



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



LARKSPUR TASK FORCE- SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

MEETING MINUTES

MAY 20, 2009

Introductions/Attendees ()

Attendees: Wendi Kallins- Director Safe Routes to Schools, Peggy Clark- Safe Routes to Schools, Julie Elam- Marin Primary, Kelly Hanley-St Patricks Mike Myers-larkspur Public Works, Tasmin Pesso Team Leader Redwood High School, Hamid Shamsapour –Larkspur Public Works, Dave Wilkinson-Larkspur Parks and Rec, Marilyn Landsay Millias Team Leader St Patrick’s School, Nancy Weninger - MCBC Joan Lundstrom Larkspur City council

Documents Distributed:

SR2S Back to School Letter

School Updates

Tasmin reported- Neil Cummins participated in the Fall International Walk to School day(125 bikes at rack); however the spring contest will not be hosted this year as the new team leader became seriously ill and could not help anymore. The fall classes and rodeo were completed with success. Bike to Work Day was a success and the Principals from Hall and Neil Cummins were present.

Hall Middle school – Not much activity this year. Our teen coordinator continuing to try and make contact. SR2S has had a meeting with the Assistant principal and the non-Motorized pilot evaluation team but we have not seen much since then. We had great teen leaders before, but they have moved on..

Redwood – Sustainability Week was a success – student presentations were great. The schools applied for Walk Bike Marin grant money for bike racks and received the funds. Tasmin is pushing to have racks placed at the football field too. Debra C is trying to introduce School Pool to the school this fall.

Kelly- St Patrick’s reported- they conducted the Frequent Rider program- they prefer the 6 weeks vs. 4 weeks. A 5th grader won the bike this year!

Marin Primary – Julie reported that Allison Fragakis was a great volunteer for Safe Routes this year! They are waiting for the results from their walkabout. They are eager to get their transportation and renovation plans finished.

Joan addressed Hamid regarding- Dougherty and Heather Way path

Hamid commented- project is in the design phase – goal is for this summer

TRAVEL PLANS

Wendi distributed- finalized travel plans- the next step is to obtain endorsement for each schools Travel Plan- get signatures: School- PTA, District, City – It is very important that all parties reviewing and signing understand the plans. If they need time to review – provide it. It is best for all groups to embrace the plans for the future. If they have questions this is good.

TAM hopes to have all the Travel Plans posted on their web site by the fall

Wendi distributed document: how to evaluate SR2S program. Discussed various ways to achieve goals that were set at the beginning. The following is the evaluation methods chosen

The Twin Cities Task Force has identified three objectives and evaluation methods

1. Mode shift will be measured through the Student Talley surveys in the fall and spring
2. Traffic reduction will be measured through observation of the drop off lines and using any existing traffic counts that the cities already have.
3. Behavioral change will be measured through parent surveys.

Joann addressed Hamid- are there any traffic counts to provide SR2S? - He was not aware of any

Joan commented- when St Pat's argued for a crossing guard -a traffic survey may have been conducted – that may be available/a resource?

Wendi commented- the stated goal is to prevent cars from spilling into the roadway – prevent a queue- important to keep an eye out for changes– is the queue being reduced in length and time? These changes indicate a change in behavior. To measure attitude is very difficult. It is best to conduct a Parent Survey- SR2S would facilitate that survey.

Wendi distributed the- Twin Cities Action Plan –It includes every strategy for every school- education, enforcement, encouragement, and engineering. Corte Madera DPW conducted a review of the engineering projects.

Hamid commented- He has updates/comments for Larkspur and he will email those to Wendi- he distributed a few copies at the meeting with his comments

Julie commented- Branch road near the school before Corte Madera Ave- wants to know if there is Public access to the bike path. Kids use the path – it is not paved- would like it be included. Hamid said it was public.

Wendi commented- this is a really important step –need public works to sign off on Travel Plans-now they can move to implementation mode. It is important to have this available for Public Works so they can refer to this document when planning projects.

Joan commented- city process- request city/town to accept document- proper language is important

STREET SMARTS

Hamid commented- Larkspur, Corte Madera and Mill Valley participated in the pilot program- it was a success and will be rolled out in 5 more communities this fall. There will also be a summer and parks campaign. StreetSmarts identified the hot spots of: speeding cars, running stop signs, not yielding – counts were conducted before and after the campaign- the survey showed improvement- success-

Joan commented- the banners were in such demand several were taken and placed in towns not in the pilot program.

Hamid commented- not every city has GIS capability. He is volunteering his time to map the sites that do not have the ability

Wendi commented- Paradise has developed a SR2S Task Force- Lycee, Marin Montessori and Marin County Day are meeting to develop strategies - all schools can work together on safe routes on Paradise. The bike path ends about 2 blocks before MCD. MM requested to have a shuttle stop in front of the school- this would encourage more students to use the bus. Consider having parents parking remotely – picking up the shuttle to the school. The Paradise Drive Task Force is sending a letter requesting this be considered. This decrease in cars may open up the dirt path area. The 3 schools are working well together.

Kelley commented- where are the bus stops. Is this plan something St Pats could be considered for as well? There are many students from the east side of Corte Madera that could use the shuttle on the return trip. Wendi will send her a copy of the letter and maybe St. Pat can write one as well

SCHOOL POOL

Wendi commented- Transportation Authority of Marin has request for qualifications for a computer matching program. This program would be similar to 511 but it would not compete with it. The TAM program would have parents sign up on line- find families on their route. TAM has to review applicants and would hope to have the program up and running by the fall – next school year.

It is important SchoolPool still be encouraged- important to keep current programs running

NEXT STEPS

Wendi commented- SR2S has lost funding for bikes for the contests- SR2S is reviewing the 10 year program. Considering making a shift from rewarding to “this is what we do” “this is our culture”. Encourage annual participation with the schools. Weekly or monthly walk/roll to school days. Promote events via school news letter etc. Contest would still be available and each school will select what is best for them.

Hamid commented- Class 2 bike lanes extendednextended- more and more connections are being made – create a class 2 along Magnolia where there is not enough room there will be sharrows.

BACK TO SCHOOL

Wendi reported- SR2S has developed a template letter to be addressed to Principal or Headmaster. The letter includes information on the various modes of transportation available to get to school. The letter must be tailored to each schools environment.

There is also a StreetSmarts back to school package

SR2S –ABC Power Point will also be available. We encourage parents to present at their back to school night.

NEXT STEPS

Next meeting in the fall- have a great summer!!