

# Dixie School District Travel Plan Marin County Safe Routes to Schools Program



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# 1. Introduction

A Safe Routes to Schools Travel Plan is a guide to increase walking and biking to school and to reduce traffic congestion around schools through promoting walking, biking, carpool or bus travel. This plan identifies district wide Safe Routes to School goals and describes existing conditions for walking and biking in the Dixie School District. Five components comprise the SR2S program, which are described below.

- **Engineering** – Plans for improving the physical infrastructure along the routes to schools.
- **Enforcement** – Traffic safety plans that include increased police enforcement programs and education campaigns to increase safety awareness.
- **Education** – Classes and activities that teach children about safely walking and biking and the health and environmental benefits of walking and biking.
- **Encouragement** – Contests and events that provide incentives for families to choose new travel options.
- **Evaluation** – Surveys and counts are used to measure the program’s progress.

This plan was created through the cooperative efforts of district and city staff and elected officials and parent volunteers from participating schools. It covers the Dixie School District, specifically Vallecito, Miller Creek, Mary Silveira and Dixie Schools.

# 2. Goals

- Increase walking, biking, bus and carpool to school
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Reduce car traffic
- Fill bike racks to capacity
- More bike paths and lanes (that are separate from the road entrances)
- More police out on the streets to enforce the rules
- More education for drivers and students
- Increase awareness of SR2S in schools and the community
- Increase awareness of drivers to Share the Road
- Fully integrated bike/ped safety and transportation curriculum
- Integrated bicycle/pedestrian network

### 3. Task Force Members

Table 1: Dixie Task Force Membership, 2006-2007

School/ Agency	Grades Served	Enrollment	Task Force Team Leader	School Principal or Assistant Principal
Task Force Chair			Kel Harris/Phil Stack	
Dixie	K-5	396	Mark Frye	Pat Flynn
Vallecito	K-5	383	Joe Pirini/ Andy Falk	Betty Jordan
Mary Silveira	K-5	365	Ben Hulan	Jeanne Casella
Miller Creek	6-8	679	Craig Tackeberry/ Mike Schulist	Sue Akeson
County Supervisor			Susan Adams	
City Traffic Engineer			Nadar Mansourian	
County Traffic Engineer			Amanuel Haille	
Highway Patrol			Chris Rardin	
Marin County Sheriff			Dave Gallegioni	
Lucas Valley Homeowners Assoc			Patrick Hunter	
Miller Creek Teacher			Mike Schulist	
Dixie School District			Mike Schott	
Kaiser			Carol Harris	

### 4. Task Force Area Information

This section presents traffic and injury data for the district area. This data is intended to support the programmatic and engineering recommendations presented later in this plan.

#### 4.1. Traffic Counts

Traffic count data from 2001 and 2002, provided by the County of Marin, are presented below. The data are calculated as average daily traffic (ADT) volume, which is the average mean number of vehicles passing a specific point along a roadway over the course of a day. Lucas Valley Road, west of Miller Creek Road, an arterial roadway, has the highest ADT (14,800). Idyllberry Road, a local roadway, has the lowest ADT (1,800).<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The general hierarchy of roadways is local, collector and arterial. These classifications are used to describe a roadway’s function with regard to mobility and access, e.g. arterial roadways provide greater mobility, while local roadways provide greater access.

- Lucas Valley Road: 14,800 west of Miller Creek Road, 14,000 west of Las Gallinas Avenue
- Las Gallinas Avenue: 5,600 north of Lucas Valley Road, 5,600 south of Miller Creek Road
- Idylberry Road: 1,800 west of Miller Creek Road

## 4.2 Speed Data

Travel speed data provided by the County of Marin indicates that the 85th percentile speed along Las Gallinas Avenue is 35 mph. The 85th percentile is the standard measurement used by transportation engineers for determining the posted speed limit. This survey was conducted in 2001 and does not take into account the roadway restriping project that was completed in 2007.

