



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



Ross

**Kentfield Task Force
Meeting Notes
January 23, 2013
Kent District Office**

Present

Wendi Kallins – Program Director for Safe Routes to School, Peggy Clark –Coordinator for Safe Routes to School, Carey Lando– Senior Transportation Planner, County of Marin, Gwen Froh for Safe Routes to Schools-Teens Go Green, Heather McPhail Sridharan- Bacich Team Leader, Dan Ruiz –CHP, Jenny Walsh -Vice Principal Kentfield Middle School, Marnie Ganong-Bacich Team Leader, Debra Cole- TAM Street Smarts

INTRODUCTIONS

Street Smart of Marin (SSM) - Safe Driving Pledge Campaign (SDPC) - Presentation

Debra Cole – Power Point Presentation

Street Smarts Program web site (www.streetsmartsmarin.org) was updated last April and has resources on the new Safe Driving Pledge. Ten cities' Public Works departments have posted over 100 SSM banners across Marin. The only city that is not participating is San Rafael

The new Safe Driving Pledge Campaign is an outreach and traffic safety program for all road users. Interested Marin County residents pledge to drive safely and courteously on our streets. In turn, they receive the official "Safe Driving Pledge" static cling decal to display on the rear window of their vehicles. Posting the decal represents to others that you are driving safely and that you care about the livability of your community.

A presentation kit is available on the SSM for individuals to use in their community to promote the program. Presentation kits are available for use by community members, schools and organizations. Included in the SDPC kit is a presentation board that can be reserved upon request. This program will raise awareness, change attitudes, and improve driving, pedestrian, and bicycling behaviors in your community.

Resources and additional information can be found on the following link [SSM-SDPC link](#)

Wendi commented – this will be a useful resource for the upcoming Distracted Driver – Teens Go Green program to be conducted at Drake and TAM High schools.

Heather- commented the program is targeted to adults- how to best to direct to students, is there any other incentive other than it is a good program to participation in? Debra presented an option to create a contest between local schools or neighborhoods- "who can have the most decals" on vehicles?

Debra referred to a school in Washington DC that presented a similar program to elementary classroom students- students downloaded the pledge and presented it to their families. There are many options to bring this to the classroom and Debra is willing to support any such program in local schools in Marin.

REPORT ON SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Bacich School Report- Heather McPhail Sridharan

Kent schools are ready for spring challenge, and they will be conducting it using the Active4.Me scanner program. The challenge will be between the following schools: Hall vs. Kent and Brookside vs. Bacich. They are still researching options for rewards/prizes such as longer recess one day or a day on the green for the winning schools. Dates will be March 11- April 5th. They need to push for more kids to get tags; currently 560 kids are registered. The results are good; there are a few glitches in the system and they are working around them. Scanning will be once a week, they will promote the challenge weekly, yet still scan once a week, this is the same process they did it in the fall. In February they will get rolling with registrations. There currently 17 neighborhood captains.

Bacich and Brookside will only do scanner challenge (no tree); A student survey will be conducted to determine the winner of the challenge.

Jenny suggested offering: music in the plaza, donuts and coco some kind of reward that does not involve the teachers to manage. She really wants to push carpooling- traffic at the school end of day is still very heavy- push for remote drop off. Wendi wants to remind families The Woodlands and Safeway are not valid locations to be counted for remote drop-off as they are not more than ¼ mile away. This is an opportunity to really push for remote locations that are on the neighborhood maps. Encourage more students to meet at these locations and walk/roll together. Parents could support these efforts by offering breakfast treats at the meeting sites.

The additional challenge is getting middle school neighborhood captains; 2 of the 17 are middle school parents only- there is a need to push for the middle schools students to participate.

Gwen commented the middle schools conduct the scanning for four weeks - 2 days for scanning- one scheduled day of the week and one surprise day. The extra day really is the teaser- randomness encourages more participation. Wendi suggested possible 2 surprise days during the course of the contest.

Hall School Update- Jenny Walsh

Jenny reported there will be a change to the light at the entrance to the school campus to allow for a left turn. There is some confusion on the left turn light on what the legal maneuvers are. There is not a clear date when the changes will be made but it will happen. School administration and parents really like when an officer is posted at the pedestrian crossing light at the creek crossing.

Dan commented it is a challenge to configure the best crossing signals, it is important not to send the wrong message to the users. CHP is working with the Dept of Public Works for the best design.

UPDATE FROM COUNTY WORK- Carey Lando

Carey reported there are improved curb ramps at McAllister near Bacich. She was pleased to report there was some cost savings to the improvements at Bacich due to leftover materials from another project; therefore this was scheduled earlier than planned. There have been some delays to projects due to the cold weather. The department is looking to review the current list of the Capitol Improvements 5 year Program- looking at what streets should be included (McAllister is not in the current program). Repaving is included in this scope of possible projects- not sidewalks.

SR2S should update the current list of priority projects; what they would like to be addressed starting in 2015 for 5 years. Wendi asked if the Complete Streets policy (all road improvements shall consider all users) is included in the overlay process. Carey reported that the policy is included in all street work. Wendi requested to know when the signage is to be installed- Carey did not have a date. Others commented they have seen some preliminary posts installed, (Since the meeting, they have also installed improved signage and stripping)

Heather reported she will update the list and note completed items; it is a good feeling for the community to see what has been completed. Heather requested projects be posted on the County web site and then the schools can post this link on the school sites too. Carey will look into the request.

POLICE UPDATE AND OTHER ISSUES

Dan reported the CHP Special Enforcement and Liaison, (SEAL) that began August 1, 2012 has a team of three officers that patrol surface streets of Marin's unincorporated areas and has been very effective. The team includes 1 officer in a vehicle and 3 motor cycle officers. These officers do not respond to calls for highway emergencies as they did in the past. Now the officers can focus on the local/neighborhood needs and enforce safe streets effectively and can respond to calls faster. They have noticed a change in behavior as vehicle drivers see them and adjust their actions such as traffic calming. They do not intend to "hammer" drivers but issue warnings and increase traffic calming. The team feels the program is positive and will remain intact in spite of the office being down 5 positions. Please contact him as needs arise.

Heather commitment many parents have observed this increased presence of the officers and really appreciate the focused support!

Dan asked to let him know if the schools want to request the bike officers help on Bike to School Day, May 8th.

Survey

Spring 2013 classroom surveys will be conducted the first week of April at the following schools: Bacich, Brookside, Hall and Kent. Wendi- important for the students to tell the truth -remind them all that the survey is not part of the challenge!

Heather recently reviewed the fall survey results demonstrate the district is holding steady with numbers and all looks really good. She wanted to know why the specific results for each school were not part of the agenda. Wendi commented the specific results are kept private to encourage each school to self motivate and not to create an air of competitions between schools.

Marnie commented that walk is the same-driving has decreased - carpool went up a little. Jenny would really like to look at how to increase the number of kids in each car that arrives on campus or push the remote drop-off if families are not carpooling. Wendi commented neighborhood captains can really help with this issue. Marnie would like to target getting more kids in cars and increase carpool number by 20%. Gwen has observed kids really resist getting into cars with people they do not know. Option to promote the car pool like a bus-“OK to get into car without people you know- like riding a bus”.

Wendi likes the “PLUS 1” concept addressing the families to just add one more day to what they currently do, this will increase walking, biking and carpooling for the families that are practicing only one day- just add a day. This is simple and can be measured - each day will make a difference even for walking. The goal is to increase the routine of carpooling, walking and cycling.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, April 17 at 9:00 am

Kentfield District Office- 750 College Ave., Kentfield