



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



Kentfield Task Force

Meeting Notes

October 17, 2012

Present (10)

Wendi Kallins – Program Director for Safe Routes to School; Laura Kelly –Volunteer Liaison for Safe Routes to School; Gwen Froh – Teens Go Green Coordinator; Bob Goralka – Senior Civil Engineer at Marin Public Works; Carey Lando -- Nancy Veron – Aide to Supervisor Katie Rice; Jeff Kubiak – Vice Principal at Bacich; Heather McPhail Sridharan – Parent Team Leader at Bacich; Paul Miller – Director of Maintenance and Facilities; Domenick Yazzolino – Marin County Sherriff’s Department; Jenny Walsh – Vice Principal at Kent Middle School.

School Updates

The Go Green Challenge is underway at Kent and Bacich through the end of October. A barcode scanning system to electronically track the number of students who are walking, biking and carpooling to school continues to receive positive feedback. All Bacich and Kent Schools have plastic scanner “sneaker tags” on their backpacks that have a barcode on them that are scanned. The program tracks and records miles and CO2 reduction. Students are scanned twice a week. Gwen said the Middle School students perceive the scanners to be a cool thing. Heather said that there are definitely some bugs and technical issues with the scanners, but they seem to work around them.

International Walk to School Day reported large turnouts at Bacich and Kent. The Falcon News Broadcast was an effective communications tool in spreading the word to all students to partake. Heather shared that parents love this event as much as the children. Bacich reported 200-300 participants. Marin County Supervisor Katie Rice was present, and the

Sheriff's Department was also supportive and present. Sixteen neighborhood captains at Bacich helped to rally families.

A bicycle field trip is scheduled at Kent Middle School this month for 6th graders. Bacich has a Safe Routes to Schools assembly scheduled this month, as well as classes and a 4th grade bicycle rodeo.

Sheriff Update

Bike thefts have been on the rise at upper and lower Ross Valley schools including Bacich and Kent. Parts are stripped and one frame was even left on the roof at Hidden Valley. Students need to be reminded to lock up. Only one bike that was stolen was reported to be locked. Thefts are reported to have taken place during the day. The Kryptonite U-lock is the most durable choice.

Walk Audit Update – August 2012

County traffic engineers and David Parisi did a follow up to the Kentfield Walk Audit last August. Bob shared that the follow up was conducted primarily in the McAllister Avenue area near the front of the school. The speed limit is 25. Bob distributed color maps of the area that were handed out to all Task Force members to review. Current signs on the map were coded in red, and blue indicated new proposed signs. New signage will provide added attention to the school zone area, and is proposed to help increase safety.

The main walk/bike entrance area from McAllister is narrow. Packs of Kent students come through in the opposite direction in route to Kent when Bacich children are entering. The concern is when drivers turn left to head to the drop off/pick up area.

Paul said his concern is the slimness of the McAllister curb and sidewalk. The signs might create a visibility issue or force students into the street. Bob said one option might be to post the signs sooner. Safety education is important, since widening is not an option. The main problem is not everyone uses the crosswalk.

Heather suggested eliminating all cars parking on the East side of the street during school hours. Wendi said we have successfully done this in Tam Valley, and the team leader talked to all the neighbors to garner full support. The neighbors agreed. Parking restrictions was proposed as another possible solution to help clear the way for bikers.

The Task Force came up with a process to outreach to neighbors:

1. Approach the neighbors (and neighborhood association).
2. Door to door contact – just a handful of houses.
3. Heather to identify the addresses. Develop a letter.
4. County next step – Coordinate an official mailing to neighbors.

5. Board of Supervisors has to approve it

The County has also adjusted the signage at the pedestrian signal on College Ave. in front of Kent School. To avoid traffic back up it lets drivers know they can take a left turn on the red light if there are no pedestrians in the crosswalk. The signal is not for the cars, it's for pedestrian crossing. Jenny stressed that a left turn on red is needed. There was some concern of creating confusion about protocol at a red light.

The rest of the issues on the issues list are capital improvement, funding would need to be obtained.

Wendi shared that the Kentfield Travel plan is being prepared.

Carey said that Public Works has set a goal to catch up on all projects before applying for anymore grants.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 23, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.