### 4.2. Injury Data

Crash data for the period from January 1, 2001 to September 30, 2006, provided by the County of Marin, shows two reported crashes on Las Gallinas Avenue between Roundtree Boulevard and Erin Drive. Both crashes involved vehicles only and there were no injuries or fatalities reported.

# 5. Traffic Safety Plan

## 5.1. Enforcement Program

The Sheriff's Department has increased the frequency of patrols around schools. Both Marin County Sheriff and California Highway Patrol will coordinate to see if there can continue to be regular coverage at the schools.

Dixie is interested in joining the Street Smarts program.

# 6. District Wide Education and Encouragement Programs

This section provides the example programs that educate students about safe walking and bicycling and encourage students to walk and bike to school.

- **Back to school letter** – This letter highlights the SR2S program and bus use. Hardcopies could go home with students in first take home packet or email through principal lists, but not in the beginning of the year packet (see Appendix A for complete letter).

- **Bus routes maps** –Maps show the bus routes to make it easy for parents to see where their children can catch the bus. Create promotional program for buses. Send out periodic reminder that the buses are available. Perhaps offer periodic “free” rides on the bus to encourage use.
- **Create a SchoolPool map** – Map showing SchoolPool participants included with a full page describing the program for the new Dixie Children’s Fund (DCF) directory. This would necessitate assigning codes to the approximately 1,200 family addresses provided by the DCF. Code would appear under the families’ phone numbers. This could be accomplished using the SR2S SchoolPool neighborhood directory program.
- **Canvassing for engineering improvements** – on streets in front of Dixie and Miller Creek Schools. Request that TAM look at several locations for crossing guard possibilities.

## 6.1. SchoolPool

The SchoolPool trip matching service is an on-line service, provided by the Transportation Authority of Marin’s Safe Routes to Schools program, to help parents to find others to carpool, walk, bike or take the bus together. Parents are encouraged to register and they receive a match from the system. They then are encouraged through promotions to find and contact each other.

## 6.2. Greenways to School Campaign

The Greenways to School campaign, funded by a \$175,000 grant from the Marin Community Foundation’s Climate Change initiative, features the new SchoolPool on-line trip sharing program and school challenges with cash incentives. Classrooms can earn from \$50 to \$100 and schools can earn from \$500 to \$2,000 by increasing their number of green trips to school.

SR2S provides promotional banners and posters to each participating school. Materials for the classroom contests at elementary and middle schools and for team contests in high schools will also be provided. Parent and student volunteers organized by SR2S will help to promote the program and run the contests.

# 7. Evaluation Methods

This section presents example methods of evaluating the success of walking and biking to school.

## 7.1. Mode Shift

Safe Routes to Schools conducts student travel mode surveys twice a year in the fall and the spring. The history of these surveys can be found in each school’s travel plan. This information can be used to extrapolate traffic reduction and greenhouse gas reduction. Information from the Curb Your Carbon program may be able to provide additional information on greenhouse gas reduction.

Existing traffic count information from the city and county can also be used to determine traffic reduction. The bikes in the bike rack will be counted in the fall and spring.

## **7.2. Program Awareness**

Safe Routes to Schools will develop a survey to assess program awareness and attitude shifts.

## **7.3. Student and Adult Traffic Safety Programs**

Determine if all schools are utilizing the Safe Routes to Schools safety classes. Law enforcement will report on police presence at schools. Seek information from the Marin County Bicycle Coalition (MCBC) check points, if provided in the community, to determine awareness of Sharing the Road.

## **7.4. Operational Improvements**

This plan calls for collaboration between public agencies and organizations to continue monitoring infrastructure improvements presented the Implementation Matrix on the following pages.

