



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



Kentfield School District
Safe Routes to School Taskforce
Meeting Notes
Wednesday, April 23, 2013

I. Introductions

Marnie Ganong- Neighborhood Captain, Robert Goralka-Marin County-DPW, Wendi Kallins- Safe Routes to Schools, Carey Lando- County of Marin DPW, Heather McPhail Sridharan-Team Leader, Paul Miller-Kentfield-Director of Maintenance and Facilities, Nancy Vernon- Aide to Katie Rice, Domenick Yazzolino-Marin County Sheriff, Kristine Karinke- Parent/neighbor, Melanie Wollenweber- Parent/neighbor, Peggy Clark- Safe Routes to Schools.

II. Plan for SRTS application 40 minutes

There is currently a “call for state projects. This will be followed by a regional call for projects due July 24. This is an opportunity to apply for Safe Routes to Schools grants. The current list of SR2S projects (completed and under consideration) were identified. Each item was reviewed and given a priority status. Now is the time to review the priority list, look at any new issues and submit for funding during this “call for projects”. However, County public works has determined that many of the issues might be resolved with an existing funding source for Sir Frances Drake improvements.

Bob reported his office continues to review the list of projects while considering limited funding and staff availability.

Issues:

- McAllister – David Parisi, the DPW and parents reviewed the list of concerns: appropriate signage, crosswalk needs, repaving needs
- Sir Frances Drake Blvd- pedestrian safety issues, various intersection issues: site distance, crossing 4 lanes of traffic, cross walk at liquor store is a challenge. Additional groups and local business support some of these issues too.
- Laurel Grove- when students are crossing the intersection there are so many of them they spill into the street creating unsafe conditions.
- Ash Street- Request for Proposal status- engineers are looking a the right turn at Laurel Grove- there will be several

community meetings scheduled to review third party proposals along with other intersections listed.

- His office is also looking a rehabilitating pedestrian and bicycle capacity enhancements.

There are ongoing safety issues at the intersection of Via Hidalgo St. and Bon Aire Road. Many of the residents are very concerned and they do not know who to notify the appropriate agencies. Many are not fluent in English hence they are more reserved about speaking out. Many of the children travel to school unescorted and their parents are not available to come to the SR2S Task Force meetings. This is a unique neighborhood with 20-30 families with children traveling by foot to Bacich and Marin Catholic. For over 10 years this area has been very un-safe. A number of years ago over 100 signatures were collected to support the traffic safety concerns; no action was ever taken.

There is no simple fix for this area however they do feel a crosswalk and a crossing guard would help in the short term. Representatives would like these issues added to the list of SR2S projects.

The DPW will review the issues pointed out and develop options. One option may be to make improvements in conjunction with the worked planned by Marin General Hospital at the emergency entrance. The hospital is interested in collaborating with the town. One consideration was to install at pedestrian activated light. The hospital is committed to supporting the safety of all the people using the local pathway across from the hospital and the sidewalks. The overgrown vegetation along Bon Aire Rd is also an issue. Bob will check in with the hospital to learn how they have progressed with their designs and continue to encourage collaboration.

Wendi will contact Marin General to arrange a walk with neighborhood representatives. SR2S currently has a bi-lingual employee that can meet with Spanish speaking neighbors to learn their concerns and challenges. This could be a good opportunity to work with Marin General to fund a crosswalk. Bob will provide his contact list for Marin General representatives to Wendi. Suggesting a painted cross walk only could increase the safety risks for this area. It is a complicated road way and needs a professional to review the options.

The funding they currently have is specific to Sir Frances Drake Blvd. The improvements suggested for McAllister will take time to obtain neighborhood approval. It may be best to add these issues to the South Elisio project list for the next “call for projects”. There is currently no funding slated for South Elisio. The repaving planned for McAllister in the future will possibly eliminate many of those concerns for that roadway.

Bob said it is important for SR2S to commit to specific issues, projects and time lines. One possible project is a light at Bon Aire Rd and South Elisio. Currently pedestrians and cyclists must cross together; request to look at a low cost solution. There may be additional opportunities when the improvements for the bridge are scheduled; this could also be an opportunity to receive collaborative funding.

The Transportation Authority of Marin does have money for funding: Safe Pathways funds have increased and become available. The funding process for federal to local is a competitive

process. The funding starts with the state, moves to the regional level. The local funding is separate. This funding is for more than studies as it supports a project all the way to construction. Now is the time to define the projects, next would be pulling together the Advisory Committees. Residents need to attend the meetings and provide feedback on the suggestions and proposals developed.

All neighbors must approve a project before it can move forward. If one or more neighbors object then the project is presented to the board for final review. The alternatives that shows the strongest support usually moves forward.

There are at least eight hot spots on Sir Frances Drake Blvd. and the improvements planned will be a great step forward. Bob commented that now is the time to look at the more challenging improvement options, identify what all the constraints are, educate the public and insure they know what the entire project entails to reduce possible push back in the future.

There are still concerns on Wolfgrade with many of the parents at Bacich. Many would still like to have a guardrail installed. The recent collision of a vehicle being driven across the sidewalk onto a lawn still has many concerned. Many feel the sidewalk is inferior for children walking to school. Bob commented there are many issues going up and down Wolfgrade. They have looked at the collision history, the severity of collisions. All of these factors could make the current conditions safer then installing a guardrail. They also factor in the steepness of the drop off on the side of the road, the recovery area, curves in the road, and the effectiveness of the 6 inch curb to direct a vehicle back at a specific speed. He is not convinced Wolfgrade would rank very high to receive funding for a guard rail. There are no projects currently slated for Wolfgrade.

Upcoming events:

- May 3rd Kent Centennial Bike Parking from the Eco-Action and Green Team students
The event committee has requested a crossing guard; however the Sheriff would have to pay for an officer. No officer is scheduled to assist
- National Bike to School Day – May 7- planning for 15 cycling groups. Rustic Bakery is sponsoring the event along with Village Peddlers having a bike safety station. Clif is providing fruit twists, James of SR2S will take photos
- May 10 Kent Bike Donation Drive. Collecting kid and adult bikes. They will be fixed up at the San Quentin project and then given away. All bike sizes are appreciated.
- Mill Valley Middle School is also hosting a bike donation drive on May 17. The goal is to collect up to 100 bikes to give away after they are fixed.
- Women on Wheels- English and Spanish workshops are scheduled.

Police updates and other issues – Attending officer had to leave the meeting before providing an update

Set next meeting: Requested all the neighborhood captains be invited too. August 20th at 10:00 am. Location to be confirmed.