



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



**Mill Valley Safe Routes to Schools Task Force
Thursday, February 26, 2015
Meeting Notes**

Meeting Attendees:

Wendi Kallins- Safe Routes to Schools, Peggy Clark- Safe Routes to Schools, Lt Ken Dunkel- MV Police Department, Ryan Erving- Parent Edna Maguire, Carey Lando- Senior Planner/ County of Marin, Kim McFerrin- Team Leader Old Mill School, Des McKissock- Marin Horizon School, Stephanie Moulton Peters-City of Mill Valley, Brian Miller- CHP, David Parisi- Parisi-Associates, Maureen Parton- Aide to Supervisor Kate Sears, Tricia Satake- Team Leader/MVBPAC, Renee Shelton- Team Leader Old Mill School, Cecilia Zamora- MV DPW, Clay Kunz- Parent Strawberry Point School

Announcements:

Family Biking Friday, March 27, Mill Valley Middle School, Mill Valley 3:30 to 5:30pm
Comments: Maureen Paten offered to promote via Kate Sears office. Send info to school principals and MVPD.

PTA Agendas- Stephanie reported she plans to be on the PTA agenda before Bike to School Day in May. She and Wendi will bring attention to the SR2S program needs and meet each school's PTA President. Also request PTA Council support their SR2S Team Leader. This is a good time as the PTA's are establishing their budgets for the next school year. It is important for each PTA to have a line item to support SR2S efforts at their schools.

Spring Contest SR2S needs to know ASAP what schools would like to host a Spring Contest. There are several contest options for school leaders to select from. Contact Wendi for details

Infrastructure Issues and Updates

City DPW Updates – On March 6 there will be a ribbon cutting for the pathway “round-about”. The BPAC has been working with the city of Mill Valley regarding pedestrian issues on the path along with the other agencies.

Mill Valley's objectives: update the status of the “completed projects list”, update SR2S projects, and update the maps and the SR2S Travel Plans including the “code of conduct for shared pathways”. The next meeting to address these objectives is March 11 at 7:00pm.

The City of Mill Valley is also looking at the Steps Lanes and Paths (SLP) studies that are available for review on the MV BPAC web site. It has all the SLP maps. The city would like all comments submitted by April 5, 2015.

Old Mill will be conducting the same survey for suggested routes as MVMS did last year. Edna Maguire is also collecting survey/map details by sending out forms to grades 4-5 students.

Old Mill Team Leaders have a challenge using the SLP maps because the colors used are all the same. Families and students using the lanes have requested a ramp to take their bikes up; during their routes home. Many students cannot ride home because of the hills, but they could push their bikes up a ramp alongside the stairs. This would reduce after school traffic at pick-up.

The BPAC is reviewing the project list by a sub-committee. Alta Planning will also evaluate the list and prioritize the projects. On April 30 a transportation update will be presented.

County updates

Strawberry Point School- Caltrans is still looking over short and long term projects. The Bike Plan in unincorporated areas is also under review with this project. Dan Dawson is the lead and he welcomes comments be sent to him.

Bike lanes north of Seminary Drive are under consideration. The north bound lanes are very narrow; one consideration is to add more road pavement. The south bound lane also needs improvement by De Silvia Island Dr. and the roadway under the freeway.

Handout for BPAC update on list- from engineer-

The BPAC list was distributed- no comment were made

ISSUES list- wendi **attach handout**

Wendi presented the “issues list” that has been compiled over the years. Some of the items are already in progress or have been completed. The process for prioritizing includes the “zone” in relation to the school property or adjacent to the school or in a neighborhood of the school. As issues come up they will be added to the list. Wendi will remove the ones in progress.

Carey reported the new sidewalks by Horse Hill and the bike lanes on the north side of the road are complete.

Comments: This area is monitored by the Mill Valley police, CHP and County Sheriff.

- Vehicles are parking in the bike lanes forcing cyclists into the road.
- On Lomita –east of the school cars are also parking illegally.

- Ring Mountain parking- the vertical parking needs to be changed to parallel parking. Vehicles backing out do not see cyclists coming down the road.
- Bike lane; cars is still parking in the bike lane. Comment: If old vehicles are parked illegally contact CHP- SEAL team

Blithedale Exchange report- TAM is conducting a study along with the County to improve the safety for all the road users. There are 500-600 people/pedestrians using the facilities daily. The study will include existing conditions and to develop solutions for immediate safety concerns and in the next five years.

