



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



**Safe Routes to Schools
Larkspur Corte Madera Task Force
Zoom Meeting Notes
September 16, 2020**

Attendance:

Wendi Kallins- Safe Routes to Schools, Charles Lee- Parent and Town Council Member, Rob Morton- Hall Middle School Parent, Gwen Froh- Safe Route Program Director, Jennifer Harrison-Hall and Redwood Team Leader, Julian Skinner- DPW Director City of Larkspur, Jared Barrilleaux - DPW Sr. Engineer Town of Corte Madera, Megan Acevedo - Hall MS and Neil Cummins Team Leader, James O'Brien-TAM Crossing Guard Consultant, R.J. Suokko - Corte Madera Director of Public Works, Cheryl Longinotti- BPAC, David Parisi- Parisi Engineering, Peggy Clark- Safe Route to Schools, Saum Zargar - Redwood High School Assistant Principal, Patricia Stoliar- Age Friendly Corte Madera

Transportation Planning

[Covid Back to School Toolkit](#) (presented in July 2020)

Safe Routes toolkits [Covid-19 Toolkit Supplement](#) (available in Spanish)

Please view the Toolkit Supplement when reading the notes below. To learn more about:

- How to Set-up a Transportation Committee
- Park and Walk Locations
- Pop-Up Infrastructure
- Sample Letters
- Appendix (Oregon Metro)

Oregon Metro has developed a very extensive Toolkit. Many of their resources will be included in SR2S Toolkit Supplement: Pop-up Temporary Streets: one way streets, sidewalk extensions, communications/outreach, bike parking.

How to form a Transportation Committee

Jen has taken the initiative to start the process. How to identify who needs to be on the committee: team leaders and task force members, public works staff, BPAC members,

other volunteer parents, school administrators, students, school operations, PTA. Not all individuals can attend meetings; however they must be kept informed (public works and school administration).

Identifying Park and Walk Locations

Some locations were identified at the last meeting: Corte Madera Park, and the towns' parking lot. The [Safe Routes to Schools Suggested Routes Maps](#) are available (some have dated information) to help identify additional locations. All property owners must submit written permission to authorize parking in advance.

Resources are available on “how to develop a Park and Walk Program” at your school. Safe Routes has piloted this program with great success and has resources; signs and suggested messaging for encouragement.

Schools have yet to announce campus schedules for the am and pm with the hybrid model. There will be an increase in vehicle traffic near schools. A Park and Walk program will reduce the traffic and give students an opportunity to get some exercise before entering the structured classrooms. Due to the bus service being stopped to Corte Madera/Larkspur schools at least until December 31, 2020 advance planning is very important. Doherty Drive will be heavily impacted with vehicles if alternative options are not made available.

Corte Madera and Larkspur have great roadway facilities that will encourage more walking and biking. A number of years ago when Doherty Drive was closed the number of students cycling increased significantly to Redwood High and the increase for Hall was 50--60% due to the schools promotion. Increased bike parking locations will be needed if the numbers increase during Covid.

Identifying Pop Up Locations

Planning for Park and Walk before considering any pop-up locations can require less time from volunteers. There are a number of steps to have successful pop-up locations. Pop-ups can include widening lanes and sidewalks, providing students more space. Some are very temporary (moved daily) or in place until pre-Covid travel resumes. This all must be approved in advance by the towns Department of Public Works.

Routes maps are helpful here too; identifying routes students currently take and how/if they will be impacted once the the campus entrances/exits are determined for the students. Sample letters are available to obtain approval from property owners, Department of Public Works and to recruit committee members.

Oregon Metro (appendix) has helpful information called “school streets” that includes: concepts, locations, materials needed, education and encouragement, health and safety precautions. Information on one-way streets, sidewalk extensions/bike lanes, examples for communicating the changes in the community and secure bike and scooter parking.

Bus Service Cutbacks

The Safe Routes student travel survey reported about 15% of students use the bus. About 10% of Redwood students take the bus.

Marin Transit service (as of this meeting) is limiting the number of riders to 9 passengers on the larger busses and 4 on the smaller buses. Bay Area Transit services are collaborating on protocols and messaging throughout the area. More details will be coming and may include increasing the number of passengers and reducing the required space from 6 to 3 feet on a bus.

[RE: Public Transit Service Update for Schools \(Supplemental School](#)

[Service\)](#) The following information was copied from the above document/link. This was provided by Marin Transit on August 10, 2020. In summary there will not be any bus service to the schools at least until December 31, 2020.

Select Supplemental routes will be suspended at least until December 31, 2020. These routes were identified largely because they do not parallel any or some portion of an existing fixed route service. Therefore, if a student were not able to board a bus due to capacity constraints, then they would be left at the bus stop with no other transit option to get to school. The routes that have been identified as nonoperational for this school year are:

- *Route 113 serving Redwood HS from East Corte Madera*
- *Route 117 (old) serving Hall MS from Corte Madera/Larkspur*
- *Route 119 serving Redwood HS from Tiburon/Belvedere*
- *Route 139 serving Terra Linda HS from Lucas Valley/Marinwood/Terra Linda*
- *Route 154 serving Sinaloa MS from Olive/San Marin*

Many more details are provided in the link above.