## 8. Implementation Matrices

This section provides implementation matrices for the participating schools in the Dixie School District. Each matrix lists strategies to improve and increase walking and bicycling conditions to school. Strategies are sorted by type, i.e. education, engineering, encouragement and enforcement. Where available, the implementation status and funding source of the projects are provided. The matrices are organized as follows:

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**Matrix 1: District Wide Implementation Matrix**

Strategy	Type	Details	Responsible Stakeholder	Time Frame	Status	Funding
Back to School Letter	Encouragement	Highlighting program including bus use. Go home with students or email from principal	Team Leaders; principal district	Beginning of school year	September '08	
Bus Route Maps	Encouragement	Maps that show the bus routes on web sites	Team Leaders; Principal District	Beginning of school year	September '08	
SchoolPool	Encouragement	On-line trip matching service	Team Leaders; SR2S; district	2010		TAM
Green Way to School	Encouragement	Participate in SR2S Green Ways Challenge programs	SR2S/Team Leaders	2010		TAM
Police Presence	Enforcement	Regular law enforcement presence to rotate to each school	Sheriff/CHP	Rotate with other unincorporated schools		

Matrix 2: Dixie School Implementation Matrix

Strategy	Type	Details	Responsible Stakeholder	Time Frame	Status	Funding
Safety Education	Education	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> grade SR2S safety classes		Yearly		
Safety Education	Education	Riding with Youth Workshop	SR2S/School	Yearly		NMPP
Safety Education	Education	All School Rodeo	SR2S/School	Yearly		TAM
Walk to School Day	Encouragement	International Walk to School Day	School/Team Leader	Yearly		
Bulletin Board	Encouragement	Outside the school with information on Safe Routes to Schools	School/Team Leader	Ongoing		TAM
Spring Contest	Encouragement	Dixie has done both Frequent Rider Miles and Pollution Punch card.	School/Team Leader	March/April		TAM
Bike Train	Encouragement	Organized weekly bike trains to school	School/Team Leader			TAM
Increase pedestrian access on Idylberry Road from Mt. Shasta Drive to Mt. Sustina Court	Engineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Install ADA compliant curb ramps at the intersections of Idylberry Road and Pikes Peak Drive and Idylberry Road and Mt. Tenaya Drive. (3 total)</li> <li>- Paint high-visibility yellow school crosswalk across the west leg of the Idyllberry Road and Mt. Lassen Drive intersection. (1 total)</li> </ul>	County of Marin		Plan	



Strategy	Type	Details	Responsible Stakeholder	Time Frame	Status	Funding
Improve pedestrian crossing at Mt. Shasta Drive and Idylberry Road Intersection - Alternative	Engineering	- Four high visibility yellow crosswalks. An alternative plan includes six-foot wide pedestrian refuge islands at each crossing.	County of Marin		Plan	
Improve bicycle access on Idylberry Road - Bicycle Lane Alternative (Mt. Shasta Drive to Mt. Sustina Court)	Engineering	Construct protected bicycle lanes on both sides of Idylberry Road by removing a lane of parking on the south side of the street.	County of Marin		Plan	

Matrix 3: Mary Silveira School Implementation Matrix

Strategy	Type	Details	Responsible Stakeholder	Time Frame	Status	Funding
Safety Education	Education	2nd and 4th grade SR2S safety classes	SR2S/School	Yearly		TAM
Walk to School Day	Encouragement	International Walk to School Day	Team leader/School	Yearly		TAM
Walking School Buses	Encouragement	Walking school buses and bike trains have been organized for weekly Walk and Roll to School Days	Team leader/School	Weekly	2006-7	TAM

Strategy	Type	Details	Responsible Stakeholder	Time Frame	Status	Funding
Curb Your Carbon	Encouragement	Reducing the carbon footprint by reducing energy usages, waste and transportation	Team leader/School	Ongoing		Cool the Earth
Improve pedestrian access along Blackstone Drive	Engineering	Install approximately 15-foot radius bulb-outs and curb ramps at all four corners of the Las Gallinas Avenue and Blackstone Drive intersection.	County of Marin		Plan	
Increase bicycle and pedestrian access to school along Herthstone	Engineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Widen the pathway connecting the school property to Herthstone and Deepstone Drives to ten feet and regrade to meet ADA slope requirements.</li> <li>- Install curb ramps and move the stop sign to the east side of the path way entrance.</li> </ul>	County of Marin		Funded, under design	Safe Pathways 2007