The public meeting/presentation earlier in the month was well attended (approx. 60 people). The people attending had a very positive/constructive attitude. Some of the challenges are getting from one neighborhood to another safely by bike or walking. In the past Strawberry School was designated as the “over flow school” which added to the traffic issues to the school. The School District now tries to assign students to local school; however it is still a big issue for the district.

Possible improvements:

- Bike Lane marked through the exchange
- Crosswalks
- Enforcement increased
- Prohibiting turns a specific crossings

The area is over 100 years old and no road way changes have occurred in the last 60 years. The new standards will allow improvements. The improvements will be expensive.

East Blithdale and tower

Comment: The lights are out of sync; therefore traffic backs up during drop in the mornings. Vehicles get delayed and start making illegal maneuvers.

David commented that a study had been completed 2-4 years ago. The challenges are the volume of traffic, 12 bus routes and many other road users. There is a recommendation to install a pedestrian island and possible 3 vehicle lanes.

Parking issues around schools

Old Mill School

Vehicles are randomly parking in crosswalks and double parking near the school. Unsafe parking results in safety issues for pedestrians, cyclists and other drivers. This has been an issue in the past at Old Mill.

The Principal is actively seeking ways to improve safety by placing cones in the red zones, by requesting MVPD to come and patrol more frequently. One solution to decrease traffic was to teach the crossing guard how to manage the flow of pedestrians when traffic is heavy. The next action by the MVPD may be to issue citations as encouragement to obey the laws is not working.

Comments/recommendations: Post a notice in the school news letter that citations will be issued to drivers parking in the red zones by the MVPD. Develop a campaign/outreach to educate and then enforcement by making use of the MV city web site.

Update on bike path safety improvements and the Redwoods pathway

The County did not have an update for this meeting but will provide one after their next staff meeting.

Maureen reported that County Parks, Open Space, MVPD, CHP, The Redwoods, Marin County Bicycle Coalition are conducting a full spectrum campaign and education outreach program. Once a program is developed it will be presented to the Board of Supervisors. The goal is to provide a clear and safe message to all users

Possible changes:

- Reduce the speed limit on the path in high pedestrian areas
- Install signage along the path addressing the various users and safety.
- Post signs to path users they are entering a heavy use area
- Install pathway stripping
- Re-direct cyclists that want to go faster to use Camino Alto- in the future more bike lanes will be installed along this road.

The San Francisco Bicycle Coalition has been updated on the safety issues along the path.

Sycamore/Path Roundabout comments: There are no signs directing path users. The people walking do not know where to go. They are walking against the intended flow.

Pathway by The Redwoods- There are a number of issues for the residents and students using the sidewalk and paths. Many residents have challenges hearing students when they are behind them on bikes. Drivers leaving the parking lots do not have stop signs; therefore they pull out into the sidewalk /path before seeing path users/bikes.

Recommendations: Develop an education campaign for students on safety and appropriate behavior when cycling near seniors and other path users. Suggestion to engage the students to develop the campaign topics. Ask the Leadership students to embrace the project at MCVS and Tam High.

Neighborhood Route Mapping update

The deadline for getting the survey/map results into the city is the end of March. Team Leaders were asked to get in touch with the BPAC on their schools progress and to learn how the BPAC/city would like to receive the survey information. There is a specific way to sort the information.

- Edna Maguire: the PTA is conducting a large survey, they are not asking for maps but list many questions.
- Strawberry: they would like to conduct a map survey
- Old Mill is conducting the Go Green Challenge starting in March. They would like copies of the SLP maps

Team Leader Wants, Needs & Resource-

Old Mill – conducting Go Green Challenge and Bike to School Day in May

Marin Horizon- The update to Monford has been completed. They plan to update the Traffic Management Plan. They would like to see the speed limit be 25 miles/hour. The roads are very narrow and pedestrians walk in the roads, they are promoting walk and bike on Mondays and will conduct a contest too.

Edna Maguire- conducting monthly walk and roll days, the PTA is getting more supportive, they are considering hosting a spring contest.

Next Meeting April 30th at 9:00am. Meeting room to be determined.