



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



Ross Valley Safe Routes to Schools Task Force
Zoom Meeting Notes
Friday September 11, 2020

Attendance:

Wendi Kallins- Safe Routes to Schools, Renee Goddard- Fairfax Mayor,
Mark Reagan- Ross Valley School District Board Member, David
Gehman Ross Valley School District Director of Maintenance and
Operations, Pollie Robins, PTA president Wade Thomas, Nancy Vernon-
Aide to Supervisor Katie Rice, Gwen Froh- Safe Routes Program
Director, Gina Singleton-Parent and Sleepy Hollow Board Member, Brian
Colbert - Town Council San Anselmo, Kelly Zalewski - Marin Transit -
School Operations, Marci Trahan- Ross Valley Superintendent, Scott
Schneider - San Anselmo Asst DPW Director, Christopher Whitlock -
Marin Transit Operations, Carrie Robley- San Domenico School - Asst
Head of School

Report on Transportation Plans

Butterfield Road

The committee has met 3-4 times since the last task force meeting. Principal Kristi Fish attended a meeting. The County DPW will be looking at some key congestion points to develop a list of temporary buildouts for students to physically distance. They are looking at the Green Valley Court and Butterfield intersection, including the small pathway where students must get off bikes and walk to campus. They are considering a pilot in the school zone area south of Green Valley Court by using delineators to restrict vehicles from parking in the area to provide more space. It would

extend up into the school zone. They will be meeting again to review the proposal.

At San Domenico School near the bulbout (turn around) as students enter the campus (traveling north) at the end of Butterfield they have to cross traffic to reach the path. Some kids cross over at Vanwinkle on their bikes against the flow of traffic. The DPW will be looking at options for a safer crossing for the students given the volume of traffic.

There are a number of issues to address for Brookside School; Nancy, Scott, the Principal and Mandy Hall will be meeting separately. They need to address the many entry points into the campus and the small driveway onto campus.

The school is planning for a return to campus in small cohorts on October 5th (this is the soonest campus would reopen; since the meeting, the date has changed to October 26). There will be some students in the “most vulnerable” groups returning sooner. Enrollment has decreased which will influence the number of families traveling to school. During this meeting it was announced the district may apply for the TK-6th grade waiver.

Pollie will be meeting with the former Team Leader for Wade Thomas School. They have developed a map identifying park and ride locations and specific areas of concern. They will develop a preliminary plan including San Anselmo preschool once they know the start times. She is also looking for a Team Leader for the school year.

St Anselms is back at school now. They do start school earlier than Wade Thomas creating vehicle traffic along Ross Ave. and Bell Ave. It would help to have a volunteer from the school on the transportation group with Wade Thomas.

Renee (Fairfax) made an ask of the task force to contact the principal for Manor School with the intention she join one of the other transportation groups along with the school’s Safe Routes Team Leader to get support.

There are limited resources in the town right now; there is a concern they may not be ready when school reopens.

Safe Routes toolkits [Covid-19 Toolkit Supplement](#)

Please view the Toolkit Supplement when reading the notes below. To learn more about:

- How to Set-up a Transportation Committee
- Park and Walk Locations
- Pop- Up Infrastructure
- Sample Letters
- Appendix (Oregon Metro- also listed separately on home page)

Oregon Metro has developed a very extensive Toolkit. Many of their resources will be included in SR2S Toolkit Supplement: Pop-up Temporary Streets: one way streets, sidewalk extensions, communications/outreach, bike parking.

It is essential to have representatives from the school administration. There must be direct communication with the DPW. The DPW may not be able to attend meetings, but they need to be updated regularly on locations under consideration and give prior approval. The school district's Director of Maintenance will need to be updated as well on any proposed changes.

Transportation Committees Primary Tasks

Identify pop-up locations and park and walk locations. The park and walk locations may be easier to plan for: no major roadway changes are needed just obtaining permission for parking.

Sample letters

Letters have been drafted to help with: obtaining approval for a location for pop-up(s), updates to neighbors and letter from principal to school community regarding updates.

Yellow Bus update

On Aug 14, 2020 Marin County Office of Education released an update to their public health guidelines for returning to school. This included guidelines on “home to school transportation” which included the yellow bus program. Marin Transit (MT) was waiting for this information to plan. During the last (JPA) Joint Powers Agreement board gave MT the guidance to suspend the contract with Michael's Transportation bus service until the end of October.