Matrix 4: Miller Creek School Implementation Matrix

Strategy	Type	Details	Responsible Stakeholder	Timeframe	Status	Funding
Teens Go Green	Encouragement	Teens develop programs and activities	SR2S; Science teacher	Ongoing		TAM
Las Gallinas bike lanes	Engineering	Bike Lanes and traffic calming on Las Gallinas Avenue between Lucas Valley Road and Miller Creek Road.	County of Marin		Constructed	

DIXIE SCHOOL DISTRICT TRAVEL PLAN

Strategy	Type	Details	Responsible Stakeholder	Timeframe	Status	Funding
Miller Creek <i>Option 1: Construct Bike Path</i>	Engineering	Replace the sidewalk along the length of the school parking lot with an eight-foot wide paved bike path.	District			
Miller Creek <i>Option 2: Reconstruct Driveway</i>	Engineering	Move and reconstruct exit driveway approximately seven feet north to accommodate the new bike path.	District			TAM
Miller Creek <i>Option 3: Construct a Two-Way Driveway on North Side of School</i>	Engineering	Close the exit driveway to motor vehicle use to channel motorized vehicles into a single entry/exit point with three lanes. Replace the sidewalk with an eight-foot wide paved bike path.	District			TAM
Las Gallinas Avenue and Roundtree Boulevard <i>Option 1</i>	Engineering	Construct curb ramps for compliance with ADA accessibility guidelines, stripe a white ladder crosswalk across Las Gallinas Road and install MUTCD pedestrian crossing signage.	County of Marin		Plan	NA

DIXIE SCHOOL DISTRICT TRAVEL PLAN

Strategy	Type	Details	Responsible Stakeholder	Timeframe	Status	Funding
Las Gallinas Avenue and Roundtree Boulevard <i>Option 2</i>	Engineering	Recommendations from Option 1 plus tighten the corner radius on both sides of Roundtree Boulevard by extending sidewalks. Add a median tip at Roundtree Boulevard crosswalk for pedestrian refuge.	County of Marin		Plan	TAM
Las Gallinas Avenue and Roundtree Boulevard <i>Option 3</i>	Engineering	Recommendations from Option 1 plus construct curb extensions on the north and south corners of Roundtree Boulevard and a median on the outer edge of the crosswalk.	County of Marin		Plan	
Las Gallinas Avenue and Elvia Court <i>Option 1</i>	Engineering	Construct ADA compliant curb ramps	County of Marin		Plan	
Las Gallinas Avenue and Elvia Court <i>Option 2</i>	Engineering	Construct curb extensions with ramps.	County of Marin		Plan	SRPD
Miller Creek Pathway and Bridge Improvements	Engineering	Replace the existing two-foot wide path with an eight-foot asphalt path to accommodate multiple users comfortably. Create a path extension that directly connects to the school.			Plan	
Miller Creek Pathway and Bridge Improvements	Engineering	Connect the path to the existing bridge over Miller Creek and to the existing bike path.			Plan	

Strategy	Type	Details	Responsible Stakeholder	Timeframe	Status	Funding
Miller Creek Pathway and Bridge Improvements	Engineering	Replace the bridge at the north edge of school with a prefabricated bicycle and pedestrian bridge to accommodate all path users.			Plan	

**Matrix 5: Vallecito School Implementation Matrix**

Strategy	Type	Details	Responsible Stakeholder	Time Frame	Status	Funding
Bike Rodeo	Education	After School Bike Rodeo	School/Team Leader/SR2S	October	Yearly	TAM
Safety Education	Education	4th grade SR2S safety classes	SR2S/School	Yearly		TAM
International Walk to School Day	Encouragement	Participate in yearly event	School/Team Leader	First Weds Oct	Ongoing	TAM
Walk and Roll to School Days	Encouragement	The school is starting monthly (first Wednesday of every month) Bike/Walk/Carpool and Bus to school days	School/Team Leader	Monthly	Ongoing	
Contests	Encouragement	The school conducts year-round walk/bike/bus/carpool contests	School/Team Leader	All year		
Police Presence	Enforcement	San Rafael PD will provide police presence on a rotating basis	San Rafael PD	Rotate with other San Rafael Schools		
Crossing Guard	Enforcement	Provide dedicated and trained crossing guard(s) at new mid-block crossing of Nova Albion.	School District		Complete	TAM

