



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



**Ross Valley Safe Routes to Schools Task Force  
Friday, January 16, 2015  
Meeting Notes**

**Attended:** Ashley Tam- Parisi-Assoc., Robert Betts- Marin Transit, Carey Lando- Marin County - DPW, Sean Condry- San Anselmo DPW, Nancy Vernon-Aide/ Supervisor Katie Rice, Renee Goddard- Council Member Fairfax, Bridget Clark-Team Leader San Domenico, Will Cade-Fairfax Police Department, Darren Bruestle- CHP Officer, Hadley Dettmer-School Board/RVSD, Karen Baigrie-Team Leader Hidden Valley

**Grants submitted to Safe Pathways**

See attached supporting maps:

- Concept Plan- PH1
- Exhibit1- Project Area

Three grant applications have been submitted for San Anselmo:

Bike Spine Project: \$100,000 grant requested for Laurel Ave to Cedar to create a safer route to ride bikes on. Cedar was selected because it's a safer and wider street. The route markings will be a green thermoplastic and look similar to the Fairfax Bike Spine. As TAM reviews the grant applications, it will try to fund all of the smaller grants but this grant is among the larger funding applications. San Anselmo may start using town funds if the grant does not come through. There are \$3 million in grants; with \$5 million application requests.

Brookside- Sidewalk Gap Closure Project: The cost is estimated at \$440,000. Traffic signal improvements are included at the intersection of Sir Francis Drake and Butterfield Road to improve detection for bicycles and provide additional space for bikes to cross using the crosswalk on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard. There will be traffic signal

improvements at the Sir Francis Drake and San Francisco/Tamal intersection that will be constructed this summer using the Town's existing Safe Routes to School funds.

Improve Pedestrian Crossing: \$25,000 grant requested. San Anselmo meets all the parameters for the Active Transit Travel Program to receive funds. Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons would be installed at both locations to replace the in-pavement flashers.

Several concerns were discussed for cyclists using Drake Blvd. One concern is where cyclists cross Drake from San Francisco Blvd. What is the best way to do this and not ride on Drake? Many cyclists use the sidewalk. Sean agreed this is a challenging exchange for cyclist. In the future it would be good to have a second "bike spine". One improvement will be the signal at Tamel and San Francisco: there will be an accessible button for cyclists to activate the light too.

Second concern is for non-local cyclists traveling along Drake. Request for signs directing them to a "safer" alternative route. Signage suggesting cyclists not to ride on Drake; suggest they take Saunders or another road leading to the "hub".

### **Fairfax Gap - Complete Projects**

The project recommends extending the Bike Spine to White Hill School: \$350,000 for curb extensions, wider sidewalk and retaining wall on Sir Francis Drake Blvd.

The County of Marin has a few grants application in including one for Butterfield to install a rapid beacon flasher on Green Valley Court and Butterfield. Many issues are being reviewed including the street parking issue for residents.

### **Hidden Valley Update**

A local parent was looking into starting a student shuttle from Memorial Park but now that the Yellow Bus program is moving forward it will probably be put on hold.

Hidden Vally School is making a big push for parents to carpool. Efforts include restricting the use of Fawn Drive as a drop-off location. Considerations include installing a fence along the backside of the school property. This would force parents to park way up on Fawn Drive. Another consideration is to make Butterfield Park a park and walk/ride location.

Hidden Valley- Safe Corridor Committee includes the 3 neighboring schools and homeowners. The community involvement addressing these issues is very, very positive. The largest concern is not speeding vehicles but road rage. Many drivers are impatient and it is mostly the residents. The Committee is looking into vinyl banners with fun and suggestive safety messages.

There continue to be many safety concerns. Vehicles are driving around stopped vehicle(s) that are waiting to make a left turn. Drivers cannot see if pedestrians are in the crosswalk when they do this; it is a very dangerous behavior! This bad driver behavior is mostly coming from residents. Toward the end of April and again in the fall an outreach program will start. Messages will be kept friendly and included a sense of community.

Another consideration of the committee was to start a volunteer crossing guard program. Wendi explained that such a volunteer program can have many, many issues such as: reliability of volunteers, professional training required, management would need to be under the school or town administration and/or police department, and liability issues.

