



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



**Kentfield School District
Safe Routes to School Taskforce
Zoom Meeting Notes
January 13 2021**

Note: due to spring break the next meeting has been changed to
Wednesday April 14 9 am

Attendance: Wendy Kallins- Safe Routes Projects Coordinator, Peggy Clark Safe - Routes to Schools, Gwen Froh Safe Routes to Schools- Education and Encouragement Director, John Neville- Marin County Traffic and Transportation, Isidro Farias Director of Capital Projects -College of Marin, Jennifer Schriber- Parisi Assoc Transportation Engineer, Matt Farber- Safe Routes Lead Instructor, Wendy Holmes- Vice Principal Bacich and Kent Middle School, Nancy Vernon- Aide to District 2 Supervisor Katie Rice, Allison Fortini-Crawford - Parent Kent Middle School, Sandy Guldman-Friends of Corte Madera Creek Committee, Anne Petersen-Kentfield Planning Advisory Board, Paul Miller-Director of Maintenance and Facilities Kentfield School District, Melanie-Wollenweber Kent MS Parent, Brea Eaton- Kent Parent Volunteer

New Lead Instructor for Safe Routes to Schools

Matt Farber will be developing and delivering curriculum for 1st-12th grade students, focused on the importance of bicycle safety, healthy lifestyles, active transportation and the environment.

Safe Routes Curriculum

Safe Routes to Schools pedestrian and bicycle safety revamped curriculum is available for live instruction virtually and for remote learning students. Safe transportation education continues to be an essential need especially now that students are traveling to and from school in the morning, mid-day and afternoons with hybrid schedules. Contact peggy@marinbike.org for more information.

Two of our on-line classes feature drone footage for a Virtual Walk Around the Block and Virtual Bike Rodeo. Local students were filmed role playing cycling and crossing intersections while practicing skills learned in Safe Routes classes.

[Pedal Playground](#) and [Chalk-N-Walk](#) encouragement resources are available to all schools in the county- Check Them Out!

School opening - update

There has been a great deal of focus on implementing the COVID safety protocols as students arrive and move through the campuses. Classrooms have up to 12 students in a classroom with the other half of the class remote learning from home. Each week cohorts rotate to campus. There are a number of students who remain at home and do not ever go to campus at this time. There are more elementary students on campus vs the number of students at Kent MS.

Many students continue to walk and ride to the schools. Several of the bike racks have been relocated on campuses to provide more space. The crossing guards are present and directing students.

Report back from Transportation Committee

The committee has been very successful and focused on addressing safety issues during the first few months of school.

Acacia street closure

This project is proceeding; it has been slow since school started up again. The committee does not want this pilot project to stop; it is important for the students' safety and the neighborhood.

The county sent out letters to the neighbors; stating the road was going to be closed for student safety during the start/finish of a school day. Signs and barricades were made available; however, individuals to put them out and back have not been identified. A need for volunteers went out to the middle school students; once the students are recruited a training will be scheduled. It has been challenging to recruit students to volunteer this year.

Allison is working with a middle school teacher to reach out to students who live in Kentfield Gardens. She has not heard back yet; teachers are very busy right now.

A suggestion was made to offer students "food" from a local shop; food can often be a motivator for middle school students. Another idea was to acknowledge students to their peers; take photos and post them on the school site. The older students do need

encouragement from parents too; the school's newsletter could still be a resource as well as the classroom teachers making announcements.

Safe Routes will look into resources for a club to make T-shirts for the students who volunteer. If that does not work out there maybe other Safe Route incentives. Brea offered to store (purchase if needed) the incentives at her home; she lives near the location of the signs; this would make it easier for the students.

Other volunteer resources may be seniors who live in the neighborhood that could help out while keeping themselves safe from virus exposure.

Conditions on Acacia have not really changed; yes, there are less families traveling to the school due to the hybrid schedule. During the very specific window of time for drop-off/pick-up drivers continue to park on the wrong side of the street in the no parking zones and drive fast because there are less students and cars on the road.

Locate possible Park and Walk areas

Update on the "bank property" as a parking location. The college is purchasing the property and is currently assessing the future use as quickly as possible. It is not an option at this time for parents.

The other options under consideration are not viable: Sloat's hours of operation coincide with the school and the areas around the hospital and bridge construction are too busy.

School administration reported they are not experiencing backed up traffic due to the hybrid schedule compared to when school is in full session.

Safe Routes to Schools mission is to encourage walking and riding not just to reduce traffic congestion. When students get exercise at the start and end of the day it benefits their physical and mental health. Efforts to encourage "parking and walking" should continue. When schools reopen the awareness to practice active transportation is vital.

Update on Sir Frances Drake

County staff meet weekly to discuss how the project is moving along and Nancy provides updates to the school to be posted on the school website. It is challenging for the school community to stay updated with so many changes going on with the school schedule and more.