DIXIE SCHOOL DISTRICT TRAVEL PLAN

Strategy	Type	Details	Responsible Stakeholder	Time Frame	Status	Funding
Circulation Improvements	Engineering	Switch the staff parking lot and the parent/visitor parking lot, reconfigure traffic flow, construct pedestrian path and crosswalk through parking lot, install high-visibility crosswalks at Nova Albion and Arias, and restrict parking to increase sight lines. (See district plan for more details.)	School District			
Crosswalk	Engineering	Install a high-visibility mid-block crosswalk.	City of San Rafael		Complete	
Crosswalk enhancements	Engineering	If new mid-block crosswalk is successfully supervised, consider providing further enhancements, including provision of a lighted crosswalk and/or curb extensions.	City of San Rafael		Curb extensions complete	
Speed Feedback Sign	Engineering	Install driver speed feedback signs along Nova Albion.	City of San Rafael		Complete	
Relocate Bus Stop	Engineering	Work with Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transit District to relocate bus stop and shelter on west side of Nova Albion.	City of San Rafael			
Improve Pathway	Engineering	Pave pathway between Vallecito and St. Marks School.	Dixie School District		Completed	District Funds 2005

## Appendix A: Back to School Letter



### START THE SCHOOL YEAR OFF RIGHT!

Dear Dixie District Parents:

Remember how much fun walking to school was as a child? Why not re-live those moments with your children by walking or biking to school with them today instead of driving. Physical activity at the start of the day can make an enormous difference for your children's health now and in the future. They arrive at school awake and ready to learn. Walking and other options benefit everyone including you. Please explore these options and make a choice that works for you and your child.

#### Walking or Biking

If you live close enough, consider walking or biking with your children to school, or if they are old enough, let them walk or bike with their friends. This will allow you to spend quality time with your children while giving them some healthful exercise before class. Children arrive at school alert and ready to learn. California Department of Health Services studies show that children who are physically fit score better on tests. Please remember that bikes, scooters, and skateboards must be walked on campus.

If you live too far to walk all the way to school, consider walking the last quarter mile. This allows you and your child to have a little bit of exercise and reduces traffic near the school, making it safer for everyone. **Mention new path behind MC here.**

#### Transit

Dixie is one of the few school districts in Marin with a well run bus program. Consider the big yellow bus as yet another way to reduce your carbon footprint, save gas, and reduce traffic around our busy campuses. **Mention new maps of routes and ? here.**

#### Carpool

Find other parents to share driving your children to school. This reduces the number of cars in the queue every day, and gives you more time to attend to other needs in the morning instead of fighting traffic.

*School Pool*

Checkout our new SR2S neighborhoods map in the Dixie Children's Fund directory this year. This map is broken into lettered areas. After finding the letter to match your address on the map simply look under the phone numbers of families listed in the directory for the same letter (or nearby area) as yours as a possible match to start your own walking, biking or carpool group.

*Drive Safely*

If you choose to drive your children to school, please remember to obey all traffic laws and observe school guidelines for drop-off and pick-up. Please drive slowly and carefully. **If your school has drop off or pick up policies include them here or as an attachment.** Children are unpredictable and you never know when a child might dart out in front of you. Please do not block sidewalks or driveways and stop at all crosswalks. Be sure to look right before you turn right to ensure that a child is not crossing the street. And don't forget to wave to our Crossing Guards working hard at certain busy intersections.

We look forward to a safe and healthy school year. Please consider one of these alternatives for transporting your child to school. Your choice will contribute to the health and safety of the whole community as well as your own child.