Marin Transit, Nancy Veron and Marci at the school district will be meeting in advance to develop possible scenarios. Due to all the constraints for bus service (# of students, space requirements, bell schedules) the yellow bus may be for White Hill students only. About 20 students from Hidden Valley have been using the yellow bus. A final decision has not been made. If Michaels was asked to return to service earlier than November there would likely be no issue. They would like to get their drivers working.

Marin Transit met with several transportation groups including Michaels, First Student and taxi services. The guidelines determined (at that time) was one student per bench seat; equalling 27 students on a big bus. When the schools return to campus they are planning for rotating grades/students; the entire school population will not be traveling to school on the same days.

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission has established transit operators and other stakeholders into the “Blue Ribbon Task Force”. Their focus is to develop a plan for all Bay Area transit operators called the Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan. This plan includes guidelines and criteria that all transit operators will follow across the Bay Area to ensure drivers and passengers of safe and consistent protocols. The guidelines did allow for 3 to 6 feet separation of passengers. This would allow MT to increase the number of riders on a bus; however Marin's health advisory still calls for 6 feet of distance while on a bus. MT general bus service (not yellow) can accommodate 9 passengers on the largest bus and 4 on the smaller bus.

MT is planning to add supplemental service up/down the Sir Frances Drake corridor (Bus 125) that is focused on the high school students. When high school students return to campus is yet to be determined.

In August MT had a big issue with a number of passengers being passed up at stops due to capacity being met. MT added busses in the Canal area to the San Rafael Transit Center, up/down Hwy 101, Mill Valley and 4th Street San Rafael to College of Marin.

San Domenico Schools K-5 students return for half days the week of this meeting (5 days a week). Classrooms can accommodate cohorts of 12-14 with 6 feet of space; rooms have their own sinks/hand washing stations and doors/windows that open to fresh air.

San Anselmo Town Update

Brookside Sidewalk Gap Closure: The town could not include the entire project scope (from the school down to Drake Blvd to Fairfax). They are working on the Drake Blvd section only. It is moving toward 90%, it will be presented to the BPAC in the fall.

Two of the three TAM Safe Pathway small sidewalk gaps have been completed. It included curb ramps and sidewalks on Caletta, Raymond and Tamalpais, three curb ramps on Cedar Ave, small sidewalk gaps on Crescent all near Wade Thomas School.

The third project will include sidewalks on Sunnyside Ave; south of Wade Thomas. Planning to complete this fall.

Several Slow Streets projects have been completed on Caletta Ave and on Sycamore Ave near Bridge Ave. parallel to Center Blvd. Work on the Bike Spine continues. There is a deadline with Caltrans to move it forward with a final design by end of year with construction to be completed by next spring.

The Slow Streets pilot on Sycamore Ave was a result of residents submitting a petition regarding speeding vehicles. They pointed out when traffic is backed up on Center Blvd at Madrone, drivers tend to cut through on Sycamore. The current pilot signs read “closed to through traffic or residents only”. The town will be moving to “slow street” signage to help reduce traffic as there are many kids that cycle on this street. These were similar issues on Caletta Ave.

There has been mostly positive feedback; however there are some that feel the current signs imply these streets are private. The “slow streets” signs could clarify the intentions of the project which is to slow traffic for the safety of all the road users and town residents. This pilot will be reviewed by the town to determine if “slow streets” is best for San Anselmo.

Sir Frances Drake Blvd has a big repaving project underway that will include pedestrian improvements at the traffic signals from the HUB to the town of Ross.

The DPW will be selecting a consultant for the HUB Study to analyze traffic issues and pedestrian and bicycle access through the HUB.

Bolinas Ave has been repaved on the border of Ross. Now they are looking at the traffic calming elements; including sharrows, speed humps and islands that narrow the travel way.

Brian requested task force members research the Hovenring, Circular Cycle Bridge, Netherlands; a suspending bicycle bridge.

Fairfax Town Update

The town is having to re-evaluate the roadway changes on Cascade Drive. The removal of the center line to slow vehicle traffic has triggered expressed concern. The town is analyzing the project and will need to make some decisions in the next few months.

A note of thanks was made to school district staff for attending this meeting; recognizing how busy they are during these uncertain times. A welcome to Marci was extended as well.

Safe Routes To School Education Program

Educational resources remain available to all schools and community members. Please visit the following links to learn more;

[Remote Learning](#) Pedestrian and Bicycle Education

[Pedal Playground](#)

[Family Biking](#)

Next Zoom Meeting

Friday, January 15, 2020 at 10:00am

Mark will not be on the School Board any longer; a replacement will be joining the task force.