



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



Larkspur Corte Madera Safe Routes to Schools Task Force  
Thursday, September 19, 2019  
Meeting Notes

**Attendance:** Megan Acevedo-Team Leader Neil Cummins, Hadar Albo- Parisi Associates, Jared Barrilleauz-DPW Corte Madera, Peter Brown- DPW Corte Madera, Dan Cherrier- Transportation Authority Marin, Gwen Froh- Safe Routes to Schools, Brett Geithman- Larkspur School District, Wendi Kallins- Safe Routes to Schools, Peggy Clark- Safe Routes to Schools, Jennifer Harrison-Team Leader Hall Middle School, David Kunhardt- Councilmember Town of Corte Madera, Kathy McLeod- Crossing Guard Supervisor, Michelle Walker- Cove School, Cindy Winters- Resident, Saum Zargar- Redwood High School, Sean Fahy- Central Marin Police, Dennis Rodoni- Board of Supervisors County of Marin, Peggy Clark and Wendi Kallins- Safe Routes to Schools

**Corte Madera**

Parking issues with Redwood resolutions

Saum reported the school received a letter from Corte Madera just a few days prior to this meeting about students parking on city streets. The school had received several emails; the school cannot direct where drivers can park off campus. He was not clear on how the 20-minute parking zones were going to work for the community.

Redwood High will continue the same parking policy from last school year. There are 637 spaces, approximately 580 are for students and the rest are for staff. Student drivers will not be able to leave the campus during lunch. This worked out very well last year. The campus parking will start October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Corte Madera will be posting the parking signs; after a 30-day waiting period enforcement will begin for vehicles parked illegally. This will be a one-year pilot program; some complaints have been received from residents. Student driving/parking tends to increase in the spring when more students tend to have their license. The school will stay in touch with the police department to learn if illegal parking increases after this date.

Marin Transit reported the buses are full and they are looking at adding another bus to the school's route.

### Crossing Guards

Corte Madera has moved a crossing guard from Pixley, in front of the school to the intersection of Tamalpais and Eastman. Local public works has the prerogative to move an approved guard to a different location. Dan Cherrier from TAM said that the next Crossing Guard audit will be in 2022. Prior counts were conducted in 2010, 2014, 2018. There are approximately 157 requests county wide for guards. It would be wonderful if all requests could be filled; however, that is not the case. Funding approved by Measure AA has been very good for the county and TAM is very grateful. It is a unique funding opportunity. The evaluation process may be reevaluated before the next count is conducted; this has not been confirmed. Crossing Guard jobs are available in Marin.

Wendi reported community members are not agreeing on the volume of people and vehicles at many of the intersections in question. The Department of Public Works (DPW) has the final word on the placement of crossing guards. In this situation the Corte Madera DPW took authority to move the crossing guard.

When an intersection has specific road facilities, they can influence how the intersection is ranked. A traffic light increases the safety of the intersection; therefore, the need for a guard can be decreased (lower ranking).

The DPW applied for a grant for improvements at Redwood Avenue & Pixley Avenues

### High Canal Path Closure

The DPW reported there is still work to be completed; the project is on track and the path should be open by Oct 1, 2019. The town has a public utility easement to maintain flood controls. If approved and funded widening of the path could be considered in the future.

### Grant applications

Corte Madera submitted 5 applications/projects for TAM funding; they hope at least 4 will be funded. Class 1 pathways will not be funded.

- Hart Street Connector
- Casa Buena Drive, complete street
- Redwood Avenue & Pixley Avenue
- High Canal

## Cove school

Drivers are running the stop sign at Golden Hind. The crosswalk will be painted to increase visibility. A pedestrian flashing signal is planned at Prince Royal Drive; a crossing guard has been requested by the community. TAM can add these two streets to be evaluated for crossing guards in the future.

Safe Routes to School offers an all school “safety assembly”. Gwen will contact Michelle to schedule.

The DPW was requested to visit the school and evaluate the locations of existing crosswalks to the school. One crosswalk ends in the parking lot.

The police patrol the hot spots throughout Corte Madera every week. Speed is an issue; pedestrians need to get a visual confirmation from vehicle drivers before crossing a street. The sun can also impair visibility for drivers during certain times of the year. The handheld pedestrian flags will be removed from all locations in Corte Madera; they give users a false sense of security.

The DPW has the planned Capital Improvements document for Paradise on-line. The issues listed are for a 5-year plan including bike lanes, sidewalks and possible lane narrowing.

