



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



**Sausalito Task Force Meeting
Zoom Meeting Notes
January 21, 2021AM**

Attendance: Wendi Kallins- Safe Routes Projects Coordinator, Peggy Clark Safe -Routes to Schools, Gwen Froh Safe Routes to Schools- Education & Encouragement Director, Steve Veveiros - Sausalito Police Dept., Susan Cleveland-Knowles - Parent, Mayor, David Parisi- Parisi Engineering, Matt Farber- Instructor Safe Routes to School, Aaron Roller- Parent/BPAC Member, Eric Payne- Involved Resident, Andrew Davidson Sausalito DPW Engineer,

New Lead Instructor for Safe Routes to Schools

Matt Farber will be developing and delivering curriculum for 1st-12th grade students, focused on the importance of bicycle safety, healthy lifestyles, active transportation and the environment. His background is working with students and bicycle touring.

Safe Routes Education Update

Safe Routes has reached out to administrators at both MLK Academy and Willow Creek offering grade level pedestrian and bicycle safety education. The Superintendent has been supportive. Administration contacts at the schools have not responded.

School Opening Status

Willow Creek has students on campus and learning remotely. MLK has had most of the students on campus since early in this school year.

Transportation Committee

The committee has not met recently. Aaron reported a meeting invite was recently sent out; hopeful they will meet soon. He has been actively recruiting parents that are aware of the partnership with Marin City and

Sausalito and support active transportation. The PBAC's scope has been on Sausalito in the past. Now community members from both Sausalito and Marin City (which is in the County) are working to collaborate on issues that exist in both towns: including PBAC and other committees. Safe Routes would like to be included in the Transportation Committee meeting dates.

Speeding Issues-Marin City

Streets: Terrace Drive, Donahue Street, Drake Ave and Terners Drive
No update available for the meeting.

Nevada Street updates since last meeting

Parisi Engineering submitted the 95% Revised Plans to the DPW. Based on the input from this task force and other groups several updates were made to the plans; including a two way cycle track with post buffer, stripping. The plans are under review; if the project were bid with the more permanent street making it would be very expensive (approximately \$120,000.00). This is a demonstration project; the DPW may not want to consider paint which would be less expensive.

Regarding the budget, the city received a \$50,000 grant from Safe Pathways; including design and construction: \$30,000 on design. It is estimated that \$60-100,000 will need to be raised depending on the materials approved.

Last November a number of neighbors joined a PBAC meeting; many voiced concerns about the loss of parking. Additional concerns; what changes will develop with students not attending campus, how will transportation change moving forward, additional cost if re-design is needed. Tentatively K-5 students are slated to attend the Nevada Street campus and middle school students would attend the Marin City campus.

The Transportation Committee's role will be very important as younger students will now need to travel to the current Willow Creek Campus safely and all middle school students will be traveling to the current MLK campus. The travel distance for the younger students will increase significantly; K-5 students will not be biking. A bus service will be needed and/or a very robust carpool program. Approximately 180 students will be traveling from Marin City.

It was suggested that this is now an opportunity for the SR2S Task Force, the town and community members to partner as “bike way” issues move forward. This project is about students traveling to/from school safely. The neighbors really want to see the speeds and traffic reduced for safety reasons. There is a good deal of support including from the Sustainable Commission; however if neighbors are upset about the parking similar future projects could be at risk of getting approved. Continued community outreach is key. The City Council would have the final approval.

The route from Marin City to the Nevada Street campus that includes the Coloma Street street pathway; between MLK park and the gravel pathway; extension of Tomales Street. This issue is on the agenda for 2022 for Safe Routes to Schools funding. This improved facility will increase student safety and encourage more students to cycle. Coloma Street is a high traffic street. The DPW is planning to begin the design for this project during the summer of 2021.

Bridge Way at Napa Street- collision

This intersection (north end of Caledonia St) is well traveled by students in the AM and PM

Re: Discussion at the recent PBAC meeting. It was presented that the Sausalito PD did not cite the driver at the time. Aaron provided an update of the collision: student in crosswalk riding a bike and other pedestrians. The driver did not see the student with the bike and hit her. No citations were issued because a Sausalito officer did not witness the incident and officers in Sausalito have not been trained on issuing such citations. There is a one year window of time when the citations can still be issued. The CHP and Mill Valley Departments do permit officers to issue citations even if an officer did not witness the collision. This could be an opportunity for the local police to support each other with training resources. Sausalito DPW will have more information for the next PBAC meeting.

There has been a good deal of collaboration with the DPW and PBAC; a city subcommittee was formed to review the issues proposed by the PBAC. Many of the issues/areas are used by students traveling to/from schools;

including the north end of Caledonia where it meets Napa and Bridgeway. This is a priority intersection for the city as well.

The PBAC will follow-up to make sure SR2S managers and task force members can be notified of the public meetings and updated in the future.

Discussion on bicycle/pedestrian safety

Education is a key component to help increase the safety of all road users; Safe Routes education is needed in the schools too. There are resources for adults/students/families to attend bicycle education classes. [Family Biking class information](#). These classes are interactive Zoom presentations geared toward 4th thru 7th grade students. This is a resource to help parents decide when their child is ready to travel independently. This age group is beginning to travel independently. Workshops will again be scheduled for in person instruction in the future.

Drive Awareness Resources

A community group in San Anselmo started a pilot program called Eyes Up- Phone Down- Slow Down, signage was created along with a mass promotional campaign. One component was to encourage drivers to take a pledge. The pandemic started; therefore progress of the campaign slowed down. The pledge encourages drivers to use the phone app that prohibits incoming calls or text to ring/display while driving.

Safe Routes proposed a similar yet unique education campaign for Sausalito/Marin City. Aaron expressed his reservation for campaigns for locals primarily; he would like to see focus for infrastructure improvements. Education and facilities that promote safe speeds and roadway space for all users; lane markings, warning lights must be effective.

Sausalito PD did have a directed effort to enforce safe behaviour for cyclists and drivers before the pandemic; including unsafe use of phones by drivers. This will start up again in the summer; the department has been sensitive to the negative influences from the pandemic. Traffic enforcement remains a priority for all roadway users.

CHP is primarily responsible for the freeways and on/off ramps and if they get requested to help from another enforcement agency. If they need to

they can go anywhere for enforcement. If there is a ‘traffic safety issue’ in a County area the CHP “special traffic unit” will be called in. The County Sheriff provides enforcement for Marin County; including Marin City, an unincorporated area. Sausalito PD works very closely (day to day) with the Sheriff Dept because of the shared town borders. All three agencies work very well together and do provide education to drivers and cyclists when citations are issued to improve behavior.

Understanding the roles of the Sheriff and the CHP in Marin City is very unclear to many residents in Marin City, It is also a very inconvenient service when Marin City residents are reporting unsafe issues; speeding drivers etc. Safe Routes will reach out to the CHP “special traffic unit” and invite them to the task force meetings. They do attend other task force meetings in the county.

The three “E”s: engineering, enforcement and education are all vital. Education can be most challenging; it is about changing behavior. The Safe Routes to Schools program focuses on education to encourage positive and safe behaviors. Signage is not enough, it must be something to get people to take action.

The Marin County Bicycle Education provides an adult education program to change behavior before citations are issued.

Next Zoom meeting

Thursday, May 6 at 9:30AM- Safe Routes will ask for additional agenda items with the notice that is sent out prior to the upcoming meeting.