



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



**Mill Valley Safe Routes to Schools Task Force  
Meeting Notes  
Wednesday April 17, 2019**

**Attendance:**

Wendi Kallins- Safe Routes to Schools, Peggy Clark- Safe Routes to Schools. Hadar Albo-Parisi & Associates, Jacqueline Graf-Reis- Mill Valley Police Dept., Clay Kunz- Team Leader Strawberry School, Tracy Lee- Team Leader Old Mill, Lisa Lund-Team Leader Strawberry School, Brian Miller- CHP Officer, Stephanie Moulton Peters-City of Mill Valley, Christina Mueller-Parent Edan Maguire School, Maureen Parton- Aide to Kate Sears, Alan Piombo-Mill Valley Police Officer, Kelly Zalewski-Marin Transit, Gwen Froh- Safe Routes to Schools, Cary Hueser-Parent, Beth Cherry- Parent Tam High, Liz (Mor??? last name and correct email address needed)

**Team Leader issues and activities**

[Mill Valley Safe Routes to Schools- Level of Participation 2018-19](#)

Safe Routes to Schools Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety classes have been or will be presented before the end of the school year in the elementary and middle schools. A Share the Road class recently piloted at San Marin High School will be offered to Tam High next school year. The goal is to present the safety curriculum (Cycling and Driver Safety) to all freshman students. The PTA's assistance to schedule the classes at Tam High would be very helpful.

Tam Valley School needs a parent Team Leader. The principal has been very supportive of the education and encouragement program; however, a parent is needed to organize encouragement events.

**Bike Month in May**

Team Leaders attending the spring Team Leader meeting were presented with promotional resources for Bike to School Day. Each school will be requesting nominations for Bike Heroes: students who bike to school. Students that travel by bike either on their own or with an adult are encouraged to be nominated. Each school will announce their winner at the end of May.

SR2S Newsletter is emailed to all Task Force members and volunteers. If you are not receiving the notices, please check your spam folders. If a person would like to receive the newsletters contact: [wkallins@igc.org](mailto:wkallins@igc.org).

SR2S has piloted a Park and Walk encouragement program this spring at Loma Verde School in Novato. The program encourages drivers to park within walking distance of the school (1 mile or less) and walk to school with student(s). The program has been a success and will be presented next school year too.

The SR2S Student Travel Survey will be conducted again this spring in May. Once the data for last fall and spring is collected, SR2S school report cards will be generated and distributed to each school at the start of the next school year.

The Mill Valley Police Dept is available to support SR2S educational and encouragement programs. Officers will be out supporting school activities on Bike to School Day. There are officers who patrol by bicycle on the police force. The police force is also using social media resources to update the community.

Mill Valley Middle School's Student Council is working on a plan for Bike to School Day. There are two new teachers supporting the efforts of the students. Students direct the program at the school along with support from SR2S staff.

The Mill Valley MUP Share the Path "lolly pop" signs have been put up again. The signs are rotated each year to maintain visibility by path users. The police dept. and County Parks are working together to address concerns regarding electric assist bicycle speeds and dogs off leash on the MUP. Speed limit signs are posted along the MUP and they change in areas of high pedestrian use.

Camino Alto Road is currently being restriped to include a bike lane. This new facility will be promoted as an alternative for faster cyclists. Signage will be placed on the MUP to direct expert and faster recreational cyclist to use the bike facility on the road vs. the MUP.

### **Team Leaders Updates:**

#### **Strawberry School**

This will be Clays last year as the SR2S Team Leader- ***Thank you Clay for 5 years of support!!!***

Walk and Roll for Bike to School Day is encouraged. Students will be presented stickers for participating. There will be a group of students cycling to the school from downtown Mill Valley. Police support on Bike to School Day is welcomed.

#### **Old Mill School**

Each week Walk & Roll to School is hosted. On Bike to School Day students will be cycling as a group from downtown. Ryan from Tam Bikes Camp will be accompanying the students and parents. Support from the police dept. is welcomed.

### Tam Valley Parents

The number of students traveling by bike along Shoreline has increased. Parents would like the county to address the overgrown vegetation and to consider options for building a MUP on the south side of the roadway. There is a drainage ditch that runs along a good portion of the roadway that could potential be covered to create more space for pedestrians and cyclists (Pine Hill Ave to Tam Junction).

