



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



**Ross Valley Task Force  
Meeting Notes  
May 9, 2014**

**Attendees:**

Wendi Kallins - Safe Route to Schools, Program Director; Laura Kelly - Safe Routes to Schools, Marketing and Outreach Manager; Brett Joiner – Maintenance Director for Ross Valley School District; Nancy Vernon – Aide to Supervisor Katie Rice; David Crone – Fairfax Police Department; Sean Condry – Director of Public Works, San Anselmo; Kathleen Cutter – Team Leader at St. Anselms School, Debra Merten – Team Leader at Brookside Elementary; John Reed – Fairfax Town Council; Renee Goddard – Fairfax Town Council; Michael Pon – Team Leader at St. Rita’s School; Karen Steady Baigrie – Team Leader at Hidden Valley; Nancie Bailey – Team Leader at Hidden Valley; Bridget Clark – Team Leader at San Domenico; Bob Goralka, County Department of Public Works.

**Announcements:**

FAMILY FUN RIDE on Saturday, May 17 from 10:00 to noon. Meeting place is Manor Elementary School campus for a two-hour ride and workshop that teaches your family how to safely navigate streets. [Register here](#). Flyer attached.

**Attachments:**

*Marin Independent Journal*, cover story, May 8, 2014 - <http://www.marinij.com/PedalPower/ThousandsRollinMairnwithBiketoSchoolday>

**Hidden Valley Updates**

The Hidden Valley infrastructure committee created a detailed spreadsheet of all safety and infrastructure issues that need to be addressed. Top priorities were identified. Bob will be looking into pavement markings and the feasibility of a rectangular rapid flashing beacon at the corner of Green Valley Court and Hidden Valley.

Hidden Valley Elementary has two new parent volunteers that have been diligently working on encouraging more green travel this spring. Karen Stead Baigrie and Nancie

Bailey have implemented several mini-events at Hidden Valley to motivate more walking and biking. A school wide assembly was hosted in conjunction with Earth Day. Five consecutive "Go Green" days were hosted to kick-off more green travel. Colorful poster boards were painted and hung up all over campus to increase signage. A Walking School Bus was started on Butterfield; 20+ children are participating. A small bike train has also surfaced as a result of the push for more green travel. Additionally, Safe Routes to Schools hosted a pedal powered bike blender event on campus during lunch one day, and smoothie samples were distributed to students who rode the bike blender.

Parents at Hidden Valley are concerned about their child's safety when biking to school, due to severe traffic congestion on Butterfield Road. Thus, walking and carpools are for now being heavily being promoted. There is also a problem with cars parking in the bike lane, increasing the risk of a biker getting hit by a door opening. The parked cars force bikers to go around and into the auto lane. Bob said the problem is there is very little parking space on the Hidden Valley Campus.

Taking the bus is also being encouraged as a way to decrease traffic at Hidden Valley. Wendi mentioned that there is an existing bus service from San Francisco Boulevard and that the Cove school, which will open in the fall is going have a school aide ride the bus with the children. The Ross Valley district is being approached to have an Aide ride the San Francisco bus. Another option is getting older students to serve as bus buddies to younger students taking the Marin Transit bus. Karen asked if we could get a school bus just designated to students. Wendi said Marin Transit is looking into yellow school buses as a supplement to their service but that is a long way off.

### **National Bike to School Day Reports**

Manor School and St. Rita's – Police and Fire Escort to Fairfax Library and the West on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard. Principal Jason Richardson at Manor School led the bikers. Huge turnout and full bike racks. Manor school is in need of more parent leadership assistance. Liz Canning was mentioned as a potential volunteer. Wendi mentioned that Manor is one of those schools where our program is institutionalized, so the leadership role is less time consuming than at other schools in Marin.

Hidden Valley – Fire Truck Escort from Butterfield and the corner of Coletta. Bike train and walking school bus. Huge turnout and full bike racks.

Brookside, Wade Thomas, St. Anselms and San Domenico also hosted welcome tables and reported many students participated. The SR2S erasers that were distributed to students were well-received.

## GRANT PROPOSAL UPDATES

SR2S grant projects are in the works for several new sidewalks in San Anselmo. There is a town meeting on Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> which is the first time the community will meet to discuss the sidewalk proposals. This will be one of two 2 design meetings where public input is highly encouraged. Wendi suggested placing an interactive meeting on the town website where someone can click on a button to give comments. She also will send out a notice about the meeting via the SR2S database to promote attendance if the information is received in enough time.

The deadline for the Alternative Transportation Grant is May 21, 2014. Sean is applying for \$300,000 – 400,000 in improvements. Diagrams were distributed to all Task Force members of the town requests which are mostly for sidewalks across from Drake High School near Butterfield. Letters of support are needed from Marin Transit, Brookside School and the Central Marin Police.

Abatements have been an issue. An abatement is when a property owner has an obstacle on their frontage that is impeding safe walking or biking – trees, an extended fence line, or a trip hazard. The town has been very active in getting the abatements rectified via the town's maintenance crew. The goal is to make it easier for everyone to access sidewalks everywhere in town. Sean shared that anything in front of your house – a dirt path, pavement or concrete -- is abatement. Legally the area is designated for pedestrians.

Renee said it would help if we could better educate people that the very front section of their home is used for foot traffic. Sean said the town receives many complaints about obstructed pathways, especially when it comes to a car parked in a bike lane. John said that one solution that has worked is to paint “no parking” on the section of the bike lane that is being obstructed by parked cars.

Sean is creating SR2S trail maps, like the step lanes and paths in Mill Valley.

Fairfax is applying to complete the Bike Spine to and from White Hill School along Glen Drive under the canopy tree area. This school route has one gap – the last 700 or so feet east of the school property along Sir Francis Drake Boulevard. Students must ride along the shoulder in fast-moving traffic. Completion of the final gap will create a safe and separated bike path for students riding and walking to and from White Hill School. Manor students also use the route when returning home after school. Wendi needs a letter of support of the “Fairfax Bike Spine Gap Completion Project” from the Fairfax Town Council. Mike said he will send a letter of support from St. Rita's School. Wendi did receive a letter of support from the Fairfax Police Department.

## SPEEDING CONCERNS

Karen asked what we can do about cars that speed on Butterfield Road. The CHP has not been present. Sean said that sometimes the perception is that drivers are going faster. There is an 85 percentile rule in place which says that if 85% of the traffic is going at a certain speed then that is deemed safe. If this is above the posted speed limit then the jurisdiction can't enforce the speed limit. Bob said that they will look into additional signage. Wendi said to contact the CHP and they will come and be more present.

Hidden Valley is tucked away and is not physically located on Butterfield, so the speed limit is not the typical low school zone speed limit. If the school were located closer to Butterfield, then the speed limit could be reduced. Sean also said the town is working on traffic calming measures for Butterfield Road. Coming on Butterfield from the San Domenico direction, there is a school zone sign. Wendi said you have a corridor that really is a school zone, but the school is set back from the main road so it's harder to obtain signage. Wendi will ask the SRTS state coordinators to look into the issue.

Nancie asked how we can keep up the local police presence. Renee said to frequently contact them and ask for coverage. The CHP is very responsive. Bob said he will give them a call. Bob said they will also be placing a speed radar trailer out front.

Our next meeting is scheduled for:

**Friday, September 12, 2014 at 10 am.**