

## Ross Valley School District

### Safe Routes to School Task Force Meeting Notes

Friday, April 17

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

#### Participants

- Kristin Arnold – Fairfax DPW
- Erick Betancourt – Manor parent volunteer, Fairfax BPAC
- Lisel Blash – Fairfax Councilmember, Fairfax BPAC
- Kristi Fish – Ross Valley School District
- Gwen Froh – SR2S/MCBC
- Molly Graham - TAM
- David Hoffman – SR2S/Parametrix
- Wendi Kallins – SR2S
- Neda Kiani – County of Marin
- Chris Landles-Cobb – Ross Valley School Board
- Bryn McKillop – Fairfax BPAC
- Will Messinger – San Anselmo DPW
- Scott Schneider – San Anselmo DPW
- Sahar Shirazi – County of Marin
- Jen Shriber – SR2S/Parametrix
- Sharanya Varma – SR2S/Parametrix
- Audrey Veysiere - TAM

#### [View Meeting Recording](#)

#### 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. Two priority areas were located in Ross Valley: Sir Francis Drake Boulevard from Azalea Avenue to Pacheco Avenue (Fairfax) and Butterfield Road from Carlson Avenue to Rosemont Avenue (San Anselmo).

Task force members are invited to join upcoming safety audits at these two locations:

- Fairfax: May 28 at 8:00 AM. Meet at the intersection of Sir Francis Drake and Azalea (this walk audit will also include Broadway).
- San Anselmo: September 3 at 8:00 AM. Meet at the intersection of Butterfield and Rosemont.

Observations and community feedback about these locations will be used to develop site-specific recommendations for the two locations in coordination with the jurisdictions.



The final plan, a draft of which will be ready in early 2027, will inform future Safe Pathways projects and grant applications.

### **Walk Audit & Corridor Planning (Wendi Kallins)**

Wendi provided an update on Safe Routes walk audits and corridor planning.

The May 28 walk audit in Fairfax will be a joint effort between the Safety Action Plan project and Safe Routes, and will include Broadway between Claus Drive and Pacheco Avenue.

A walk audit was previously done on Butterfield Road between Green Valley Court and Deer Hollow Road. Safe Routes will develop a corridor plan based on findings.

Wendi also noted that the Town is working on plans for Woodland Avenue between Crescent Road and Cedar Street.

### **15 MPH Zones (Sahar Shirazi)**

Sahar discussed 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 Ross Valley, the sites are near Manor (Oak Manor Drive) and San Domenico (Butterfield). Speed limit reduction would occur on those roads within 500 feet of schools. Implementation is expected in summer 2026.

### **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 2026 based on established metrics. Changes were presented to the TAM Executive Committee last week and will be presented to the TAM Board on April 23. The suggested route maps will be updated to reflect the changes.

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.

The Ross Valley School District will lose crossing guards at several locations:

- Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and Tamal Avenue
- Ross Avenue and Kensington Road
- Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and Butterfield Road
- Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and Saunders Avenue

School districts are allowed to fund their own crossing guards, which would cost approximately \$25,000 per year. Once a guard is placed at a location, it must continue



there for the rest of the school year.

## **Town Updates**

### *San Anselmo (Will Messinger & Scott Schneider)*

Will reported that the design review is currently ongoing for the Butterfield/Brookside sidewalk gap closure. Construction is targeted for Summer 2027. A corridor plan is currently in development for the Wade Thomas School (Woodland Avenue).

Scott mentioned that AI will be deployed at the three signalized intersections that are losing crossing guards. This technology will detect pedestrians who run out of time while in the crosswalk and will keep the traffic signal red for vehicles while they finish crossing. The non-signalized location that is losing a crossing guard was recently changed from a rectangular rapid flashing beacon to a pedestrian hybrid beacon, which typically has higher compliance rates from drivers.

Scott noted that the Wade Thomas parking lot exit will get signage enhancement and a crosswalk across the sidewalk to raise visibility of pedestrians by drivers. This work will be done in the summer.

The group discussed the intersection of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and Butterfield Road. Chris noted that there is an issue with through traffic running the red light, leading to a number of near misses. Scott said that the Town can investigate adding flashing lights for those turning left and implementing a delay between the red light and pedestrian signal initiating.

### *Fairfax (Kristin Arnold)*

With San Anselmo's help, Fairfax is getting ready to put a slurry seal project out to bid. Some of the streets involved are part of the bike spine and suggested route to Manor. The town will use Safe Pathways funding for a sharrow refresh after the slurry seal. The work for both Fairfax and San Anselmo will be part of one contract, which will be managed by San Anselmo.

Park Road will also be repaved before the end of summer, and its sharrows will be refreshed.

## **Safe Routes Spring Activities (Gwen Froh)**

### *Encouragement*

Ross Valley elementary schools held successful Walk and Roll events in February and March. The four-week challenge just started: students will have their cards marked each week that they walk or bike to school, with a chance to win a scooter at the end. The challenge will end on National Bike to School Day, in which the fire department will be involved. Erick noted that the contest had great turnout so far, and that he was having no trouble finding more parent volunteers to help with events.



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. Last year included winners from Brookside and White Hill.

### *Education*

Most education classes have been taught for the year. This includes in-class and experiential pedestrian education for second graders and bike education for fourth and sixth graders. White Hill will host presentations on traffic laws and on-bike classes later in April.

### **Other**

Wendi announced that she and Gwen will 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**

- Safe Routes to Schools and the Marin County School Access Safety Action plan project team will hold walk audits on May 28 (Fairfax) and September 3 (San Anselmo).
- Email Jen ([jshriber@parametrix.com](mailto:jshriber@parametrix.com)) with any input about the two priority areas for the Safety Action Plan.
- Safe Routes will develop a corridor plan for Butterfield Road between Green Valley Court and Deer Hollow Road.
- The next Fairfax BPAC meeting will be held on Monday, April 20 at 7 PM at the Fairfax Women’s Club (46 Park Road, Fairfax CA).

