



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



Mill Valley SR2S Task Force  
Thursday , Sept. 12, 2019  
Meeting Notes

**Attendance**

Sarah Adams-Team Leader Edan Maguire, Hadar Albo- Parisi Associates, Kevin Cufee- Parent Tam High, Ryan Erving- Team Leader Edan Maguire, Gwen Froh- Safe Routes to Schools, Cary Hueser- Parent Mill Valley Middle School, Clay Kunz- Mill Valley BPAC, Lisa Lund-Parent Strawberry School, Stephanie Moulton-Peters- City of Mill Valley City Council, Christina Mueller- Parent Edan Maguire, Maureen Parton- County of Marin, Peggy Clark and Wendi Kallins- Safe Routes to Schools, Sarah Estes- Smith-Board of Supervisors, Kristen McCarthy- Parent Old Mill School, Shaun McCracken- Mill Valley Police, Amanda Finlaw- Mill Valley School District

[Handout- Mill Valley Yellow Bus Pilot Project Sales Update-Sept 6, 2019](#)

**Yellow School Bus**

Stephanie provided a history of school bus program in Mill Valley. The school district and Marin Transit will continue to partner on the program. More pass sales are needed. The single ride booklets are selling.

The morning routes have a strong ridership, the number of families along the bus routes that are not taking advantage of the program is unknown. The Task Force is developing a plan to target these families and provide them with information. SR2S staff will work with Amanda to reach out to families not using the program. Smaller size buses could also bring the cost down. The dual routes with four runs per day is effective. The morning buses are full, but for the Strawberry route. The Homestead route is full in the AM with seating available in the PM.

Several of the biggest barriers identified are families do not know about the program, especially when they are new to a school and people get into a pattern and do not want to change it. Cost has also been a challenge mentioned by non-users.

When students know others on the bus, they are more likely to want to take the bus. Older students on the bus can be part of a buddy system for the younger students to encourage riders. In time the routes and neighborhoods may change; this could be an opportunity to increase families along Blithdale to ride the bus.

A suggestion was made to meet parent/students at a bus stop to learn more about the option to ride. A stronger promotional program is encouraged and viewed as key to increasing ridership. The PTSA at each school must have all the details at the start of the school year to promote. The Strawberry PTA have been very supportive. The entire 5th grade chorus takes the bus.

Gratitude was addressed to Stephanie Moluton-Peters and Kate Sears office for their commitment to secure funding and for working with the school district and Marin Transit to make the bus program available in Mill Valley. Without their efforts this valued resource, that benefit residents with students and those without to reduce traffic would not be possible.

### **Safe Routes Program for the Fall**

The parent volunteer meeting was held in August and each school from Mill Valley had a representative present; great turn out! Recently in the IJ comments section a resident spoke to the polite behavior of students cycling the path- siting Safe Routes to Schools too.

Safe Routes to Schools encouragement program for 2019-20:

- I Walk Day- October 2, 2019
- Walk and Roll Wednesday
- Green Sneak Challenge - Fall & Spring - ran for 4 weeks ended on IWalk Day.
- Park and Walk Pilot – More locations need to be identified for off campus parking.

Classes have been presented at the following schools. Additional schools will be scheduled this fall or early spring.

Mill Valley Middle School, Old Mill, Tam Valley

### **Parent Survey:**

SR2S will be conducting the survey throughout the county. Those schools with administrative support to distribute will be asked to participate.

### **Park and Walk- encouragement program**

Safe Routes to Schools piloted a Park & Walk program at Loma Verde School in Novato last spring. The program encourages parents and students to park off campus and walk/roll to school. SR2S wants to take the focus off valet drop off zones to reduce traffic and pollution on school campuses.

The pilot was a big success at Loma Verde with campus traffic being reduced by half during the program. The school and neighboring community was very encouraged; maps were distributed to help drivers identifying off campus parking. It was a challenge to designate parking areas; however, that did not prevent the program from being a success.

### **Walking School Buses**

Parent lead walking groups are also an option. This does require more volunteers to organize and support on a regular basis. Once they are developed, habits form and relationships develop with more students walking on a regular basis.

