



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



**Safe Routes to Schools
San Rafael Task Force May 2, 2019
Meeting Notes**

Attendance

Hadar Albo- Parisi Associates, Molly Blauvelt- Parent San Rafael High, Monica Leifer- Safe Routes to Schools, Kevin McGowan-DPW City of San Rafael, Tamara Rich-Parent Sun Valley School, Jean Severinghaus- Volunteer for BPAC Bike Ped Plan, Marian Engelland – Parent Sun Valley & Davidson MS, Matt Kramer Parent Sun Valley & Davidson MS, Wendi Kallins and Peggy Clark- Safe Routes to Schools, Isabella Clegg- SMART

Sun Valley Mapping— **Map Attached**

This second round of updates to this map have been made. Additional comments were collected during the meeting. After the next review the map will be submitted to the City of San Rafael DPW for final approval. The map will be in a digital format only. It will be provided to the school and city resources prior to the school year if approved.

A suggestion was made to plan a field trip with Safe Routes to Schools instructors, parents and students to Davidson.

Issues & Recommendations Identified on Map

- G Street is next to F Street- adjust street label
- Students make a left going down 5th to G Street; then use pedestrian light for crosswalk at Johnny Donuts. Some students use H Street, but most use G Street.

- Need arrow to indicate the direction of travel- need to clarify, just add them to H Street.
- G Street- no controlled crossing.
- Some students use the sidewalk; the city allows students to use them.
- Recommend students use Center Street to get them off 5th Street. Most issues are on 5th Street. The BPAC and the DPW have a list of issues.
- Crossing at 4th there is a blind turn area
- Woodland Ave- this is a busy road with commercial trucks parked and moving about. There are many hazards for students cycling and walking.
- Request made to prohibit parking from 7:00 to 8:00 am.
- There is a sharp curve in the roadway near Muffin Mania; suggestion to direct students to Octavia to avoid this unusual intersection.
- Label B Street on the map
- Many RV's are parked along the road.
- There are several businesses that sell liquor in the area- request to the city to limit types of businesses.
- Green road paint with "school route" signs like those in the Miller Creek Middle School roadways. Request Parisi Assoc provide recommendations on graphics to use for school route road signs.
- Center Street needs to be repaved and then painted. The DPW is aware of this need. Once utility projects are completed the DPW will address.

Bus Stop for San Rafael High

Marin Transit has studied how students use the bus systems and where potential stops could be located now and when the transit area changes are planned for the future.

Students are not getting off at Grand Ave. It is not a good area for students to walk. When students do not want to wait for a bus, they walk across Heatherton to get on a bus. Marin Transit is trying to get a bus closer to the school for students to get off a bus near 2nd & 3rd Streets.

Students traveling from/to the Canal neighborhood is the highest percentage of riders; 30% of the riders are students. Marin Transit runs 8 buses an hour in the morning. In the morning most of the students get off at

3rd and Grand Ave. for San Rafael High. About 60 students continue to Terra Linda High. In the afternoon an estimated 400 students take a bus back to the Canal. Many times, a bus is full; leaving the students to wait with little shelter and possibly walk back to the Transit Center where they may get a seat on a bus.

If the bus routes were extended it would extend the travel time for all the other users too. There are very specific calculations used to manage the flow of the buses in/out of the Transit Center.

The new center at 4th Street may create an improved gateway and possibly create an opportunity to re-direct busses to help the students. The size of the buses and the cost with adding additional buses and adjusting routes are all factors Marin Transit must address before any changes to service can be approved.

Robert reported that there are currently no short-range solutions however there are long range solutions. By March 2020 a new bus plan will be presented.

Safe Routes to Schools will be proposing the city/SMART address the safety issues with the traffic lights for all road users. The timing of the lights and pedestrian signals need to be properly phased at all the crosswalks. Marin Transit will be requested to write a letter to address these issues.

SMART Rail Safety— [SMART Rail Safety](#)

SMART is reaching out to elementary, middle and high schools to present rail safety curriculum. They prefer to schedule presentation 2-3 months in advance. The train is scheduled to be running by December 2019. Their goal is to meet with all schools that are located close to the tracks next fall. They are finding it challenging to get in touch with school administrators and would appreciate assistance from the task force members.

In addition to meeting in schools SMART will have “pop-up” safety events at stations. Resources are available in Spanish and English. A Rail Safety ad campaign will also be promoted soon.

Updates

San Rafael High pathway

There are plans to discuss the future for a pathway. Momentum is building; public meetings will be scheduled. The school district and school board have been supportive. Funds are needed. Increased community involvement is encouraged.

City projects

3rd & Heatherton

The City is applying for a Federal grant and working with the Caltrans application process. It can take up to two to three months to learn if an application has been approved.

Safe Routes to Schools will connect with the San Rafael BPAC to confirm what their position is on the Point San Pedro crosswalk and report back to the San Rafael DPW.

3^r Street (heading west)

A study will be completed soon and presented to the City Council in June. No major changes are anticipated, which could help the project to move forward. Current funding does include a sidewalk on the west end (Lindaro to Miracle Mile). Task Force members urged that this project be included as

it is the highest priority for Safe Routes to Schools. Improvements planned (not detailed yet) include bulb outs and enhanced road striping.

SMART pathway

The pathway will run parallel to the rail line to the tunnel. A request was made for the rail ties at Anderson Drive to be perpendicular for safety of bicycle crossings.

Road closures are scheduled for June. Once the rail work is completed train testing will be underway for the next several months. The City is working with SMART on the “quiet zones”.

Grand Ave Bridge

This project is almost completed; the roadway should be completed in the next few weeks. The Vivian St & Francisco Blvd E sidewalk project needs to get on the agenda of the Caltrans Commission meeting.

Other projects

- Restriping of main arterial roads is planned: Second to Mission, North San Rafael in Terra Linda
- More than 50 locations including mid-block crossings will be evaluated for road striping. This is a big project for the city that will include several facility improvement options.
- The multi-use pathway; Anderson to 2nd Street will not be funded by SMART. There is a section of the pathway the city would like supported by Safe Routes to Schools to apply for funding. The plan is “shovel ready”.

Next meeting

Date, time location to be announced.