Projects are moving forward and changing daily; construction trucks and cordoned off areas have parents resistant to allow students to walk or ride to/from school. Additional travel time can also be required due to construction.

The week of this meeting the traffic signals were being worked on at 3 locations on Drake Blvd. Guard rail work is underway too; sidewalks are planned to be open during the work. MMWD is also conducting a water main project at the same time. The project is moving along "on time"; the project end time is Fall 2021 (1.5 years). This is better than the original projected schedule for 2 years

Other Issues:

Melanie requested Safe Routes use a list to track issues to be addressed. It is difficult to track the status of issues especially this school year and with all the other projects going on. Wendi will update the Safe Routes to Schools Issue List and have it available at the next task force meeting.

- **Manor Ave Safety Issue**

Drivers taking a left onto Sir Frances Drake is still an issue. At one time there was a request to cut back vegetation. The county needs to send a letter to the neighbor. Nancy will follow-up.

- Fire hydrant in the middle of the sidewalk on Drake Blvd- Melanie spoke with the Counties Project Manager. The correct/best location was overlooked when they were working on the sidewalk. It is currently in the middle of the sidewalk. A change order has been requested.

Captain for Greenbrae

No update was available during this meeting. Tanya would be the person to check in with on the status of a new volunteer captain.

COM Learning Center update

Additional comment: Beth made a request to SR2S teaching staff that they continue to teach the importance of using a designated crosswalk and pay attention to the pedestrian signal. There are a number of construction trucks moving in the area daily: heightened awareness is very important right now.

Demolition of the building is complete. The Environmental Impact Report requires COM to conduct a cultural mitigation. As a result, large amounts of material need to be relocated by truck loads; restricting the use of the parking lots.

COM is moving into the second phase of schematic design. Several community meetings have been scheduled and will be announced to the public to collect feedback and submit comments. Safe Routes and the school district are invited to provide comments during these meetings.

COM-Parking Lots- Wifi Enable resources

These areas have been identified to provide wifi to underserved students to attend classes. This limits the amount of spaces available to grade level parents to use for Park and Walk.

COM-Landscape Master Plan

Major changes are planned for parking lot # 2. A public meeting was announced to community members within the radius of 10-12 streets that would be affected. Informational flyers were delivered door to door.

830 College Ave Update (previous Bank location)

COM met with school district members to discuss potential options for the building and concerns that had been mentioned. Currently COM is not planning for any major design changes; minor interior changes are needed. COM plans to use the building for similar uses as the bank - administrative offices. The building is currently set-up for these services. It may also be a “welcome center” for campus visitors.

The concerns expressed from the school were about a possible increase in vehicle traffic and the safety for students walking to both schools while crossing driveways. COM's Facility Master Plan for this location includes an EIR and a traffic study. The traffic study will include the bell schedule for the school.

A Safe Routes task force member requested COM conduct a traffic study that collects data close to the school and property under evaluation. Sir Frances Drake Blvd should not be the street to be evaluated with the building located on College Ave. The traffic study should consider who will be using the building and when and include a trip generation study.

A request was also made to COM to evaluate the crosswalk closest to the bank property. Safety has been an issue in the past and if use increases the safety of students using the crosswalk may decrease.

The County of Marin has a traffic study on a wish list to be conducted with community partners including COM for College Ave. It would include the intersection at Kent Woodlands, vehicle traffic back-ups and if the current traffic signal needs to be evaluated. Nancy proposed COM and the County schedule a call to discuss what is going on now for future planning.

CMC Flood Risk Management EIR grant proposal **[SR2S Presentation- Friend of Corte Madera Creek](#)**

Please view Sandy Guldman's presentation for specific details. Below we have noted comments and clarifications discussed during the meeting.

There are two proposed projects for the Corte Madera Creek Restoration: Low COM and KMS Reaches

Lower COM Reach Project

- Including habitat resilient to sea-level rise and climate change is a key factor to securing funding
- CMC submitted to SFBay Restoration Authority- if awarded construction could take 6-8 weeks (late August to mid- October in 2021)
- The two aerial images/slides show the creek now and the conceptual view
- Over 60 tree planting are included in the project.

KMS Reach Project

- Currently only vague conceptual plans exist.
- This project must include a construction element that addresses flooding; # 1 criteria along with environmental and recreational benefits.
- The blue areas on slide #9 identify the 100-year floodplain.
- Relocation of the multi-path to the left = looking down stream.

Questions:

Lower COM Reach- would bikes be allowed on the updated bridge? Yes, however turning left would be narrow and onto a 4ft wide dirt path. COM may decide to address this narrow way and make it wider for bikes and pedestrians. Currently not many cyclists use this dirt route/path due to the condition.

If the path is not relocated to the left side of the creek, increasing the capacity of the creek is not possible without having to install 6-8-foot-tall walls to manage the water. This is not desirable to the community.

Next meeting **Wednesday April 14 9 am**