Sara from Edna Maguire expressed the challenges they have for walking to campus. It becomes a challenge to encourage walking when sidewalks are incomplete, traffic conditions are challenging, and trash containers and mail boxes blocking a route. There have been some improvements over the years but not enough. This community is under the jurisdictions of both the County of Marin and the City of Mill Valley which creates road blocks for more improved facilities.

### **Focus Group:**

SR2S is directing efforts to focus on behavior change without needing to offer incentives for encouragement programs. Volunteers are requested to meet for a limited number of times to develop options.

### **Updates**

#### **City Grant application**

The City of Mill Valley applied for TAM funding in August 2019. TAM is scheduled to announce the approved funding in Sept or Oct 2019. Many towns in Marin applied for this funding; usually the smaller projects get funded.

Here is what was requested:

- **Camino Alto/Sycamore Avenue pedestrian and cyclist Connectivity Improvements**
  - Improved pedestrian queueing area on intersection corners

- Bicycle connectivity between bike path on southeast corner of the intersection and northwest corner of the intersection
- Replacement of traffic signal equipment
- Potential all pedestrian phase at the intersection
- Potential bicycle crossing phase at the intersection
- **East Blithedale Avenue Corridor**
  - Installation of Class 2 bike lanes, including lane striping lane, arrows, sharrows, bike lane boxes and bike lanes in both directions between Camino Alto and the City limits
- **Scott Highlands neighborhood access path**
  - Installation of new path through the golf course
  - Path to be protected by fences
- **Improve crosswalk on Walnut Avenue for the Park School Path**
  - Installation of new pedestrian access ramps, pavement markings and international crosswalk striping
- **Improve the Throckmorton Avenue/Olive Avenue crosswalk**
  - Consideration of installation of curb bulbouts and rectangular rapid flashing beacons to improve motorists awareness and visibility

### **County updates**

East Blithedale project is scheduled to begin. This is a Caltrans project. Task force members requested an update to confirm the bike lane will be included. Student crossing over the freeway need a safe route; students from Mill Valley Middle, Strawberry and Edna travel this route and it is not safe for walking and rolling. Caltran needs to consider all users in compliance with Complete Streets .

### **Mapping update**

#### **Edna Maquire**

The previous PTA had planned to fund the printing of the route maps however the funding was not approved. The map was developed some time ago using data from a survey conducted by the school. A subcommittee needs to review the current map and make update for it to be complete.

#### **Old Mill**

Old Mill does have a map it needs to be updated. There are several past Team Leaders that would have information on the development of the original map and possibly what is missing to make it current. The legend for the steps and lanes is light yellow; suggestion was made to insert the Steps, Lanes and Paths logo to identify the routes for the school map.

Wendi will schedule a map meeting to update all the maps; this will help all the school add final comments. It will help for each school to see and understand what needs to be added or removed.

#### Mill Valley Middle School

The pathways in the Almonte district have not been dedicated by the County yet. Maureen's office is aware of the legal issue to identify the paths and has an expert from the Steps Lanes and Paths Ways project that can assist in the future.

Students traveling to middle school need to have identified routes to travel through and from Almonte district. Students travel through the high school because routes are not clear to families in Almonte.

A request was made to make the colors used on all the maps uniform; it is hard to tell the difference between orange and pink. There should be a color standard.

#### Camino Alto Bike Lanes

The current road marking stop by the Safeway. Existing street parking was kept on request from the high school and the Redwoods (south bound side of the road). Parking is restricted on weekends. The city is looking into adding additional road markings to clarify where to travel on the road. The Marin County Bicycle Coalition has contacted the City Manager to address these concerns.

#### **Other Issues**

Rosemont Crosswalk Issues:

Maureen's office is receiving a number of calls regarding the unsafe conditions crossing the street during the day and the evening. The County is considering several facilities proposed for this intersection including flashing pedestrian light and improved visible paint. Road delineators were requested on the northbound side of the road too. Funding has not been identified for these proposed improvements.

Bike Racks are needed at Tam High and Mill Valley Middle School. The cost of racks needs to be researched.

Reports by residents have been made of students and adults dashing crossing Seminary Dr. Maureen's office will look to this issue.

Repaving on Monford and Janes looks great; road markings and paint still need to be added.

#### **Next Meeting**

The Mapping workshop will be on November 21 at 9:30 at Edna Maguire. There will be a few task force issues discussed there as well.  
January 30, 2020 at 9:30am. The location will be announced.