



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



MILL VALLEY TASK FORCE- SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

MEETING MINUTES February 8, 2011

Introductions/Attendees (10)

Attendees: Wendi Kallins- Director Safe Routes to Schools, Jill Barnes- Mill Valley Public Works, Stephanie Moulton Peters- Mayor, Peggy Clark- Safe Routes to Schools, Vickie O'Reilly- Co-Team Leader Park, Molly DeVries- Team Leader Old Mill School, Sheryl Patton- MV Police Dept., Peggy Armbruster- Chair Traffic Safety Committee, Dan Dawson- Walk/Bike Marin, Chris Rardin – CHP, Amanuel Haile – DPW- Marin, Dennis Turchon- Team Leader Strawberry, Rhonda Campbell, Deborah Cole- School Pool, Elisabeth Thomas Matej, Ofelia Guner. Daniel Stoude- Senior Planner, City of Mill Valley Planning Department

Welcome and Introduction

SR2S Spring Contest- overview and discussion

Wendi- Team Leader Meeting scheduled for Feb 15- San Rafael Community Center-lunch

GWTS challenge will be conducted with the same format as in 2010. For the schools that do not want to conduct an in classroom spring contest the Pollution Punch Card (PPC) contest supplies are available. The \$100.00 that would be awarded for the GWTS will be provided in advance for weekly PPC give-a-way rewards.

Dennis- the GWTS challenge is new to him- requested additional guidance on conducting it at Strawberry.

Wendi- provided a brief overview of conducting the challenge in the classroom:

Teachers- when taking roll call- ask how children arrived at school- students using a green way will place a sticker on the tree poster for the corresponding week. Weekly stickers need to be counted and totals are written on the Acorn Tally forms- 2 forms are provide per week- one goes to the office to be collected by the Team Leader and the 2nd to be posted in the classroom or in a central location for all students to see. The \$100.00 prize award can be used in many ways: party for winning class, donation to library or PE, make donation to an organization outside of the school.

SR2S has developed a spread sheet to track the weekly acorn totals per class room. SR2S recommends each Team Leader become familiar with the spreadsheet as soon as possible to make the counting process easier during the 4 weeks.

Vickie- Park teachers do not want to conduct the challenge and the principal wants to bow out.

Willow- consider presenting a challenge that would not involve the teachers or impact current programs.

Wendi- agreed to work with Park Team Leaders to develop a challenge appropriate for the school.

Stephanie- will be attending a meeting with the school Superintendent and attend a meeting with all principals. She will be encouraging each school to participate in some program that encourages healthy modes of transportation to school.

Wendi- Announced SR2S will be testing a bar code scanner/software program to track green modes of transportation to school. Students upon arrival will scan their card and the software would tally each green trip. This process was developed in Davis and will be tested at Miller Creek. This new technology could expedite the tracking of green modes and could be used throughout the county if successful.

SR2S will still conduct student surveys and this year SR2S will be conducting parent surveys as well.

School Pool Update

Debra- Recently School Pool information was sent out to all principals in the county. Announcing the MCF funds and requesting all schools post School Pool information in their news letters or via specific e-blasts. Challenge prize money of \$500.00 to \$1,500 will be awarded in 2011. Awards will be presented for most green trips, total School Pool sign-ups and the most percentage increase sense the start of the SR2S program.

Team Leaders are requested to follow-up with their principles to post School Pool details.

1. Parent's Trip Matching signups
2. Parent's sign-up to Green Ways- do not need to request a trip match-but sign up to support the program.
3. New to site- parent's interested in getting matches for work carpools can be routed to 511.org- those sign-ups will be counted toward School Pool.
4. Coming soon- student matches for carpools to after school activities. Program will support students in high school too- Information will be sent to Tam High families.

Rhonda – will School Pool approach the after school organizations to support the carpool matches?

Deborah- yes they will be contacted.

SR2S New Website

Wendi- ready to launch new website- new site will include pages for every school district and each school will have a page. Pages will have rotating stories of what is happening at various schools. SR2S will be collecting stories, photos, event listings, post Task Force meeting dates and meeting notes, SR2S class schedules, Face Book . Soon to come: private online discussion groups.

Mom's on Wheels- Women on Wheels

Wendi- Marin County Bicycle Coalition will be offering workshops to encourage more cycling with mothers of school age children. When more mothers are comfortable riding with their children, more families will be riding to school. Workshops will also be presented to beginner and intermediate women cyclists. Workshops will include: Basic Street Skills class, black-top skills drills and group rides for all sessions. Here is the link to learn more www.marinbike.org/WOW

Wendi- Kathy McLeod will also be expanding her after school bike education classes to more schools in Marin County.

Dan Dawson- NMTTP funds are also supporting Bike Repair classes from Bicycle Works- they have a traveling road repair class and can visit schools- program will run till the end of the school year.

MV BPAC and MV Traffic Calming Committee

Jill- There have been 3 BPAC committee meetings since last year- they are working on developing goals and objectives and to develop a strategic work plan including times frames and responsibilities for committee members. Projects will include the Miller Ave Design and taking a fresh look at Steps Lanes and Paths (1/2 of the projects have been addressed- now looking at grant funding to complete the Steps, lanes and Path projects) .

Elizabeth- has the strategic plan been posted yet?

Jill- plan will be posted on the website soon.

Jill- Traffic Calming- process by which to consider ways to reduce inappropriate volumes and speeds of traffic. MV is looking at various tools available- types: speed bumps curb extensions, crescent crosswalks. Next step will be to develop goals, objectives and a strategic plan to be presented.