**San Domenico School-** During the last few months the school has needed to track their on/off campus trips. There is a limited number of trips the school make and they must keep this down. This includes am/pm travel and off campus events.

A request was made to have the crosswalk at Van Winkle Dr. looked at; the paint is fading and the bike path lane is not complete. One of the big issues for parents is the

unsafe facility at Van Winkle. The afternoon is the biggest safety concern with the increased traffic.

Another safety issue for students is how they cross over the road to the entrance to the school property. Students tend to turn left quickly, without looking for on coming traffic. Education on proper street crossing practice is needed for students.

Team Leaders expressed the need for an on the bike safety workshop that would address these concerns. A workshop was requested for early spring. The first choice would be to host it at Brookside School and travel up to Hidden Valley and San Domenico schools. Saturday morning would be the best day for a Ross Valley School District workshop; probably in March or April.

About 2% of the school population cycles and 13% walks to/from school. The survey data results will include a better break down of students traveling in the AM vs.PM.

### **Brookside School**

Deb Merten youngest child will be leaving Brookside this year and SR2S will need a new Team Leader(s). Deb has been an incredible Team Leader for many years.

### **Manor School**

SR2S Coordinator has sent an email to the principal to schedule classes in 2015. No response from the school yet.

### **Oak Manor Safety Issues:**

There have been several vehicle collision at the curve of Oak Manor. Residents want to consider traffic calming facilities. The roads are mainly used by residents.

Recommendations have been made to develop a public outreach campaign similar to Hidden Valley. The committee recently met with the CHP and homeowners. In late April messaging will be posted. The committee needs support from the principal at Manor School too. The Committee and Nancy are looking for support from SR2S. The school

has also been addressing safety issues with students being dropped off in front of the school and dashing across the street; a very unsafe behavior that is repeating itself from years past. The next meeting will be March 19 and the committee would like to invite Sargent O'Callahan or another officer.

Fairfax Police reported officers are out during drop off and pick up at the schools. They monitor for crosswalk violations and they occasionally monitor the bike spine route.

### **Yellow School Bus**

Robert from Marin Transit reported a study will be completed in the next couple of weeks. The study will recommend schools use yellow buses at the start of the next school year as opposed to GGT for the White Hill and the Hidden Valley runs.

The RFP for Yellow Bus service for San Rafael, Ross Valley and Tiburon will be posted soon because GGT declined to continue services moving forward. There have been many meetings to discuss possible options and the best option to date is the Yellow Bus program. The program at San Domenico is very successful and has been used as a information resource. The discussions include the fee structures and various options for purchasing a bus pass: single use pass, annual and possible monthly passes. Each school district is funded differently and may have different pricing programs.

There will be a need to fill all the seats on the bus for both AM and PM trips to manage the many costs of the program. One of the positive aspects of using Yellow Buses is they can drive on more residential roads; hence increasing access to families who want to take to a bus. Task Force members feel the usage will increase now that families know is it is Yellow's Bus program vs commercial buses.

One of the bigger issues is where the buses will be parked when not in use and how they can be used for additional school activities. Marin Transit is seeking locations for buses to park long term in Ross Valley. Some suggestions were: Sunny Hills area, Sleepy Hollow Church parking lot. Buses could have add-on benefits options such as Wifi.

Task Force members applauded Robert and Marin Transit for all the support for addressing the need for school transit options.

### **SR2S Walking School Bus**

Team leaders have been presented with a new campaign to organize walking school buses with a long term sustainability goal. SR2S is sending emails on how to implement the walking school bus program. The first goal is to establish at least one walking school bus at each school for Walk and Roll Wednesdays.

Hidden Valley has challenges encouraging walking because of the poor facilities along Butterfield road. The best option is to get students on the bus or in a carpool. There are currently a number of “bike trains” already established and they do not see a need for a formal “bike train” at this time. They have seen a increase in younger students cycling and this is attributed to a new generation of cycling parents.

Fairfax will be installing bike lockers for commuters. SR2S would like to see the community install bike storage lockers where families living in the hills could safely secure bikes over night. The Town of Tiburon will be researching this option too.

Next Meeting

April 24th at 10:00 AM- mark your calendar please.