



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



Mill Valley Safe Routes to Schools Task Force  
Friday Jan 29, 2021  
Zoom Meeting Notes

**Attendance:** Wendy Kallins- Safe Routes Projects Coordinator, Peggy Clark Safe - Routes to Schools, Gwen Froh Safe Routes to Schools- Education and Encouragement Director, Ahmed A Aly, P.E.- DPW City of Mill Valley, John Neville- Marin County Traffic and Transportation, Kevin Cuffe- Parent Tam High, Amanda Finlaw - Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/Communications Specialist, David Parisi- Parisi Engineering, Matt Farber- Lead Instructor Safe Routes to Schools, Kyle Maxwell- Sargent Mill Valley Police Traffic Division, Vicky Dehnert- Marin Clean Highways, Lisa Lund- Parent, Urban Carmel - Mill Valley City Council & TAM Board Member, Sarah Estes-Smith- Aide to Supervisor Stephanie Moulton-Peters, Christina Mueller- Team Leader Edna Maguire, Clay Kunz- Parent and BPAC member, Kathy McLeod- parent and resident.

**New Lead Instructor for Safe Routes to Schools**

Matt Farber will be developing and delivering curriculum for 1st-12th grade students, focused on the importance of bicycle safety, healthy lifestyles, active transportation and the environment.

**Safe Routes Curriculum**

Contact [peggy@marinbike.org](mailto:peggy@marinbike.org) for more information.

Safe Routes to Schools pedestrian and bicycle safety revamped curriculum is available for live instruction virtually and for remote learning students. Safe transportation education continues to be an essential need especially now that students are traveling to and from school in the morning, mid-day and afternoons with hybrid schedules.

Classes are scheduled at Old Mill School as well at the [Pedal Playground](#). Both Edna Magurie, Tam Valley and Strawberry Schools have received the encouragement and safety message via [Chalk And Walk](#). Annually all Mill Valley schools schedule Safe Routes classes; hopefully they will be scheduled before the end of the school year.

The Middle School presented the Safe Route Bike Week Challenge to students last spring. We are hoping they will roll it out again in 2021. They have not scheduled the 6th grade Bike Education yet this year. There is a great number of students that bike to middle school; this path and road way education is essential for this age group.

### **Update on School Re-opening**

At the time of this meeting elementary and middle schools are on a hybrid schedule. When the county COVID mandates authorize schools to re-open to allow students on campus the district will plan accordingly.

### **Edna Maguire – review virtual audit**

During the meeting Google Earth was used to view the roadway leading up to the school. This area is managed by the County and City of Mill Valley.

On Lomita Drive the County completed roadway improvements a number of years ago. When the work was conducted drainage issues and concerns with the daycare business needed to be addressed before the roadway could be paved. Temporary striping was added for a bike lane (no signage). This November when school resumed, complaints of drivers parking in the temporary bike lane were logged. Without proper signage citations could not be written.

The County has painted the bike lane and posted the proper signs to enforce illegal parking. This should help students cycling to the school moving forward. They will be marking “social distancing” symbols by the school. This will be funded by the TAM COVID Relief grant. It has been observed that since the updated striping vehicles have not been parked in the lane illegally. The principal will be updated on the safety improvements to be shared with the school community.

### **Shell Road & Lomita- Illegal U-turns**

Parent drivers are using this intersection when dropping off students to get in front of the campus. The sidewalk at this intersection is non-existence or in poor condition.

### **Tam Valley - Using parking lane during morning**

A request had been made to restrict parallel parking on Bell Lane on the “west side of the road only” to create a temporary bike way during drop-off hours. The east side of this roadway was signed for no parking and the sidewalk was improved a number of years ago. The county DPW offered to go and view the issue(s) to consider what could

be implemented when all students return to campus and need space to travel on Bell Lane.

Marin Ave continues to back-up during the hybrid schedule with vehicles and students/parents on bikes due to the narrow road way at Bell and Marin Ave.

A request to the county was made to see if there was signage directing pedestrians and cyclists to the McGlashan pathway.

### **Park and Walk option at TCSD**

The Tam Valley Community Services center parking lot has been made available for park and walk in the AM/PM.

