



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



Transportation Authority of Marin
www.tam.ca.gov

Ross Valley Task Force MEETING NOTES August 27, 2010

Present (15)

Wendi Kallins ó Program Director for Safe Routes to Schools; Laura Kelly ó Volunteer Liaison for Safe Routes to Schools; Sharon Sagar ó Ross Valley School Board; Steve Myrter ó San Anselmo Town Engineer; Kathy Wilke ó Fairfax Director of Public Works; John Reed ó Fairfax Town Council; Jeff Kroot ó San Anselmo Town Council; Brett Joyner ó Director of Maintenance and Operations for RV Schools; Ted Fehlhaber ó Wade Thomas Team Leader; Tanya Henry ó Wade Thomas Team Leader; Jen Grenier ó Upper Brookside Co-Team Leader; Bridget Clark ó Co-Team Leader for Upper Brookside; Jeanne Carlson ó Co-Team Leader for Manor; Renee Goddard ó Co-Team Leader for Manor; Caroline Stephens ó Manor School volunteer.

Infrastructure Updates for San Anselmo

Flashing upgrades were installed on Saunders/Drum and have been very successful at slowing down traffic. Countdown pedestrian flashers and high visibility crosswalks were installed at Sequoia/Red Hill and Ross/SF Drake.

CalTrans approved the town to proceed with Wade Thomas improvement plans, but Steve is hesitant about doing the construction during the rain season and recommends starting in the spring. Ted will get a consensus from the school to collaborate that spring is the best time to start construction work. Steve's concerns are safety during the rain season and that there would be enough room for the kids to travel. Steve also noted that it is an eight-week process to get the project out to bid.

A grant for a bike path on Greenfield Road is being submitted.

There is a Brookside request for a crosswalk at San Anselmo Avenue where it meets Sir Francis Drake before the entrance to Butterfield. Steve said that a traffic study must be done which studies speed and visibility. Exploration of this area is in the very preliminary stages because it's a very tricky area on SFD. He also mentioned that a three-lane option is being evaluated. Bridget mentioned that there is a major crack on

San Anselmo Avenue near the area of the desired crossing. Steve said he would check it out.

Infrastructure Updates for Fairfax

White Hill Middle School - Glen Drive crosswalk and new improvements to Sir Francis Drake is completed; striping and ramp is in.

Manor school crosswalk is still in the works for the June Court area. An easement will need to be constructed. The property owner impacted by the crosswalk will need to honor the improvements to be made to their driveway area in order to make this happen.

E76 for CalTrans application has been submitted. It's a continual process.

Fairfax Library ó The new alignment for the walking path is being constructed. The old path/route does not align with Broadway. The stopping distance for the crosswalk is now less (estimate is 20 feet). Caroline and Jeanne commented that the school travel route from Fairfax Lumber to the Fairfax Library is very dangerous. Potholes are a problem too. Kathy said the potholes on Belle Avenue are worse and that Bolinas Road is having pavement sinking issues. Kathy said the town is working on it.

Back-to-school traffic issues

The Ross Valley School District is dealing with more traffic issues this school year due to increased enrollment at all schools. The back-to-school commute was especially stressful at Fawn Drive and Green Valley Court where traffic is a huge issue and parents make U-turns. The police department was contacted to help monitor the situation. Meghan shared that cars are also parked in the bike lane on Butterfield in the Lower Brookside School area. It was decided that Brett would meet with SR2S Brookside Team Leaders to discuss ideas to resolve traffic issues.

Ross Valley School Updates

White Hill ó Renee and Ted are working on a suggested safe biking route to White Hill from San Anselmo and are spearheading a gathering of regular riders to help determine the best routes. Wendi made it clear to the Task Force that Safe Routes to Schools can only suggest a bicycle route due to liability reasons. Google maps were mentioned as a way to visibly present the routes to White Hill.

The direct route from San Anselmo to White Hill is SF Drake but space for bikers is very limited. Educating parents and kids about suggested routes is important. Going over Suffield to avoid SFD was mentioned as one alternative route. Wendi mentioned that Klaus is also a problem area. Sharon mentioned backtracking the route after you drop your kids off.

Total elimination of parking on one side of SFD was mentioned as another solution. Wendi said that Tam Valley is an excellent example of a school which embedded limited parking hours during peak school travel time. They implemented no parking from 7:30 am to 8:45 am to allow more travel room for bikers; but this was only done after extensive outreach to the neighborhood to solicit support. It was also mentioned that tips for bikers who ride in numbers would also be helpful along with the suggested route.

Caroline shared that the bike route to White Hill is causing tires to pop on the cul-de-sac of Shemran Court where bikers cut through an alleyway. Caroline proposed to Rudy at Public Works to trim the trees, which produce spike thorns (her daughter has experienced 6 flat tires from the thorns.) Sharon said she could ask the school too.

Lower Brookside ó Riding with Youth is scheduled for September 18th. Meghan shared the contents of her òLetø Goö new fall program which encourages walking, biking, carpools and taking the bus to school every Wednesday. See attached documents for details.

Green Ways to School - Award Results announced

Wendi shared with the Task Force that the Roll Valley School District placed highest overall for the Green Ways to School Awards for 2010. Every RV school was a winner out of 43 which participated in total.

Marin County School Award Winners:

Green Ways to School Awards:

- 1st place: Loma Verde Elementary School, Novato
- 2nd place: - tie - Manor Elementary School, Fairfax and Wade Thomas Elementary School, San Anselmo
- Honorable Mention: Coleman Elementary School, San Rafael; Ross School, Ross; Laurel Del elementary School, San Rafael

Program Achievement Award

- 1st place: Old Mill Elementary School, Mill Valley
- 2nd place: Tam Valley Elementary School, Unincorporated Mill Valley
- 3rd place: Brookside Lower, San Anselmo
- Honorable Mention: Marin Primary and Middle School, Larkspur; Lagunitas School District, San Geronimo; White Hill Middle School, Fairfax

SchoolPool Awards

- 1st place: tie ó Brookside Upper Elementary School, San Anselmo; Dixie Elementary School, Marinwood
- 2nd place: Mary Silveira Elementary School, Marinwood
- Honorable Mention: Edna Maguire Elementary, Mill Valley

SchoolPoolMarin Contest

This fall a \$500 award, provided through a donation from Kaiser Permanente, will be given away to the school that generates the highest percentage of SchoolPool sign-ups by the middle of October. Wendi encouraged all Team Leaders to go for the green by encouraging families to register at www.SchoolPoolMarin.org via school newsletters and eblasts to Room Parents and/or Principals.

Web Site Under Construction

Wendi mentioned that the Safe Routes to Schools website is being updated and that when it is completed every school district will get a web page to post photographs and program highlights at your school. Please let Wendi know if you have any special needs.

International Walk and Roll to School Day

Big plans are underway for October 6, which is International Walk and Roll to School Day. All schools have been supplied with posters, Clif Kid fruit twists and Zbars, and colorful hand fans. Notify your town council members, police and fire departments and get them involved.

Our next Task Force meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 28 at 10:00 am.