



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



San Rafael Safe Routes Task Force

Meeting Notes

Nov 7, 2019

Attendees:

Wendi Kallins, Safe Routes to Schools, Molly Blauvelt-Parent San Rafael High, Kate Colin – Councilmember, Raul Aguilar- San Rafael Police Dept., City of San Rafael, Patty Compas- Davidson Middle School, Elizabeth Foehr-Principal Vallecito School, Gwen Froh- Safe Routes to Schools, Bill Guerin-DPW, City of San Rafael, Monika Kainz- Parent Laurel Dell, Monica Leifer- Safe Routes to Schools, Peggy Clark, Safe Routes to Schools, Dave Levy-Trinity Church, David Parisi- Parisi Assoc. Engineering, Amy Probst-Neighbor, Mary Sackett-Aide to Damon Connolly, Jean Severinghaus-Volunteer- BPAC, Anna Tackabery- Student Terra Linda School, Mike Taylor-Principal Coleman School, Dan Zaich-Senior Director-San Rafael School District, Joe Harvey-Principal- Mark Day School, Vallecito School Parents: Amy McPherson, Carrie Purvis, Barb Rogers, Miles Rogers, Ellen Stone, Nicki Mullen, Erin Nixon, Cynthia Hamilton, David Benin, Lauren Hoernlein, Jennifer McGeorge-Rising- Team Leader Coleman School

Bike Access Through Terra Linda Parking Lot

The school campus is currently under renovation. In the current plan students must cycle through a parking lot to access bike parking. This is a dangerous option; Anna and students have approached school administration to develop safer alternatives.

Parisi Associates continues to work with the School District. A RFP was recently completed for Terra Linda School. This issue could fold into this project/design. The student feedback has been very helpful with this process.

There are also concerns with unsafe traffic flow onto campus off Nova Albion Way. The right turn onto Esmeyer Dr. can be dangerous; drivers stop to drop off students blocking the roadway causing issues for pedestrians and cyclists on the roadway.

Nova Albion Way is a very busy road a request was made to install a bike lane for students attending both schools from the Safeway to Terra Linda School on at least one side of the road (south bound).

Montecillo Road is also well traveled by students on bikes. A request was made to remove a couple of parking spaces at the top of the hill to increase space and visibility.

A suggestion was made to ask students to wear more visible clothing; this would help with driver visibility. Safe behavior and visibility would help to increase safety. Many agreed it was a good idea and a big challenge to suggest what students wear.

Vallecito Pathway Through Mark Day

Recently Wendi Kallins and David Parisi observed safety concerns at the Mark Day School campus during dropoff. Parents and the Principal of Mark Day and Vallecito are concerned for students and adults passing through an active parking lot.

Mark Day School is required to monitor, manage and report vehicle traffic at the school. They have specific restrictions; the school has more students carpooling than single family vehicles.

Issues/Requests Expressed:

- Students cycling 2-4 abreast down the somewhat narrow road way.
- Driver behavior is generally good considering the volume of vehicles and cyclists.
- The pathway from the park through Mark Day to Vallecito has challenges, parents do not feel it safe for students to use with the current conditions: steep, slippery: water and dirt collect in specific locations, sharp turn at the bottom of a hill (challenge for all age riders), narrow MUP for pedestrians and cyclists passing. Many parents feel passing through the lot is safer than the road ways.
- Mark Day School has a lease with the school district. It has been the understanding Vallecito students/parents are permitted to pass through Mark Day parking lot.
- Mark Day administration is very concerned by the behavior of students/parents passing through an active parking lot- drivers are not expecting to see or can see students weaving around vehicles. A physical barrier was requested to keep students and parents from passing through the lot during and after drop off.
- Require students/parents get off their bikes when in the parking lot.
- Mark Day parents have been very supportive and made aware of the safety issues on the campus neighboring streets and parking lots.
- Vehicles parked on field during special events at Mark Day School- can add to cyclist at risk with more moving vehicles. A request was made to post a crossing guard when the events are scheduled.
- Students cycle through the parking lot against the flow of traffic which is generally twice a dangerous for cyclists.

