

**ROSS VALLEY - SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS**  
**TASK FORCE NOTES**  
**Jan 17 2014**

**1. Introductions:**

Attendees:

Wendi Kallins- Director Safe Routes to School, Peggy Clark- Program Manager Safe Routes to School, Renee Goddard- Fairfax Councilmember, Nancy Vernon- Aide to Supervisor Katie Rice, Mark Howlett- Fairfax PD, Sean Condry- Director Public Works San Anselmo, Dan Blomquist-Senior Engineer San Anselmo

**2. Infrastructure and Police**

**a. Hidden Valley Meeting Report**

Nancy reported the County met with the Principal, parent leaders and the neighbors Green Valley Court to learn their perspective on the conditions on this road. In summary they see traffic conditions increased over the past few years. They reviewed the content of the proposal submitted by neighborhood leader and parent David Levitt. The group split into two committees, one to look at infrastructure issues and the others to look at encouragement and education. The next step will be for the Committees to meet and come up with possible solutions. Now that that school is K-5 the carpool, biking and bus numbers have decreased. Many of the families attending Hidden Valley live near Brookside or in the San Francisco neighborhood and drive students to school. This has increased traffic.

Wendi reported - Currently Hidden Valley does not have an active SR2S Team Leader and parents are not receiving information about SR2S. This has had a significant negative effect on the schools green travel.

Nancy reported- The site council is working to find a SR2S leader team.

Sean reported- DPW is considering flashing road lights to be activated during school hours. The neighbors have concerns about this option. Sean has looked at different facilities in San Rafael as possible options too. Now Dan Blomquist (Engineer) is available to help with the project, he will help with the review process and meet with the committee. It will be important to educate parents to slow down near the school campus and in the neighborhood. The school needs to do a better job of teaching students about the safety rules. People thought that students driving to Drake were the challenge when, in fact, it is the adults driving in the area.

Wendi provided electronic images of friendly parking signs suggested by David Levitt. The week of 1/20/14 there will be an infrastructure and enforcement committee meeting. Nancy will present to the meeting as DPW cannot attend, they are hoping Sean will attend; CHP has also been invited.

Wendi reported- Bus ridership is down; if this stays down the school is at risk of losing the bus service for good. Parents are reluctant to put little kids on the bus without a chaperone. Now is the time for the school to develop a bus buddy system with the older grade level students using the bus. Unfortunately an adult riding the bus is problematic as the bus goes on to White Hill so it would be a long ride. Many of the students are coming from the San Francisco Blvd. One suggestion was for students to park bikes at Brookside and then board the bus (this could be complicated for students?)

Renee commented- Are there currently any reported issues with students using the bus? Wendi said she was not familiar with any bus driver/student issues. She suggested they make the bus look friendlier, encourage users (parents/kids) to meet the bus drivers, focus efforts on grades 1 and up to use the bus. Once the bus is filled with students "it becomes as school bus".

Nancy suggested getting a parent to ride the bus and run home or put their bike on the return bus. Wendi said she would explore options. SR2S now has a Spare the Air grant and will be creating a video to promote using the bus.

Sean reported- Many student cyclists are riding on Drake; this is not encouraged. The DPW is looking at an existing neighborhood staircase. A consideration is to use funds from a grant to modify staircase with a bike ramp. It is important to keep the kids off of Drake Blvd (back roads are a better solution).

**b. Other San Anselmo Reports-** see [attached map](#) from DPW

Below are comments by Sean refereeing to each map sheet. Each sheet lists the improvements in more details.

Sean reported-San Anselmo received a SR2S grant for \$625,000.

1. Pedestrian Barrier- Wade Thomas, Brookside, St Anselms have received sidewalk improvements. A pedestrian barrier is purposed along Drake between Sierra Drive and Butterfield roads. There are some issues with driveways and public right of ways that need to be addressed. Another consideration is to relocate the pole. Images show how narrow the sidewalk is and signs posted by neighbors have been clipped by passing vehicles. Dan will be working on this project- projected design approval by Oct 2014 with construction the summer of 2015.

2. The Alameda Route—Sean asked the Task Force how the DPW can get support from Brookside for an easement behind the school. The easement would help this route by taking students off the road and onto sidewalks and improved parking for drops. This project is already funded. The ideas presented were developed for the grant application process; the final project is not designed yet. Design input will come from planned community meetings.