Dennis- will this strategic plan include projects that connect with county projects?

Jill- the city tries to work with the county when projects intertwine.

Danielle - Senior Planner and coordinator for the Miller Ave Re-design Project. Requested feedback to address the many issues and concerns of the project. Written feedback is best. Issues include SR2S- currently working on a design for 1 year- streetscape plan has been adopted by the City Council- next to construct drawings for the 2 mile stretch – it will be a phased project- a key component needed is feedback from the public- in March there will be more public meetings to collect ideas and design feedback.

Sunnyside to Almonte- multi-modal road– bikes, cars, ped and public transit.

Reviewing the use of a bike buffer –similar to one in Fairfax

Evergreen Intersection – many issues to consider at this intersection: trees, crosswalks, parking, ped and vehicle traffic.

Deborah- many families cross Miller near Evergreen- scary intersection- Street Smarts posted signs- many were ignored.

Peg- reported at the last meeting many people did not feel they should need a flag to cross the street. As a driver the intersection has poor visibility- at the crosswalks it is difficult to see pedestrians.

Deborah- the new ice cream shop and shoppers at Whole Foods has greatly increased the amount of pedestrians using that intersection.

Elizabeth- many areas where bikes must take the lane to cycle safely

Danielle – redesign will include a continuous bike lane- one option for this crosswalk would be to install a flashing cross walk signal -similar to one in Petaluma that has had much success.

Wendi- a pedestrian activate signal could be appropriate.

Stephanie- a crossing guard would be very helpful at this intersection- but there will still be issues when guard is not present.

Elizabeth- ped flags- thought they were useful

Sheryl- flags presented mixed messages to drivers

Danielle- the frontage road by Jiffy Lube will be removed

Elizabeth- she understood the frontage road was installed in the 60's to prohibit car racing on Miller- best to consider this past concern for the future?

Jill- trees can actually be useful as they tend to calm traffic

Rhonda- consider limiting the times traffic can make turns at intersections.

Daniel- request feedback on the Miller Ave curve- they are looking at the tradeoffs the curve provides

Stephanie- many people like the curve- still need to consider safety issues with the road curve

Camino Alto

Danielle- requesting suggestions from SR2S on a bike lane design over to the Redwoods- many users may ride bike lanes against traffic to get to the Bay Trail. Requesting feed back to make the sidewalk wider to accommodate cyclists and peds going in both directions.

Wendi and Deb- students will take the shortest path- they will not cross the intersection to travel in one direction- they will stay on one side

Project Update: Jill Barnes – MC DPW

See attachment: SR2S Update on Current B/P Projects

Old Mill- All complete but Wainwright PI- stairs to be completed mid/late March

Council has approved funding – SR2S and Safe Paths- includes projects at Miller and Almonte- ped activated light approved.

Edna/Park- updated traffic signs and pavement markings

Blithdale/Park- widening sidewalk- not designed yet- includes a public process- best to conduct a walk thru with SR2S and the school representatives.

E. Blithdale at b/w East Dr. at Elm Ave-Opposite side of Elm- widen sidewalk up to standard- widen into the street- working with contractor – plan to be completed during summer school break.

Camino Alto to Sycamore Ave- multi-use path-start work in April- wait until next summer to construct

Tam High- traffic feedback signs- on Miller between Camino Alto and Almonte-past high school- posting speeds to drivers

Rhonda- has land been purchased on Almonte for installing a sidewalk?

Jill – no project programmed for that – asking for funding

Willow- what is the cycle time for these projects?

Jill- they have 3 years

County Update- Dan Dawson

Lomita- \$250,000 grant available for a side walk project- looking at opportunities to develop along with the school reconstruction project.

Wendi- Shell Court stop sign – change stop sign at intersection

Dan- looking at the entire stretch all the way to the horse path.

Deborah- many parents are vested in this project- looking to get their support

Dan- a sidewalk seems very doable.

Stephanie – is \$250,000 enough to complete a sidewalk – Shell Rd to Horse Hill?

Dan-waiting on use of NTPP funds regarding Horse Hill

Marin Ave- to start this June

Tennessee Valley Path- will be completed in 2 phases- a. this summer raised boardwalk to Shoreline b. cantilevered boardwalk Shoreline to TCSD building- along with signal to be installed

Strawberry- funding in place – 2+ years out- sidewalk improvements- needing Fed money and that does not come along quickly

Dennis- are there any graphics or information that he could provide the school as helpful visuals?

Dan – possibly the Caltrans process can take months

Amanuel- worked with WPTA/SR2S/ many issues were addressed- waiting on a 10% design to be furnished to the school. 10-15 projects sitting for Strawberry Point School- being patient will go a long way when working with Caltrans. Craig Tackleberry is working on it.

Wendi- the paperwork process is very slow

Evergreen sidewalks

Peg- when is the date for the next meeting?

Dan- to be announced- great efforts are made to announce these meetings- press releases and home owners associations notified

Peg- she knows many people that want the sidewalks- it is important to get a strong announcement of the meeting published

Amanuel- the meeting are published- it is very important to get more people to attend the meetings to show support. - People need to speak at the meetings - not just attend them

Wendi- local people who are concerned to call people to encourage attendance - has proven to be successful

Stephanie- she will make phone calls

Dan- petitions are not generally effective- best to show unity by the community by attending the meetings

Deborah- helpful if people attending the meeting and wear stickers of support- council at the meetings see these stickers- even if people will not speak the support is visible.

Wendi-will recommend MCBC be present to offer professional recommendations.

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting to be Determined