- Parents are concerned safety improvements will not move forward. Similar issues have been raised in the past and no changes were implemented by either of the schools.
- Install a painted bike path through the parking lot.
- Encouragement for students to walk and roll to school are going well; unfortunately in this situation the route is not safe.
- Education outreach to the parent community at both schools; many are not aware of best practices/rules of the road.

Next Steps:

Safe Routes to School will schedule a Walk Audit as soon as possible. Administration from both schools will attend. Parents are welcome too. The audit will provide details on the issues presented in real time for vehicle drivers, pedestrians and cyclists. Options for the parking lot and surface roads by Mark Day will be considered and researched to develop facility improvements.

Parisi Associates will present recommend options to the School District and Department of Public Works. There will be short term and long term options presented. A goal will be to get approval for short term facility improvement as soon as possible. In the future 3-4 years funding for improvements could be approved by TAM. Issue on the campus are the responsibility of the school district. The school district can also see funding by the state.

The police are committed to actively enforcing safe transportation for both schools. Raul Aguilar- 460@srpd.org

Coleman School's Team Leader offered her support and shared experience to educating parents. She has worked directly with the school principal developing informational flyers and schedule school assemblies addressing safe routes and behaviors getting to school: including not parking in red zones, blocking driveways and sidewalks.

Eyes Up Campaign

Ross Valley piloted a community based social media campaign that ran from September through the first week of October. The goal was/is to change behavior and asks people to turn off their phones while driving. The focus of this grassroots campaign is to change behavior. Awareness is the first step; people identifying the problem and what they can do to help facilitate change. All County partners were asked to share the information to increase the number of viewers. A survey was included with the campaign. There were approximately 400 responses with 68% agreeing to turn off their phones while driving.

Sun Valley to Davidson Route – Not addressed at this meeting

Project Updates

San Rafael High Pathway

San Rafael High campus improvements are underway; new buildings are under construction, plus parking lot re-design and the multi use pathway (MUP). The MUP's schematic design phase is almost complete with the support of the City and Parisi Associates. Intentional effort was made to preserve the historical view of the high school. The project has come a long way and the school is seeking funding options. The school district hopes to have the MUP included in the next phase of construction.

The MUP will tie campus buildings together and provide a safer option; directing students off of Third Street.

San Rafael TAM Funded Projects

The following projects were recently funded by TAM:

- Francisco Blvd. Multi-use Gap Closure
- Third Street Improvements
- Rapid Flashing Beacons in unincorporated San Rafael
- Point San Pedro Rd Rapid Flashing Beacon
- Fifth Avenue and River Oaks Road RRFB Project,
- Knight Drive and Ashwood Court RRFB Project,
- Mission Avenue and Park Street RRFB Project,
- Mission Avenue and Alice Street RRFB,

Third Street Crosswalk Project

The project was recently funded by TAM. A [HAWK Beacon](#) will be installed. A unique feature of this traffic control device is the flashing lights are red vs yellow and it can be timed with traffic, which is helpful. This will be very helpful to the students; the design will direct them to walk/face traffic before crossing the street.

City Project Reports

Third and Heatherton

This project must be coordinated with Caltrans and is federally funded; this has been a long approval and funding process. Construction is planned for the summer of 2020.

Third Street

This is a Measure A funded project. It will go before the City Council in December. The project will have two phases due to the funding process. It will include bulb-outs and bike and ped facilities.

SMART Pathway

San Rafael was awarded \$400,000.00 by TAM; additional funding is needed. The project is slowly moving along.

Grand Ave Bridge

Bridge is complete and looks great!

Francisco Blvd Pathway

Federally funded sidewalk widening project that is moving forward. The engineers and property owners are pleased

Next meeting

A date was not selected at this meeting. It will be announced. The Walk Audit is scheduled for December 6th at 2:20 pm.