



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



Transportation Authority of Marin
www.tam.ca.gov

Ross Valley District Office

Task Force Meeting Notes

May 11, 2013

Present (13)

Wendi Kallins – Program Director for Safe Routes to School; Laura Kelly – Volunteer Liaison for Safe Routes to School; Renee Goddard – Fairfax Town Council; Sean Condry – San Anselmo Public Works; Carey Lando – Senior Transportation Planner, County of Marin; Nancy Vernon – Aide to Supervisor Katie Rice; Brian Stocking – Head of Maintenance; Joe Loll – Wade Thomas Volunteer Parent; Mark Howlett – Fairfax Police Department; John Ferguson – Manor School Volunteer Parent; Kathleen Cutter – Hidden Valley Volunteer Parent; Brian Miller – California Highway Patrol; Glenn Newcomber – California Highway Patrol.

Announcements:

Safe Routes to School National Conference Heads West

August 13-15, 2013 • Sacramento, California

<http://saferoutesconference.org/>

The 4th Safe Routes to School National Conference is making its way to California's state capital this summer. The first state to enact SRTS legislation in 1999, California has played a key role in the birth of the Safe Routes to School movement and remains a national leader in SRTS strategies. Join us on the West Coast this summer for this not-to-be-missed national conference focused on providing safe, convenient and fun opportunities for children to bike and walk to school! The Safe Routes to School National Conference is hosted by the Local Government Commission. It is co-presented by the National Center for Safe Routes to School and the Safe Routes to School National Partnership.

Police Updates

1. Oak Tree Lane in Fairfax

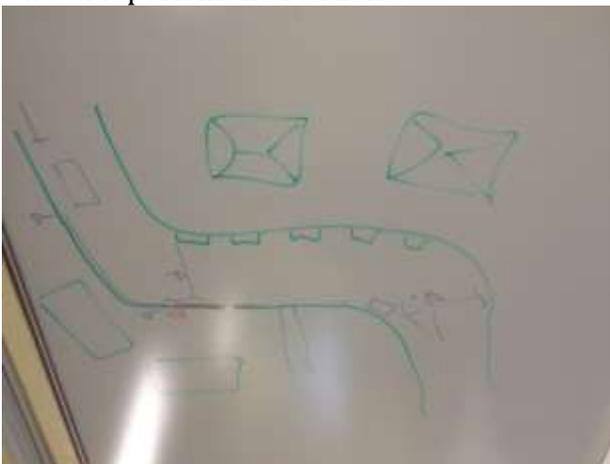
The Sir Francis Drake crosswalk area at Oak Tree Lane in Fairfax continues to be a dangerous crossing zone for students, even though a crossing guard is in place every day. Renee thanked Mark Howlett for regular police presence during peak school hours to support the crossing guard. Speeding at this area is the biggest concern.

John shared that there are significant issues with signage and the lights. For drivers traveling East, here is no light and the foliage blocks the signage. John said a light is needed for traffic heading east bound. Drivers coming from either direction need to be alerted to slow down. There is a light for traffic heading west bound.

Wendi said there are legal rules for and to find out what can be legally done. Sean said that David Parisi will be helpful in making customized signs for this tricky spot. Joe mentioned that the Street Smarts would be a great interim solution. Banners are also available.

2. Hidden Valley Elementary School – Back Entrance

Glenn drew a diagram to illustrate the traffic congestion issues when parents drop off their children at the back entrance of Hidden Valley School. Neighbors are upset at the disruption every morning. Parents are not supposed to drop off their kids on Fawn Drive, but disregard this school request. The CHP has been issuing tickets to cars that park in the red zone.



Glenn recommended that the back area of the school install NO PARKING signs on the school side of the street. Brian said the RVSD has some in storage that he can

place at the backside of the school. Brian said he would also start the process to have the curb area re-painted.

Carey said that any sign changes must seek county approval. Carey and Nancy will start the process. Sean offered that he could implement a signage solution and get it moved along quicker through San Anselmo public works. Often the county and the city have helped each other out. He will work on this safety project. It was suggested that the signs will read: NO PARKING SCHOOL HOURS: 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Carey shared that the other issue at the front of the school is that it's small and can't handle the amount of incoming cars dropping off students.

Education issues regarding safe cycling

The concern was discussed that parents do not always know how to teach their children safe cycling skills, and rules of the road. Renee shared that more parent education is needed regarding safe cycling practices. Wendi shared that Safe Routes offers throughout the year "Riding with Youth" classes, but that attendance has been low. The class teaches parents and kids how to safely navigate streets, and reinforces rules of the roads. Parents have good intentions to attend the class, but often do not show up.

How do we better educate parents? The idea of handing out information pamphlets at back-to-school night was suggested. Another idea was to place safety information on each school's web site with site-specific information and safety tips. Safe Routes is planning to create a new educational piece this summer.

Joe suggested focusing educational efforts on Kindergartener and 1st grade students. Wendi shared that another solution is to create a safety patrol at your school to assist the crossing guards, and be present at dangerous crossing areas.

Brian suggested placing an active video on the school website. Wendi said that we could revamp an existing safety video, and then post it to school web sites. Safe Routes to Schools is also planning to expand its social media program, so more videos will be published. Wendi will meet with Sean Modder to discuss.

Wendi also shared that next year Safe Routes to Schools will be making our contests optional and instead focusing on encouraging regular green travel by heavily promoting "Walk and Roll Wednesdays." An important part of this marketing campaign will be creating an educated and safe green travel culture.

Fairfax Bike Spine Update

Renee shared that the bid has been accepted for signage installation, but that the town still has some neighborhood issues to address before proceeding with the markings. Fairfax is waiting for David Parisi to prepare some final recommendations regarding tweaking the bicycle route. Renee shared that the town does not have the funds to repave the roads of the Bike Spine. Instead, the roads to be used for the Bike Spine have been patched and repaired.

Public Works Update – San Anselmo

Sean said there has been an increase in complaints regarding speeding in San Anselmo. He met with David Parisi to examine a town-wide approach to tackle the issue. Parents are speeding to get their kids to schools. Sean said the goal is to take a big picture approach to slow cars down. Sean is forming a committee to develop a Bike Spine program for San Anselmo. Participants will help to identify the best and safest routes to schools which will then be signed and striped similar to Fairfax.

School Updates

Joe shared that Wade Thomas wants to create a neighborhood captain program, like Bacich. Wade Thomas has established their regular Walk and Roll Wednesdays and would now like to expand their SR2S program by recruiting neighborhood captains to organize green travel. Joe also shared that the fire department led bicyclists on National Bike to School Day, and local police officers walked with students to school.

Kathleen shared with the Task Force her safety concerns at Hidden Valley. Kathleen was recently “doored” and shared her story in which a kid flung open their door in a dedicated bike lane. Kathleen was bruised but largely came away without serious injury, but the incident inspired her to create a letter to document the incident, as well as present it as a learning opportunity. Glenn mentioned that getting the Principal and teachers out front during peak drop off times is one suggestion to educate everyone about safety issues.

John shared that Fire Station 21 escorted bicyclists to Manor and Cascade Canon School. Manor school distributed IBike pins and served yogurt parfaits as students arrived by foot on campus. John also shared that more bike racks are needed at Manor. The Manor PTA has some funding. Carey will check if Walk Bike Marin still has a program to help fund the new bike racks. John is also looking for recommendations on what type of bike racks to purchase.

Our next Ross Valley Task Force meeting is scheduled for September 20th at 10 am.