### **Strawberry - Seminary Drive pedestrian/bike path over the freeway**

Trash collects along the marsh from overflowing trash cans. A "GoFundMe" has been set-up to get a replacement trash can to prevent animals from pulling out the trash. The gas station has smoothed out the pathway behind the station. All of these improvements will make walking and cycling nicer for students. The frontage roadway is not a safe place for students to ride.

This area is littered with trash, broken glass daily and graffiti. It was expressed that over the years (Since 1957) the County and CalTrans have not taken responsibility for the roadway and pathway conditions. A request was made: how to get these issues in front of the right agency to have an on going maintenance schedule. A recommendation was made to add this issue to the Caltrans Survey and the Caltrans BikePed coordinator contact information will be provided to Vicky. In addition Supervisor Moluton-Peters office will look into this issue as well.

### **New item: Strawberry Point School Request for barriers**

Issue: Safety concerns on East Strawberry Drive where students cross the street in front of the school.

Due to the hybrid schedule students are hanging out on the sidewalk. This is an area where many vehicles are passing through either going to the school or neighborhood. There is a concern a student will step off the sidewalk; hence the request for a safety barrier. If barriers were installed they may impact ADA space requirements on specific sections of the sidewalk.

The County has been aware of the safety issues of speeding vehicles coming down East Strawberry Drive for a number of years. This is a high conflict roadway. They have

revisited and implemented many improvements for this roadway that has a steep incline and curves; speed bumps are not permitted. Radar feedback signs, rapid flashing beacons, anti-slip red paint (prevent kids from slipping if they stepped off the curb) and high visibility crosswalks have been installed. Enforcement and education is needed on a regular basis.

During Covid with the reduction of students being driven to school, speeds have increased; less vehicles on the road. DPW Traffic Operations were scheduled to make observations

### **East Blithedale Project- Mill Valley DPW**

[E Blithedale City Council Presentation January 7 2021 Final](#)

The following notes and comments are from the presentation link above.

Several community meetings with all the stakeholders have been held regarding the East Blithedale Rehabilitation Project. This project started out as repaving project and grew into greater needs to repair and replace a list of roadway conditions. If these are not addressed the repaving will not be a long term successful project.

Currently the project is under funded. A TAM grant for approximately \$400,00.00 has been awarded. The city will seek additional funding from the state. There is a shortfall of \$1.7 million for Phase 1.

The project extends from Sunnyside Ave to the city limit, just past Kipling Drive (Hwy 101). There are three - four project phases; the most critical area is Camino Alto to the freeway. Ashford repaving has been included in this phase. Project is scheduled for summer 2021. This will also be the most expensive segment. Phases 2-4 will be several years out.

The DPW will be meeting with the BPAC to address the intersection at Ashford and Meadow and Blithdale by the Chevron gas station. A discussion regarding the redesign for improved bike access by the island is planned. Residents in the area have been notified of the proposed changes. Safe Routes has had issues with students being re-routed to get to a school; they often will not use the suggested route if it is not the most direct. Task Force members will be attending the BPAC meeting. See slide 10 for details

The traffic engineer proposed improvements to the intersection of Blithedale and Roque Morales Dr for pedestrians and cyclists entering/exiting the multi-use pathway.

Requests had been proposed for upgrading the bike lanes from Class II to Class IV  
See slide 13.

Before construction begins there will be another community meeting to address construction logistics. Some of the work can be done at night to reduce the impact on traffic and get the project completed sooner. Jackhammer work will be performed during the day. See slide 15

This project does not include the freeway overpass on/off ramps. TAM has completed a study to address bike lanes for this area. The estimated cost is ½ million dollars. These plans have been shared with CalTrans. The hope is they will be included in the state's Route 131 Project which is a few years off. Safe Routes will look into the state's [State Highway Operation and Protection Program \(SHOPP\)](#) to learn more about providing feedback on proposed designs.

Safe Routes would like to see the Class IV bike lanes included in the project as soon as possible. Students could use this route if it were planned out with safer facilities. Students do live in the hill on the north east side of the freeway; they travel to the middle school, high school and elementary schools.

### **Next Zoom Meeting**

Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 9:00AM