3. Sir Frances Drake and Tamal Road Intersection

San Francisco Blvd, Tamal Rd and Sir Frances Drake Blvd have been a 30 year problem. The intersection roads are off set, causing crossing the street to be very challenging with many near misses since the studies were conducted. The considerations are to install a pedestrian only crossing with a red right arrow. This would stop all traffic from moving, thus allowing pedestrians to cross diagonally. He is also considering changing the offset crosswalks or making the San Francisco and Tamal signals to be different in their timing. There are funds available to improve this area and make it much safer.

4. San Francisco Blvd Sidewalk and Crossing

Student's direction of travel is to use San Francisco Blvd, the sidewalks that are dirt will be repaved in 2015. One design idea is similar to the island recently installed on Bolinas. This island causes traffic to slow down because vehicles must avoid the island when passing and it looks nice with plantings.

5. Barber Avenue Route

San Anselmo DPW is considering improving the missing sidewalk with pedestrian table(s) and with ADA ramps. Speed humps are a possible option as speed bumps are not permitted in San Anselmo.

### **c. Fairfax reports**

Renee reported people have stopped complaining about the bike spine. Many of the painted road signs have gotten dirty from vehicle traffic. Cyclists are using the route; it would be wonderful to know who is using the route and where they are coming from. Renee and John Ferguson made a short film while cycling the spine and there is information on the town's website. They would also like the schools to have information on their sites. The neighborhood in the Sequoia Area is considering making it a one way street. This would affect the bike spine.

Manor School needs parent leaders to coordinate the monthly Walk and Roll to School Wednesdays. The sidewalk was improved near the church; however, students are still cutting through the church lot. Another issue of concern is vehicles making a right turn. Students are not clear how and when to cross and drivers are cutting the corner.

Downtown Fairfax traffic congestion is still very bad. Recently a cyclist was hit. The town is challenged without having a Public Works manager. The challenge is not having the funds to hire someone and this leaves the town without someone to apply for grants on behalf of the town.

## **3. School activities**

### **a. Survey Results- see attachment Survey Summary**

Wendi reported- the Survey Summary is a 3 year snap shot:

Hidden Valley took a hit after changing to a K-5 school with "driver" percentage going up.

Brookside, however has benefited from the change with a 19% increase in green trips. There have been many infrastructure improvements near the school. The team leader Deb Merten and the team of volunteer parents have been managing a weekly green way to school program. Results indicate ½ the school is walking when before they were not. A culture of walking and biking to school is strong at Brookside.

Manor remains strong with many students walking; however biking has gone down. White Hill has dropped off on bus riders but increased the amount of students cycling. The % of drivers at White Hill remains low. Even when there are a small number of cars, the road can appear congested because there is only one road in/out to the school. Another factor is students are driven to school for the pre/pre period school days. It is such an early start for students!

Wade Thomas has pretty much maintained green trips, 30 % of the school is still walking. There are two team leaders and they are coordinating Walk and Roll Wednesdays.

St Anselm's survey results indicate a big jump in kids biking. This is due to the efforts of the Kathleen Cutter the Team Leader.

St Rita's now has a Team Leader; SR2S will continue to request surveys be completed.

Cascade Canyon started off the year with a Team Leader but that changed and Karl is back helping.

San Dominico's web site has information on the schools transportation program; they really push students to use the bus.

Over all- Ross Valley still rocks!

**b. Walk and Roll Wednesdays**

The Walk and Roll Wednesdays are doing well where they are happening. White Hill is not doing them because they do not have a parent leader nor a student team. If they could get it going it would be fun to have the band perform as encouragement.

National SR2S has reported K-8 schools have increased from 12% to 15% for students walking and biking. This past year the National SR2S conference was in Sacramento. It was a very successful conference because law makers were present. Fifty SR2S representatives including Wendi Kallins and James Seivert were able to address them during lobby day. This had SR2S front and center as it was the end of the legislative session. As a result, Safe Routes to Schools will continue to get dedicated funding for the next 3-4 years. The next opportunity to address the Federal programs will be in March 2014 during the Bike Summit to be hosted at the Capital.

[Fire Up Your Feet](#) is still encouraging schools to make use of the rewards program.

Bike to school day is May 7

Bike to Work day is May 8

**4. Next Meeting**

Friday May 9 at 10:00 AM.