



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



**San Rafael School District
Task Force
Meeting Notes
April 29, 2013**

Present (10)

Wendi Kallins – Program Director for Safe Routes to School; Laura Kelly – Volunteer Liaison for Safe Routes to School; Alisha Olouglin – Volunteer Leader at Short School; Bridget Hook – Volunteer Leader at Sun Valley Elementary; Aaron Feldstein – Academic Dean; Kevin McGowen – Public Works; Tracey Hessel – Laurel Dell Elementary PTA; Molly Blauvelt – Parent Volunteer at Davidson Middle School; Alan Piombo – San Rafael Police Lieutenant; Jim Correa – San Rafael Traffic Sergeant.

Attachments: SchoolPool Advisory Survey

Announcements:

Wendi shared that a walk audit is scheduled for Wednesday, May 15th at 2:10 pm at the back entrance of Davidson Middle School. Wendi will be leading the walk audit with three Girl Scouts and is encouraging task force participants to attend to discuss safety at the back gate area.

SchoolPool Advisory Survey

The Task Force reviewed the contents of a SchoolPool Advisory survey that Wendi prepared and distributed for feedback. One suggestion was to add: “How are you getting to school?” Bridget suggested adding: “What are your limits/concerns?” Aaron commented that not all parents are aware what SchoolPool is all about, so that adding a definition up front might be helpful (as well as bilingual documents). Another idea was to insert a map.

Wendi commented that keeping the survey short is a priority. The goal is to recruit neighborhood captains to organize SchoolPools and provide parents with a place to discuss safety issues in their neighborhood.

Basic Routes – Identifying bike routes for 9 San Rafael schools

Wendi shared that David Parisi recently presented to the Mayors and City Councils meeting on behalf of Safe Routes to Schools that included the creation of marked bike routes through neighborhoods to local schools. The Fairfax Bike Spine was used as a model.

The Task Force broke into two groups to review the color maps that Wendi supplied. The goal was to begin identifying school routes for nine San Rafael schools. Wendi shared that the downtown area of San Rafael creates much “crisscrossing” challenges for students and is extremely difficult to navigate via foot/bike. Crossing 101 is another big tackle area.

Main travel routes were marked on the maps, not danger zones. Infrastructure issues will be figured out later. Installing signs and thermoplastic street paving markings is the end goal to identify the bike routes. The next step after the routes are identified is to meet with Public Works.

Wendi mentioned not to be under the illusion that a crosswalks make an area safer. But they do funnel everyone into one place so that it’s predictable.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 8th at 10 am.