will develop a corridor plan for Lu Sutton and San Ramon.
- David will coordinate with Pat and Nicole on support letters for the ATP application.

