



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



**San Rafael Safe Routes Task Force
4/21/20 5:00 pm.
Join Zoom Meeting**

Attendance:

Wendi Kallins, Peggy Clark, Gwen Froh Safe Routes to Schools, Lauren Davin- Traffic Engineer San Rafael, Jean Severinghaus- Volunteer Caltrans Bicycle Advisory Committee District 4, Kate Colin-Vice Mayor City of San Rafael, Andrew Lee Engineer Parisi Associates, Tamara Rich- Team Leader Sun Valley School, Justin Graham- Traffic Sargent San Rafael, Leslie Garer- Asst Head of School Mark Day, Elizabeth Foehr- Principal Vallecito School, Brooks Nguyen- Miller Creek School Board Trustee, David Parisi- Parisi Engineering, Amy McPherson- Parent Vallecito School, Mary Sackett- Aide to Damon Connolly, Shoshanna Harlem- Student Terra Linda High School & BPAC member, Monika Kainz- Parent Laurel Dell School, Dan Zaich- Director Capital Facilities San Rafael School District, Maika Llorens Gulati- School Board Member

Safe Routes to School (SR2S)

The Safe Routes to School program will be staying active throughout the county, providing meaningful resources to teachers and students; while supporting parents and the school districts. School administrators have expressed their gratitude as students are out walking and cycling in their communities. SR2S has developed on-line lessons; these lessons are normally presented in the classroom throughout the county each school

year. [SR2S Remote Learning Lessons](#) are available to all students and parents.

Art and Poetry Contest - April

Elementary and Middle School students submitted works for the month of April. All school districts and local social media resources were provided information. Many (50+) wonderful submittals have been received.

Walk and Roll Recess Challenge- May

“Get your Ya Yas Out” is a fun contest for parents to conduct with their children. There are a host of activities students can do during the challenge; walking, rolling, hula hooping, ball toss and jump roping. There are students that have challenges getting outdoors while practicing physical distancing. All healthy physical activities are encouraged and can be tracked for the challenge.

Bike Week Middle School Students

Will be rolled out in May; daily cycling related activities will be presented to students. As students track their participation, they will be eligible to win prizes at the end of the month. [The Safe Routes to School](#) web site has more details.

Climate Story Contest- “Tell us your Climate Story” High School Students
From Terra Linda High School students are submitting stories. This is a Bay Area contest. The Sonoma Eco to School Program originated the contest. There are cash rewards up to \$500.

School District- (discussion to learn what the school district is considering for Fall 2020)

Safe Routes to Schools wants to support schools and families during this time. We are anticipating traffic to schools will increase and may increase even more if bus service is limited. SR2S will work with local agencies to support and remind families that walking and rolling is key to good health and to reduce traffic near schools.

Safe Routes has begun conversations with several of the Dept of Public Works throughout the county. SR2S goals will include;

A. How can we mitigate an increase in traffic while providing safe infrastructure and social distancing.

B. How “park and walk” can support these efforts around schools.

C. How is safe space maintained around schools so walking and rolling can continue to be encouraged while maintaining social distancing. Some cities are closing streets to vehicles and developing “pop-up” road facilities around schools for safer walking and rolling.

This is the time to start thinking about options and resources to enable planning now. The City of Novato has requested Safe Routes make contact in June when there will hopefully be a clearer picture for moving forward with the opening of schools.

At the time of this meeting the school district does not know what is going to be planned. The school district is currently addressing if and how the summer school program will be coordinated. Equity is one of the highest priorities; addressing how students will get to school is key.

City Updates

Canal Pedestrian Improvements

Good news - the city received funding via TAM Measure A. This will include crosswalk improvements at four locations in the Canal: two on Medway, one on Kerner and one in front of Pickleweed. Improvements will include bulb-outs and rapid flashing beacons/pedestrian activated lights. A timeline has not been defined; possibly spring 2021. They were not designed prior to the “shelter in place; therefore, they could not be worked on now.

Measure A funding is also being used for crosswalk improvements at schools: Bulbouts, high visibility facilities and improved lighting. The locations are: Fifth Ave at Riveroaks, Mission and Alice, Mission and Park, Knight and Ashwood. If timing is not delayed, these could be under construction in the fall of 2020.

Third Street Update (pathway) Third Street Rehabilitation Project

The funding was secured via TAM some time ago. Design is under way; city staff and engineers are very aware of the importance of this project. The focus right now is 2nd street between Miramar Ave and Marquard Ave; where the city wants to get a bike and ped facility.

A consultant is addressing emergency services requirements (travel lanes) to potentially widen the sidewalk and bike facility on the south side of the street. This project will include more public outreach. A meeting may be scheduled during the shelter in place order. The meeting will be announced to the public in advance; it will be in the summer or fall. The city is projecting the project will be under construction in 2021 and possibly 2022.

San Rafael High pathway

Plans are underway for the HAWK I at Third Street. Parisi Engineering is working with the City of San Rafael for a new crosswalk. The plans will be sent to the city in April. It will include the electrical and civil engineering and a cost estimate.

The City was going out to bid for the sidewalk widening from Vivian to the Grand Street Bridge on Francisco Blvd prior to the shelter in place. Unfortunately, the contract was not in place before the “shelter in place” order; therefore construction could not begin.

Terra Linda High School Bike/Ped improvements

A virtual Walk Audit was conducted in early April. An architectural drawing was provided by the School District Capital Improvement Program to Parisi Engineering. A concept plan was developed for improved walking and biking access in front of the school, as well as better access to the bike racks.