## **Larkspur Updates**

### Bon Air Bridge update

The project is 1.5 years into the 4-year project. TAM did post a crossing guard to assist. The next phase will be to switch traffic to the new side of the bridge by December (north half). Then work will begin on the south side. Public notices will be sent out; updates for the project are posted on [Bonairbridge.com](http://Bonairbridge.com).

### Crosswalk studies

Several new crosswalks have been installed; two on Magnolia. Public comment has been positive. The city is working with a consultant on a study to evaluate proper design and locations. Crosswalks cannot be installed in every location. On Nov 6 a draft will be presented to the city for review and feedback.

### Curb cuts Meadowood Rose Lane Doherty Drive

These have been requested in the past for the multi-use path to the street. The DPW does not recommend them; they are used in very specific locations. People should stay

on the sidewalk and/or path until they get to the intersection. The city will be installing 150 curb ramps for ADA facilities.

### Grant application

The city submitted a grant request for a raised crosswalk on Doherty. This would make the crosswalk at the same level as the sidewalk. It is not a speed hump. It will make the crosswalk more visible to drivers. The city feels confident funding will be approved.

### Traffic Calming - South Eliseo Drive

Several improvements are planned:

- Splitter Island- to organize traffic
- Crosswalks: 2-3 will be painted to help reduce street crossing challenges
- Striping and signage

### **Other issues**

Crosswalk and crossing guard were requested at Magnolia and W. Baltimore Streets. Many students travel from Baltimore Canyon to the local schools. Crossing Magnolia is very dangerous. Many drivers do not see students in the crosswalk; parents do not let their children walk to school because they must cross this street. Other residents do not feel safe too. The police reported drivers are speeding and driving while distracted.

SR2S Issues List Baltimore Ave: "A flashing beacon has been requested at Baltimore street. It is a challenging crosswalk for students. Vehicle drivers are not paying attention when students are walking: they do not stop. The police have not been aware of safety concerns and will add it to their patrol list. A beacon may not be an option because of the number of lanes; pavement shark teeth or other advance warning facilities may be recommended".

The DPW has this location included in the crosswalk study mentioned above. Because of the number of street lanes, a pedestrian activated light does not fall within the approved criteria. The pedestrian sign that was placed in the middle of the street at the crosswalk was run over many times; it has been removed. The DPW is researching other options to meet the local codes such as a blue-out.

In November the DPW plans to have a summary of the study to present to the community. It will be available on the city's web site and include details for 6-10

crosswalk locations. Safe Routes to Schools would like the City Council to schedule a meeting to help the community understand the study and recommendations.

Ross Valley's pilot program Eyes Up- Phones Down could also be a resource for Larkspur/Corte Madera. The social media grassroots campaign encourages drivers and pedestrians to put their phones away when walking and driving. One recommendation is to put a phone in lock mode when driving.

Safe Routes to Schools has curriculum to address driving behavior for new teen drivers. It has been presented in several school districts in Marin and has been very well received.

#### Schedule Lucky Drive Walk Audit

Audit is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct 23 at 2:45pm. Meeting location is the back-parking lot-east end.

A few of the issues/concerns are:

- a. 1) Project needs safe way for bikes to go south on Lucky from 101/Creek/POC across cars with free right turns onto Doherty (to downtown).
- b. 2) Project needs safe way for bikes to go north on Lucky to continue on Lucky past cars with free right turns onto Fifer (to freeway).
- c. 3) Project needs safe passage on the straight part protected from cars driving 35mph, at 1400 per peak hour.
- d. Behavior: There are no stop lights from downtown end, and so bikes tend to grab an illegal crossing of the three lanes during the pulse-stop from the Tamal Vista/Fifer signal light, and cross wherever and whenever and ride in the ditch against traffic.

So three locations to fix, in three jurisdictions, Larkspur, Corte Madera and Unincorporated Marin County.

#### Safe Routes activities this year.

- Walk and Roll Wednesday – Elementary School encouragement
- I-Walk Day- October 2019
- Green Sneaker Challenge- available to schools throughout the year
- Student Travel Survey was conducted in late September for most schools.

- Park and Walk- Parents and students are encouraged to find a parking location that is at least a 10-minute walk to campus. This establishes good habits for younger students, and it is not that far for the younger students to walk.

Set Next Meeting

Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 3:30pm