Discussion

Jen, James and RJ recently met as part of a TAM crossing guard committee to analyze the scoring process. During the meeting RJ presented a map he developed indicating the access points for Cove School and Neil Cummins. They discussed approaching some homeowners about posting temporary no parking zones to assist with remote dropoff.

Cheryl offered to help with contacting neighbors. Charles will check in with RJ to learn how he can be supportive and keep an eye on Neil Cummins; he lives very close. Rob can help with Cove School, he does not have much knowledge of Hall yet.

The DPW was invited to a meeting with Safe Routes and school principals on 9/24/20. If they could not attend they will be contacted when more solid plans/requests have been developed. TAM has not announced the availability of any funds for the individual cities/towns to assist with pop-up facilities.

The school district at the time of this meeting planned to resume school the week of Oct 5th, 2020.

School start and end times for the middle and high schools have not been determined. Once they announce when campus will re-open those times could be different if a hybrid schedule is implemented.

Safe Routes Education and Encouragement Programs

Cove School has scheduled all pedestrian and bicycle education classes including the Pedal Playground the week of September 21, 2020. Safe Routes instructors will meet with each grade via Zoom.

Educational resources remain available to all schools and community members. Please visit the following links to learn more:

[Remote Learning](#) Pedestrian and Bicycle Education. Classes are available for remote learning and on-line live. Safe Routes staff is available to meet with students to present all grade level classes. Education presentations include drone footage of our bicycle skill stations to make class fun for the students.

Pedal Playground

A Pedal Playground is an arrangement of connected streets with roadway features that are free of motorized vehicles. It is a fun space for students to develop their confidence as they navigate streets, intersections and crosswalks.

Safe Routes to Schools instructors are available to chalk out a Pedal Playground. Please contact peggy@marinbike.org to schedule your FREE Pedal Playground now.

Family Biking

Is a brief presentation for adults and student to watch together; teaching all how to ride safely while abiding by traffic rules. With more young cyclists on the roads for the first time during Covid-19 best practice lessons are very important.

[Family Biking Live](#) on October 15, 2020 ([pre-registration link](#))

This is a free 1 hour webinar to help parents identify when their kids are ready to ride on the road and will offer safety tips, helmet fitting, and learning how to navigate the road while riding with your kids.

International Walk and Roll to Wherever - October 2020

The links below provide information for parents and students on how to participate, have fun, win an ice cream gift card and an Ortlieb bicycle bag. This information has been emailed to schools as well.

[K-5 Schools iWalk](#)

[Middle School iWalk](#)

Corte Madera Updates

A project has been completed at Redwood Ave and Pixley Ave. This is an intersection that had lost a crossing guard last school year because it was moved to Tamalpais requests from the town. TAM provided funding; the improvements are ready for the opening of the school campus. Improvements include “bulb outs” and a rapid flashing pedestrian light.

A Complete Streets Project was completed on Tamal Vista between Pfeifer and Madera including: sidewalk improvements, crosswalk improvements at the busy collector street with bold paint and modified striping for bicyclists and pedestrians.

The Redwood Highway Class 1 path project is underway and on going for a month or more. The damage from the tree roots will be fixed.

The town's preventive maintenance projects will be starting in October. About 20% of the town's roads will be recoated; with roadway striping updated once the recoating is completed. The project to update 65 ADA curb ramps has been completed.

Larkspur Updates

The DPW has completed updating all the planned curb ramps in town. This included a project on the sidewalk in front of Hall Middle School. There were curbs that had tripping hazards; they were redesigned. Curb ramps at Lucky and Doherty intersection to the Redwood High School parking lot have been updated.

Doherty Drive was scheduled to be repaved next year. It will be pushed back a year due to an undergrounding project by PGE. All of the overhead wires on Doherty by both schools will be moved underground. PGE has it scheduled for the spring 2021 and during the day. If school is back in session the DPW will be speaking with them regarding the potential traffic impact.

After 3-4 years the town has acquired the right of way to complete the path through Rose Lane. A few more procedural steps need to be taken; then the fence at the end of the path will be removed. Students will now be able to use this path to reach the schools without having to use Camellia Circle. The DPW hopes to get it out for construction before the rainy season begins.

The Bon Aire Bridge project continues; the plan is to get more of the sidewalks open. The South Eliso and Bon Aire signal is still on flash mode; meaning no walk signal. If the crossing guard is in place when campuses reopen it should not be an issue. If a light is flashing red a walk signal will never flash.

Phase 1 of the Doherty project has been completed by the high school parking lot with the solar panels. The first half section of the path has been widened by 8 feet. The DPW will seek additional funding to complete the path all the way to Lucky.

Next Zoom meeting

Wednesday, January 20, 2020 at 3:00pm