



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



Mill Valley School District

Task Force Meeting Notes

January 10, 2013

Attendees (16)

Wendi Kallins – Director for Safe Routes to Schools; Laura Kelly – Volunteer Liaison for Safe Routes to Schools; Stephanie Moulton-Peters – Mill Valley Councilmember; Carey Lando – Marin County Public Works; Cecilia Zamora – Mill Valley Public Works; Maureen Parton – Aide to Kate Sears; Elizabeth Thomas – Mill Valley BPAC; Raoul Wertz – Mill Valley School Board; Kim McFerrin – Old Mill School; Anne Zarraonandia – Edna Maguire School; Willow Older – Park School; Cliff Waldeck – Park School; Tricia Satake – Mill Valley Middle School; Brian Miller – California Highway Patrol; Dan Ruiz – California Highway Patrol; Glen Newcomer – California Highway Patrol; Rhonda Campbell – Mill Valley Middle School.

Mill Valley Infrastructure Project Updates

Tennessee Valley Pathway – This traffic signal is expected to be operational by the end of the month. All signal poles and hardware have been installed. The County Department of Public Works is waiting for PG&E to schedule the installation of power to the signal cabinet, and then Caltrans will install controller components. Detection loops will be installed this month. The traffic signal will then go live and striping will be completed by the end of the month. Pedestrian railings across Coyote Creek at Marin Avenue will be fabricated and installed by the end of the month.

Flamingo Signal – Public Works is still waiting for the signal pole and hardware delivery to the site. This is expected to occur in mid-January with installation shortly thereafter. Once the equipment is installed, PG&E will schedule turning on power to the cabinet. Caltrans will then proceed with functional and operational testing of the signal. The goal is to have the signal operational by the end of January.

Almonte Bike Lane Evaluation Results – Additional delineators would obstruct access to driveways adjacent to the road. Additional bike legends will be added. There has been a request for green paint striping in the bike lane; they are still evaluating. This is a new concept with limited applications to date. The goal is a more visual distinction between the road and the bike lane. Cliff mentioned that the thermoplastic striping is slippery and had to be redone.

Stephanie asked what action could be taken when motorists drive in a designated bike lane? It was suggested to record the license plate of the driver, and then call it into the police department.

Lomita Avenue – This project is in preliminary design. There is a neighborhood meeting planned for early February.

Strawberry Point School – Still waiting for the contractor to install a guardrail rail near Ricardo Lane.

Elizabeth shared that Gibson near Shoreline Highway needs an ADA ramp (Flamingo is on the other side) so that people don't fall off the shoulder. The remaining space for cyclists is only about four feet wide. The seam and pavement leave very little room to ride. Delineators are already there. The tall ones that flop over will be installed. Rosemont is where the problem starts. Wendi asked if there is a possibility of installing a horizontal buffer? The police department agreed to go look at it.

Neighborhood SchoolPool Program

Wendi provided the Task Force with an overview of SchoolPool, and asked for feedback about how to best implement the program in all Mill Valley Schools.

The SchoolPool program brings together families in a neighborhood who are interested in sharing the duties of getting their children to and from school. SchoolPool allows you to identify others who are interested in sharing transportation from school to various after school activities. After registering, the member is provided with a list of other families in your neighborhood.

The Safe Routes to Schools link to learn more about SchoolPool is:

<http://www.schoolpoolmarin.org>

Wendi reinforced that SchoolPool is not only about carpooling. SchoolPool options include walk pools ("walking school buses"), bike pools ("bike trains") or arranging bus buddies for school buses or public transit. Many parents have taken up SchoolPooling as a way to save time, save money and provide a safer way for their children to get to school. Less traffic means a safer school community for children to walk and bike.

Wendi shared that the SchoolPool program has had resistance in terms of getting families to register. The Task Force discussed how to promote SchoolPool better in Mill Valley schools. One suggestion was to approach the PTA about creating an official "SchoolPool" coordinator as an embedded leadership position. The Coordinator could then spearhead an outreach program to encourage families to register at their school. The volunteer would need to be outgoing and assertive in terms of helping to get the word out of the benefits of SchoolPool. For example, some parents have stood outside near the school's student drop-off area, and distributed flyers with the SchoolPool website to parent drivers with only one student in their car.