Concept plans include a proposed buffered bikeway off Nova Albion Way, south of the current sidewalk. The two-way bike facility will extend north of

campus to the south end. Plans include a separate sidewalk with a proposed 6ft width (widths are subject to refinement). The bikeway would be buffered with a treatment; possibly a raised planter (there are a number of options to consider). The bike way has a proposed 8ft width.

The bikeway would continue to the main entry/driveway where there is currently a circle. A new crosswalk is proposed by the entry driveway; the location was studied to avoid conflicts with vehicles. The concept design includes several routes cyclists can take on campus (includes bike parking locations).

On street parking would remain; there are no plans to change resident parking. The designated drop-off area; would stay the same. The only change would be the addition of the two-way bike way. There would be a new driveway for the drop-off/pick up area including changes to the current circle. This is proposed to avoid traffic delays for entering and exiting vehicles.

Proposing a new marked crosswalk in front of the school. There were a number of requests from the city to include bulb-out to reduce the distance when crossing.

The two way bikeway is not recommended when there are a number of driveways creating breaks in the bike way flow. The bikeway will end on the north and south ends of Nova Albion Way at the all way stop intersections.

The safety improvements submitted by Terra Linda High School student Shoshanna Harlem, are incorporated into the concepts plans; she believes the suggestions will make it safer for students traveling to the school.

This is all conceptual right now, design details and cost have not been evaluated to date. The district's architects are planning to include these concepts into CAD drawings.

Mark Day/Vallecito Pathway

Parisi Engineers are looking at intersections near Mark Day School and potential pedestrian/bike way through the campus to Vallecito School. Base maps had been started before the shelter in place order. Traffic calming road facilities are under consideration for the intersection of Trellis Dr and Montecillo Rd (making the crosswalks more visible and shorter).

A walk audit was conducted in April. There is a good deal of traffic passing through and around the campus. There are many safety issues with students walking and riding to Vallecito School. There is a pathway through a field and pathway with a tunnel that descends onto Mark Day campus. There are many locations where the pavement is uneven. It also floods during the rainy season. Other issues include the speed that students descend from the pathway and the sharp turn required to keep from going into the parking lot and in the way of cars.

Engineering concepts include developing a two-way pathway on the south perimeter of the campus. Another idea; with more challenges is one on the north side of campus. Either way students are still passing through a parking area and more work needs to be completed. Paris is working with the schools Head Master and the School District. There are challenges with the pathway on campus including environmental concerns and new infrastructure.

The short-term recommendations will continue when school resumes including the walking school buses (under COVID guidelines). Families are encouraged to use the pathways using caution due to the poor surface conditions and vehicle traffic. Bicyclists are asked to dismount and walk their bikes through the campus; however, students and adults tend to get frustrated with needing to get on and off their bikes. It is a two-minute walk to get off a bike; not ideal but it is the best practice.

Task Force members are grateful this project is under review. There are number of families and residents that use this area; it has been an issue for

a long time. Members are supportive and excited to see what options are developed.

Sun Valley/Davidson Issues **ATTACHEMENTS** Davidson Route Map- & the Issue list

This list of issues will be provided to the city and Safe Routes to schools for future review.

Parents and Safe Route to School conducted a “bike audit” to develop this route map. Once completed/approved they would like it to be provided to the school as the suggested route to/return to Davidson Middle School.

Parents are asking for attention to the unsafe conditions for students on Woodland Ave by the school. The road is very congested in the AM and PM. Students cycling are competing with vehicles and students walking on the sidewalk. They are requesting the parking hours be restricted for 1 hour on the southside of the street in the morning and for 1 hours in the afternoon on the north side. This will provide access to the lane for students cycling.

Lauren said the DPW will look into the issues. Safety is most important. To change the parking on Woodland would require outreach to the resident and business.

The map indicates a route using 4th, Shaver and Latham. If this route is used some sort of traffic calming is requested; vehicles move fast in this area. A preferred option would be to direct the students to 4th and G Street where there is a flashing beacon however the bike way is too narrow.

A request was made to evaluate the safety issues when students traveling by bike are traveling toward California. They need to make a left at some point; vehicle drivers need to know this is happening.

For the city to consider adding stops signs at different locations would require A field visit and study. Stops are for sight distance challenges or potential intersection conflicts.

Another concern is the road way on Center is very uneven. The city is planning to resurface this road.

Woodland/Laurel Del issues

A parent had expressed concern about walking from the Bret Hart neighborhood to Laurel Del. The pedestrian way starting at Irving and Woodland is in very poor condition. The pedestrian way is on one side of the street only. This has been an issue for a long time. Now that the campus project is completed; now is time to revisit this issue. A new walk audit will be planned for the fall of 2020.

The pedestrian way along the parking area was fixed; which is great!

Funding for projects will be impacted in the future due to COVID-19. This will need to be considered as projects are prioritized.

When schools resume and space is needed to provide safe distancing for families walking to school; temporary restrictions will need to be considered on Woodland.

There is a hope parents working from home can take advantage of flexible time; enabling more students to walk or bike to schools. This would have a huge impact on reducing traffic around schools. There may be ways to incentivize parents to walk to campus.

The school district has not determined if and how start times for middle and high schools will change. Adults who travel to work cannot always change their schedules. There are many unknowns moving forward. Later start times will impact the school district operations. Distance learning is the focus of the schools right now.

Sun Valley is looking to move the 6th grade over to the Annex where Laurel Dell School was during construction. This move would break out the older students from the younger students. This move should impact the level of traffic at Sun Valley School. It was pointed out that the challenges at Irving and Woodland could increase. A virtual walk audit could be conducted; something will be planned for the fall.

Next meeting -Tuesday, September 15th at 5:00pm

ZOOM meetings may be scheduled moving forward with 1-2 in person meetings if members agree.