Road safety is also an issue in the mornings and evenings when the sun obstructs visibility of drivers.

Maureen reported she will contact Caltrans regarding the overgrown vegetation and learn more about options for a MUP along Shoreline.

The 12-year long quest for Caltrans to address safety concerns resulted in the MUP along the Coyote Creek funded by the County instead of Caltrans. The County was proactive to address student and resident safety by redirecting them off Shoreline to the McGlashan pathway in Tam Valley. Students are encouraged to use the pathway and not use a route along Shoreline or through Tam Junction.

### Tam High School

The incoming PTA Chair is Beth Cherry will be working with Gwen from SR2S to increase student participation in the Teens Go Green program at the high school.

The school has put any changes to the bell schedule on hold for now.

### **Rodeos and classes this year.**

[Mill Valley Safe Routes to Schools- Level of Participation 2018-19](#)

### **E. Blithedale Paving**

Parisi Associates is working with the City of Mill Valley to address improvements on East Blithedale Avenue. Historically the road's intended use was as a narrow, old county road. Over time it became a main corridor for drivers from Hwy 101. It is a narrow road with several trouble areas including limited visibility, drainage and road surface issues.

Some Issues to be studied:

1. Park School- The intersection/crosswalk at the school now has blinking light and the sidewalk bump out has been helpful. The intersection remains very challenging for all users. Vegetation must remain cut back
2. Vehicle drivers use Nelson as a cut through neighborhood road. Additional red curbs have been requested however the City views the parked vehicles as resources to slow traffic with the narrowing of the roadway.
3. The intersection by the pharmacy has several safety challenges.

5. Visibility for drivers on E. Blithdale are also under study.

### **Yellow Bus Program**

The City of Mill Valley continues to work with the school district and Marin Transit to develop solutions for increasing the number of student riders on the Yellow Bus and local transit routes. The location of yellow and public bus stops plays a factor in the bus routes. Not all requested locations provide enough room for the bus to pull over or turn when needed. Tam Valley was included in the original yellow bus plan; interest from families in the area was too low to continue that service. Many families live on hilly roads. It was determined that once they arrived at the bus stop locations they just kept driving to the school since they were already on the road.

There is a challenge for getting the word out to families about the bus. Incoming families need to learn about the bus before the start of each school year so they can plan. Getting information to the exiting 5<sup>th</sup> grade students headed to the Middle School is also important before the start of the school year.

Liz and Cary have offered to assist with promoting students taking the bus in Mill Valley. They are concerned the Yellow Bus program will end if more students do not use it. Stephanie and Officer Alan offered to meet with them to discuss options to promote the program and getting more students from the hillside neighborhoods to take the bus too.

Cary offered to help Stephanie market the program. There are and can be more creative ways for students at the various schools to make use of the bus before and after school. Many students need to get to after school programs in Mill Valley. The yellow bus could help and reduce the number of vehicles on the roads in the afternoon. A buddy program could help to encourage younger riders too. They are looking into options including social media and roadway banners to get the word out about the bus.

### **Bike Theft**

The police were pleased to report the number of bike thefts is down. A total of 7 bikes have been reported stolen; at least 4 of those bikes were not locked and/or were high-end bikes that were left out overnight. When students lock their bikes the number of stolen bikes is lower. Bicycle owners are encouraged to register their bikes with the city to assist with returning them if they are stolen and recovered.

### **Mapping update**

**MVMS Safe Routes to Schools suggested route map attached.**

Final edits to the maps are being made, a final call for comments has been made. Once the city approves them; SR2S would like each school to have them digitally available on all the school

websites. If printed maps are desired, either the school district should be asked if they will print it, or perhaps someone could donate the money for printing.

Comments:

- MVMS- information is needed on how students from the Almonte area travel to the middle school.
- Mill Valley Elementary School should be labeled as Old Mill School
- A place marker for the location of Tam Valley School needs to be added to the map.
- Kevin will submit his comments to Hadar directly.
- Tricia will also submit comments

**Next Meeting**

Sept 12, 2019 at 10:00am. Location to be announced.