More carpools would help to lighten traffic. 36,000 cars go through Camino and East Blithedale, and 20,000 at Miller and Camino Alto. East Blithedale is at capacity. A push for SchoolPool would help to ease peak commute time traffic. School traffic accounts for 25% of all

morning traffic. The ultimate goal is to make SchoolPool a culture at every school. The purpose of encouraging “schoolpooling” is to reduce traffic and pollution, and increase health.

Getting to know your neighbors is one of the first steps of SchoolPool. Wendi distributed school community maps to help identify key neighborhoods that might be an area to focus on building SchoolPools through recruiting neighborhood captains – leaders to help organize bike trains, walking school buses and carpools. A neighborhood network takes time to organize, but once in place, will save time for parents and be a built-in communications network for families to travel together. Wendi discussed recruiting neighborhood captains for every neighborhood to serve as an organizational and communications leader.

Another suggestion was to ask Room Parents to place some thought into how to create schoolpools, especially at the K-3 level, when parents are eager to become involved with their child’s school. The older students in grades 4/5 could be encouraged to ride together from their neighborhood.

Willow said it would be beneficial to make SchoolPool part of all school websites, and make it internal to all of the schools. Wendi said we are working on embedding a registration on school websites. Another suggestion was to make registering for SchoolPool part of the September back-to-school day packet that goes out to every parent.

SchoolPool has had some incentives in place like Jamba Juice gift cards for Middle Schools for registering, and school competitions that encourage groups of students to bike to school together.

School Updates

Willow shared that she has been using the school newsletter at Park to highlight families that have been doing a great job traveling green to school. These families are role models for others to follow suit.

Rhonda shared January is always a challenging time to promote walking and biking to school due to cold weather, darker mornings and rain. Laura suggested that one way to encourage students to bundle up more and to host a weekly raffle and announce one winner every week during the winter months.

Wendi reminded Team Leaders that three important dates are coming up:

February 12 - Team Leader Luncheon at the San Rafael Community Center 11:30 – 1 pm

March 11 through April 6 is our countywide GO GREEN Classroom Challenge. Team Leaders need to seek approval to host our GO GREEN Classroom Challenge with the school Principal. The contest is a month-long Marin County initiative to reduce traffic and pollution by promoting green travel to school. A ‘green trip’ to school is when your child travels to school by walking, biking, carpool or bus. The classroom at a school with the highest percentage of green trips at the end of the four-week period wins a trophy.

May 8 – Bike to School Day – Safe Routes to Schools will supply Team Leaders with buttons to give to children as they arrive at school bikes racks on the morning of Bike to School Day.



Three Riding with Youth workshops will be hosted this spring in preparation for Bike to School Day. Please contact peggy@marinbike.org to register in advance. The locations and dates are:

- Saturday, April 6, 9:30 to noon - Tampalpais Community Center, Mill Valley
- Saturday, April 20, 9:30 to noon - Marinwood Community Services District, San Rafael
- Saturday, April, 27, 9:30 to noon - Larkspur Recreation Center, Larkspur

Safe Driving Pledge Campaign

Deborah provided a presentation on the new resources from StreetSmartsMarin.org including a new Safe Driving Pledge Campaign. The Campaign encourages residents to drive safely while spreading the message about the program. Interested Marin County residents pledge to drive safely and courteously on local streets. In turn, they receive the official “Safe Driving Pledge” static cling decal to display on the rear window of their vehicles.

The purpose of the Pledge campaign is to raise awareness and encourage motorists to drive within the legal speed limit on neighborhood streets, and share the road with pedestrians and bicyclists, be courteous, and drive safely. Below is a copy of the pledge certificate that can be downloaded from the website if a motorist who takes the Pledge on line would like a hard copy.



:

Street Smarts offers a comprehensive traffic safety website with valuable education and resource tools in the ongoing campaign to improve driver, pedestrian, and bicyclist behaviors. The link to the Safe Driving Pledge Campaign is on the Street Smarts Marin website: <http://www.streetSMARTSMarin.org/pledge.html>. Materials from the Pledge program are also attached to this email of the minutes.

Classroom promotion of the contest is encouraged in High Schools.

1. Student drivers can take the certificate home to their parents who would sign it after they take the pledge on line.
2. Parents return the certificate to school with the kids for tabulation by class.
3. Students can take the certificate home to the parents who would sign it after they take the pledge online. The Pledge can be displayed in homes, like on the refrigerator.

Our next meeting is scheduled for: To Be Determined