



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



Mill Valley Safe Routes to Schools Task Force

Thursday January 30, 2020

Meeting Notes

Attendance: Gwen Froh, Peggy Clark and Wendi Kallins- Safe Routes to Schools, Sarah Adams- Team Leader Edna Maguire, Kevin Cuffe- Parent Tam High, Sarah Estes- Smith Aide to Kate Sears, Amanda Finlaw-Mill Valley School District, David Hoffman- Parisi Engineering, Cary Hueser-Parent Mill Valley Middle School, Lisa Lund-Team Leader Strawberry School, Des McKissock-Marin Horizon, Stephanie Moulton-Peters- City of Mill Valley, Christina Mueller- Team Leader Edna Maguire, Stephen Oldknow- Parent Tam Valley School, Carey Lando- Marin County DPW, Serra Levin- Parent Edan Maguire, Jen Reynolds- Parent Mill Valley Middle School, Gabe Cohn-Parent Tam Valley School, Tenley Harrison- Parent Old Mill School, Mary-Alice Cardenas -Tam Valley School

[Mill Valley Safe Routes Issues List](#)

[School SR2S Routes Maps](#) (go to meeting notes attachments)

Yellow Bus Update

The School District, Mill Valley City representatives and Marin Transit analyzed the program last year to prepare for the coming year. Ridership for the yellow bus program is robust. There will be another meeting in early March to evaluate the program moving forward; it will come down to funding.

Stephanie has been meeting with other school districts to learn what their needs are and what are the challenges to face. The City of Mill Valley and School District is committed to developing a future for the yellow bus program moving forward.

Tam High (new issue to agenda)

Kevin met with the principal of Tam High regarding the schools parking policy for students. They are focused on developing options to reduce the number of students that drive to school. The Environmental Club and the Leadership program are involved in evaluating how to reduce students and parents driving to campus. The school is considering conducting a parent survey to gain more information of who walks, bikes, carpools and uses mass transit. Gwen suggested they also consider a student survey.

Mapping updates

The new Safe Routes Issues List stemmed from issues identified in the mapping process. It will be used to guide the process for identifying and prioritizing those issues that are along the suggested routes to schools. making and updating the maps. The maps have been updated with many of the facility improvements and will continue to be updated with issues as they develop.

Tam Valley Issues

After reviewing the map presented at the meeting, the following comments were provided: SR2S will email a digital map to Task Force contacts for review.

The map needs to include all of Tam Valley including existing trails, bike routes, bus routes and the feeder streets including Shoreline Hwy. A mile radius to Tam Valley must be identified including park and walk locations. There are many park and walk locations for Tam Valley school.

Marin Ave ends with a curve approaching Bell Lane. The road is narrow and experiences heavy traffic during school drop-off and pick-up hours. Parking is

permitted on one side of the road only (no space for parking on the inbound lane). A road facility to increase safety for students cycling to and from school is needed to help reduce school traffic.

Safe Routes to Schools has worked in other school districts and has been able to get no parking during drop off and pick up hours, by a school; it has been more difficult to re-route traffic to be one-way during specific school hours. It will be important to get the school community and neighbors engaged and working together to make safety improvements. Meeting with homeowner associations is also needed. Short and long term solutions need to be identified.

- The intersection of Richardson Way and Marin Ave is very dangerous.
- Poplar and Pine Hill neighborhood must be included on the map.
- Road delineators would be helpful for the bike lane on Bell Lane.
- Recommendation made to build a bridge once the McGlashan multi-use pathway is extended down Tennessee Valley Road.

Edna Maguire Issues- Map Review

The latest edition of this school's map was not available for this meeting. A few issues were discussed and will be added to the updated map and issues list. Safe Routes and Stephanie were successful in the installation of the sidewalk on Lomita Drive. Now is time to address other feeder routes to the school. The County, School District and PTA need to meet to plan for future road facility safety improvements.

It is a challenge to encourage walking to the school when there are no sidewalks. Many residents and school parents park on the sidewalk and in the bike lanes making it unsafe for students to walk and roll to school. Overgrown plants also create barriers for students walking on sidewalks. The Counties Department of Public Works should be contacted to address these issues quickly.

Some years ago, the school requested the County contact the community about parking on sidewalks, specifically Lomita and Shell Roads. Private property must be considered when the County is evaluating requests and recommendations. Many of the issues on Shell Road can be easy/low cost updates; a request was made to make them a priority for County.

Shell Road is maintained by the County and City of Mill Valley. Both entities applied for a grant several years ago to build a seamless walkway to the school; the grant was not awarded. If SR2S can make this a priority issue this will help when the next cycle of funding is available. A Walk audit was conducted a few years ago. SR2S will investigate scheduling a new one to address issues

The County continues to work with traffic engineers to identify issues and develop possible solutions. The low-cost issues are evaluated and addressed when possible. The higher cost facility improvements require extensive grant applications and can take between 2 and 5 years to be approved and funded. It is a very competitive grant application; low income communities tend to be awarded funding initially. SB1 is a new resource for funding and the funding awarded by TAM is very helpful.

An update was requested regarding the need for a crossing guard at the school: There were 150 county wide requests submitted for guards and 98 were funded by TAM. The school principal must submit a request for a guard to the Department of Public Works. If TAM does not fund the position the School District could fund or a request can be made to move a guard from one location to another.

- The Yellow Bus stop location needs to be on the map.
- Park and Walk locations identified and mapped
- Golf Course Pathway- This would be a route used by students. The city is reviewing proposals. It is important for the community to be updated and be involved.

East Blithdale Issues

A survey was conducted that collected data on the safety issues students have using E. Blithdale. The data was presented to Caltrans. The Tiburon Blvd/US 101 issue was included; this is a long-term issue to address. Caltrans is working throughout

the county on overpasses to address safety issues. It is important for the school community and residents to be supportive and communicate the importance of needed improvements to the County and Caltrans.

Pilot Program at Edna Maguire

Safe Routes to School conducts a major program evaluation every three years. A plateau has been reached to influence more walking, rolling and carpooling. The next goal is to influence a culture shift to get more parents that drive out of their cars and increase the number of times students walk/roll to school to weekly.

Safe Routes will begin the process this school year for a new pilot program. Three schools have been identified for the pilot; Edna Maguire is included. Research studies will be gathered this school year and the program will be implemented in the fall of 2020.

The program is focused on identifying key factors that influence behavior changes. One component SR2S has used to encourage student/parent participation has been offering students rewards such pencils, eraser and bracelets to travel green to school. This pilot program will look at other ways to influence participation without prizes. Parent surveys will be conducted, and focus groups will be tasked to learn about issues/barriers (including if a family has children in more than one school) to develop new options.

Safe Routes is very excited about conducting this pilot at Edna Maguire School. The school has a strong school administration and teaching staff and decent infrastructure around the school campus.

Next Meeting

May 21, 2020 at 9:30 Edna Maguire School