



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



Kentfield Task Force

December 14, 2011

Meeting Notes

Present (7)

Wendi Kallins – Program Director for Safe Routes to School; Laura Kelly –Volunteer Liaison for Safe Routes to School; Paul Miller – Director of Maintenance and Facilities; Eric Homeister – California Highway Patrol; Marnie Ganong –Parent Leader at Bacich; Heather McPhail – Parent Leader at Bacich; Dana Marotto – Neighborhood Captain.

Counting walkers, bikers and carpools in March 2012 using a scanning system

The Kentfield School District is moving forward with plans to use an on-line student travel tracking program next spring as a way to count walkers, bikers and carpools using a barcode scanning system. The system is Active4.me and offshoot of Save-a-Gallon which was tested last year at Miller Creek Middle School. The system would be used to count the number of students traveling by foot, bike or carpool in the 2012 Green Ways to School challenge. The Safe Routes to Schools countywide challenge is four weeks in length and begins in mid March 2012.

Each student will receive a small plastic tag with a barcode to attach to his or her backpack. Safe Routes to Schools will provide two scanning devices to use at school arrival time to scan students as they arrive and check-in. Students will need to register in advance of the program and receive a barcode number. The possibility of using student identification numbers as barcode numbers was explored, but unfortunately not an option.

A permission slip will need to be obtained from parents will need to be collected for all students under the age of 13 to use the bar code tag system. The process of entering registrations into

the system is time consuming, but once done, will only have to be completed for kindergarten students for future years.

Kent has already started organizing for the contest through its environmental club. They will be using it as a fundraiser for providing bicycles for school children in Africa. Bacich would like children register by neighborhood, rather than by classroom. Tracking miles, CO2 prevention, calories burned, money saved and gasoline saved are all part of the benefits of using the program.

A new on-line program called Next Door was discussed as an option to network Bacich neighborhoods. Laurel Grove neighborhood has 15 residents signed up on a Next Door group page. Heather said that Kentfield traditional forms of marketing communications, primarily emails and newsletters, are still the best ways to reach families.

Master list of school and neighborhood issues

Marnie distributed a revised version of the Safe Routes to Schools master Excel spreadsheet, which outlines 29+ issues of school and neighborhood safety issues. The list is being finalized in a format which groups school issues first, followed neighborhood issues. Each issue will be assigned a number.

The Task Force discussed many ways of sorting the issues. It was then decided that Marnie and Heather would revise and regroup the list based on the input of the Task Force, and bring the revised document to our next meeting. Issues will be grouped by School entrance; corridor issues (SFD and McAllister) and neighborhood issues.

The biggest priorities are the SFD corridors and McAllister issues (narrow gate, no crosswalk, uneven pavement, no ramp). The Greenbrae neighborhood was identified as being an extra large zone, which will require additional resources. Crossing SFD Boulevard and McAllister were identified as the two biggest zone priorities.

Wendi said we also need to develop criteria for prioritizing the issues – number of people affected, proximity to the school, level of safety, potential to increase walking and biking. Priorities will be up for discussion at our next meeting. Wendi said there are two levels: Short term projects that can be addressed right away and long term priorities which require major funding.

Heather asked how to schedule a county meeting after the list is finalized and prioritized. Wendi said Supervisor Rice would need to request a meeting. Public

Works is hesitant about a list of concerns/request, because they are extremely overwhelmed with current projects.

Marnie asked who hires the American Guard services. Wendi answered that TAM controls funding and crossing guard location assignments in Marin. TAM contracts American Guard services. An evaluation of crossing guard locations is conducted every 2-3 years in which pedestrians are counted and auto traffic measured. County locations are then ranked and prioritized for crossing guard assignments. Paul shared that at one point the Kentfield School District had crossing guards. It's been many years since an evaluation has been conducted at the Woodlands Market crosswalk. We need to request an evaluation. Wendi added that TAM does respond to mid-year requests. TAM decides where 75 crossing guards are assigned every year. Heather mentioned that she is attending an upcoming TAM meeting in January and will find out more, and the report back to us.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 25th at 9:00 am at the Kentfield District Office.

