

**Kentfield Task Force
Meeting Notes
April 17, 2013
Kentfield District Office**

Present:

Wendi Kallins – Program Director for Safe Routes to School,
Barbie Sorensen - Marin Sheriff Department,
Dominick Yazzolino - SRO / Marin County
Glenn Newcomer – Marin CHP
Dan Ruiz – Marin CHP
Brian Miller – Marin CHP
Carey Lando– Senior Transportation Planner, Marin County Dept. of Public Works
Nancy Vernon – Aide to Supervisor Katie Rice
Gwen Froh - Safe Routes to Schools-Teens Go Green,
Heather McPhail Sridharan- KSD - Bacich Team Leader,
Paul Miller, KSD Maintenance Manager
Jenny Walsh -Vice Principal, Kent Middle School,
Marnie Ganong- KSD – Bacich/Kent Team Leader,

INTRODUCTIONS

Report on Schools: Go Green School Challenge - Heather McPhail Sridharan reported

The School Challenge ran from March 5 – April 5 for both Bacich and Kent. Bacich challenged Brookside and Kent challenged Hall with the purpose of getting more kids to walk or ride bikes to school. The kids registered for scanners that tracked their trips to their respective schools. There was a scanning day each Wednesday and 2 other random scanning times per month. Bacich had 60% participation and Kent had 35-40% participation. One issue was that not all the kids wanted to stand in line to be scanned (they would rather play on the playground). At Kent and Bacich, the focus was on safe biking vs. the competition.

Wendi reported that next school year (2013-2014), Safe Routes emphasis will be on the Wednesday walk and roll to school days and the contests will be secondary. The goal is for kids to walk/bike to school once a week, form groups (walking busses and bike trains) and hopefully start walking/biking more than once a week. The group discussed having CHP officers riding with kids on Bike to School Day and possibly another major event.

Kentfield Neighborhood Organization and Registration - Heather McPhail Sridharan reported

Heather announced an on-line registration process for the Active4.Me scanner which has been added to the information that automatically goes out to parents at the beginning of the school year as part of the KSD Safe Routes to School Program. The information includes a map of the 6 different Kentfield neighborhood. Each neighborhood has 2 captains who coordinate walk/bike to school efforts. Participants are encouraged to “Know Your Neighborhood” and are

included in a neighborhood e-mail list to receive on-going information about the KSD Safe Routes program, unless they “opt out” of the distribution list. This is the first time that neighborhood captains will have access to the email information and be able to contact parents directly within their neighborhood. Previously, only the school could send out the emails.

Bike Safety Classes, Pledges and Registration for Bikes

Regarding cycling safety classes outside of school, Wendi announced upcoming Riding With Youth bike classes (offered in Marinwood and Larkspur in April/May) and Women on Wheels (Corte Madera - summer). The on-going Women on Wheels is a series that teaches basics about bike control as well as more advanced skills to women. Wendi indicated that Mom’s have a big influence on their kid’s biking habits and that often children won’t bike unless their Mom (primarily) bikes; Women on Wheels has had a positive impact on getting more Moms on bikes.

Wendi announced a new Bike Riding Pledge which will be implemented at Sinoloa Middle School this year as part of our Safe Routes to Schools Bike Classes. The pledge, which both students and parents read and sign, is available on the Safe Routes to Schools webpage. Additionally, the City of Novato is doing an extensive outreach to their community to have adults sign the Street Smart Pledge to encourage safe driving practices.

Jenny Walsh mentioned that there have been issues with bikes being stolen from Kent Middle School; they were not locked. The police reported that anyone with a bike should register it at the National Bike Registry for free: (<http://www.nationalbikeregistry.com>); they reclaim many bikes that have been lost or stolen, but cannot match them up to the owner because the bike is not registered.

Police and County Updates and Issues

Jenny Walsh reported that there have been some student accidents, but that the kids don’t report the accidents to the CHP or school office perhaps because the students perceive it is their fault. She said that students must be informed that they will be held accountable for not wearing helmets by contacting their parents, but there will not be a school consequence for on-road behavior/accidents. Jenny is interested in promoting the safe driving pledge in fall at Kent MS. Agreement was made that more emphasis must be placed on making eye contact with drivers before students cross or enter the street.

Drivers are also at fault in an accident because they will check with the student to see if he/she is okay, and then will keep going without reporting the incident. The police confirmed that the data that they have about traffic accidents is not accurate because reports are not made.

Heather and Marnie stated that captains are taking a more leadership role with teaching street safety. Orange vests might make parents look more official, and police support is welcomed. Safe Routes can do training for parents and captains to teach best practices for pedestrian and

cycling safety. It was suggested that CHP should contact crossing guards about incidents because crossing guards know about the dangers and accidents that have occurred.

Bacich Issues:

CHP has been issuing tickets on McCallister because parking there has caused traffic to swerve into on-coming traffic. Stadium has a private road, but parents stop in a no-stop zone and double park and wait for their kids. The County agreed to look into getting a sign that says “No parking during school hours.”

The CHP and County agreed that Sir Frances Drake and Wolf Grade in front of Bacich are being used for Marin Catholic (MC) student parking, but could be restricted for two hours for drop off/pick up by parents during the week. There are some concerns over where MC students will park as a result; perhaps the church and Diago are better parking locations for MC students. There are only 12 parking spots on Drake in front of Bacich which taken away from MC parking, but this would significantly help with traffic flow into Bacich for school drop off.

Marnie reported that neighbors want speed limit signs and that the crossing at Laurel Grove needs to be addressed.

Discussion about the reconfiguration of Drake and Berry at Hwy 101 was held to determine potential impact on students and families. It was stated that improvements would be best to include separate bike lanes because of the speed of traffic.

CHP stated that they noticed parents are running red lights to make left turn from Drake into Bacich. The traffic light at the intersection holds up traffic because it is not “tripped” to change to green. There may be possible problems with the sun shining into the camera so sensors are not being tripped to turn green.

Back of Bacich by Kindergarten: at pickup, cars start backing up. A request was made to have a second teacher there so more cars can move into the circle relieving backup on McCallister.

CHP recommend removing parking in front of Sloat on Wolf Grade between Edna and Drake. Parking helps to reduce speed, but Sloat has parking in back of store, and this would allow more traffic to turn right.

(?) Leave signage open to 3:30 to allow for parents to arrive late. Right now it's open till 3:00.

Kent Issues:

Jenny stated that drivers who must turn left into the Kent parking lot from College Ave. are still uncertain about being able to turn at the red light; overall, people are getting better about stopping and proceeding cautiously.

Jenny mentioned that Bacich students are riding through Kent parking lot and through Kent; it's dangerous as they go through at the same time that Kent students are being dropped off at school.

CHP and Jenny suggested lowering the flashing crosswalk sign by Kent and College of Marin on College Ave; cars don't see it because of trees – it's too high. According to Wendi the crosswalk on North San Pedro, by the JCC, should not be the model because the imbedded lights are not as effective as the vertical or overhead warning systems.

May 8th is National Bike to school day and Bacich will have a parent social in the quad to which the police have been invited. May 9th is Bike to Work Day.

NEXT MEETING: Aug. 7th at 10:00 – 11:30.

Kentfield District Office- 750 College Ave., Kentfield