



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



**Tiburon SR2S Task Force meeting
5/7/20
Zoom Meeting Notes**

Attendance:

Wendi Kallins, Peggy Clark Safe Routes to Schools, Steve Palmer Tiburon Public Works Director, Jacob Buffenbarger - Caltrans Engineer, Kathy McLeod- Resident and Crossing Guard Supervisor, David Parisi- Parisi Engineering, David Eshoo- Tiburon Assoc Engineer, Holli Thier - Tiburon Town Council, Jena Watson- Team Leader Bel Aire, Angela McInerney- Parent & Parks and Open Space Commission member

Discussion on school travel when schools reopen

School districts have not determined or announced how or when they will reopen. Several scenarios are being considered. The yellow bus service is not confirmed next school year.

Safe Routes to Schools wants to support schools and families during this time. 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 when practiced under the guidelines. The areas around the schools will need space to practice social distancing.

Safe Routes to Schools support in the school community is essential during this time when people may believe it is safer driving. Awareness will be needed to encourage walking and biking to school and to reinforce the safety and benefits of walking and biking.

Municipalities are being asked to look into “roadway pop-ups” to encourage traffic calming. These could create temporary space in the roadways; enabling physical distance for the students. Orange cones and planters are some of the creative ways to designate a coordinated off space. Engineers will also consider how not to impact/increase traffic with the “pop-ups”.

Crossing guards could be a resource to place cones. They often need to help with this when they start their shifts (45 minutes before school starts and 15 minutes once school does start). Safe Routes could ask TAM if they could help.

Children in general are going to be very challenged to not crowd together. They do not have the discipline of adults.

Del Mar has challenges with a narrow ramp/sidewalk and a guard rail on Tiburon Blvd opposite the school. Bel Aire has a similar campus with a narrow and steep path to the campus. Reed hot spots are Layford Dr. and Tiburon Blvd. (narrow sidewalks). Del Mar and Bel Aire both have roadways/routes used for more than one school. Intersections and u-turns near campuses could prove to see an increase in traffic; all these conditions will result in traffic backed-ups.

There are many locations along Tiburon Blvd. where students must gather to cross the street. In normal conditions; students are backed up getting ready to cross the roadway. If students must stagger their spacing; there is concern the pedestrian light would change before they crossed the street safely. A suggestion was made to consider a “pop-up” extended curb.

This is an opportunity to encourage more students to bike; it can provide an environment to physically distance. Bike trains can be a good option. SR2S would like to see the younger students walking together. There is going to be a strong urge for parents to drive their children. Education and messaging that the space and air movement can be better vs being in a

vehicle or a bus is needed. Education and supervision will be essential. Children can get the virus and be carriers. The teachers and all the employees at the schools will be following safety precautions.

Suggestions:

- Place “foot print” graphics on the walking routes to point out physical distance
- Plan how to manage campus bike parking.

There will be a need for a good deal of advance planning along with strong partnerships with all the agencies and school districts. Caltrans will need to help; they can manage the pedestrian crossing signals. Planning will require considering what temporary facilities are best, obtaining approvals by the municipalities and determining who will manage the changes. The Safe Routes to School engineer will be working very closely with town and county DPW staff to develop a toolkit.

Each school has its own unique circumstances to create new and safe circulation patterns. Specific schools will be selected as demonstration schools. They have not been identified yet. It will ultimately be up to each jurisdiction to make the decisions with the school districts.

Holli was asked to report back to Safe Routes on the decisions being made by the Joint Powers Authority(JPA): comprising the Town, City and Reed School District regarding the bus program. Wendi was invited to the next meeting as all the organizations are working together with planning for the next school year. The Town Manager coordinates the meetings.

Transportation of Marin *new* [Safe Routes to School](#) information page

Safe Routes offerings

Safe Routes Offerings this Spring

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 out doors while practicing physical distancing. All healthy physical activities are encouraged and can be tracked for the challenge.

Safe Routes to Schools- [Social Distancing Tips for Walk and Rolling](#)

An information flyer was created as a resource to students and families throughout the county. With the increase of students walking and biking during the “shelter in place”; these tips are very useful safety reminders. Soon the flyer will be in Spanish too.

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. 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.

Bike Week Middle School Students- May

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.

Updates on Del Mar, Blackfield, Steward Dr.

Del Mar

The Town Council approved the project several weeks ago. The agreement between the town and TAM has been signed. This project will be included in the CIP. Design will begin in July. TAM said the funds could not be available until the summer of 2021; however if design moves forward quickly the town can make a request for the funds to be granted sooner.

The concept plans currently exist; the plans need to be developed to include modifying some curbs and drainage inlets. The survey has been developed and the different agencies for the utilities will need to provide information. It is an involved project that will require a good deal of coordination.

Steward Dr.

The flashing beacon that was falling over has been replaced with a standard crosswalk sign. Caltrans would like to install a pedestrian hybrid beacon= HAWK in the summer of 2021. They are looking for feedback from Tiburon DPW. The order has been placed; there is no exact timeline. The HAWK has flashing red lights and walk/don't walk signals. The HAWK can be programmed to work with other traffic lights. They are not designed to manage traffic however. They can interrupt traffic flow more than a Rectangle Rapid Beacon that was also suggested.

There is a concern for traffic turning left from Tiburon Blvd onto Stewart Drive. This will need to be considered with input from the town

Blackfield

Safe Routes to Schools engineers will request the plans from Caltrans.

Caltrans is looking to work on this project during the summer of 2021. Design is being wrapped up and is 95% complete. Tiburon DPW presented the plans. They include increasing the width of the sidewalk, bulbing out

the crosswalk to reduce the crossing distance, installing green bike lanes on the local street (not Tiburon Blvd) and removing the pork-chop islands.

A request was made to include the green bike lanes across Tiburon Blvd. They really help student cyclists know where to ride and directs them clearly to the other side of the roadway. These would be an extension of the bike boxes. A request will be made to include them in the final design.

There are sharrows on Blackfied; however they should be green (school route graphic) as they are in other towns. This will increase visibility for students to identify where they should ride and help drivers to know what route they should take to avoid students on the road. These road markings really help the traffic flow and increase safety for all road users in the morning and the afternoons.

The route to Bel Aire School includes several different streets with a good deal of activity from morning commuters, business and construction traffic and students/families traveling along the road way. It will be very important for the school to begin the school year with clear messaging and education. The suggested route maps (printed and distributed) are very helpful.

The updates to the [suggested route map](#) for Bel Aire School has been updated.

Report back on virtual audit of Tiburon Blvd

SR2S Reed School District Issues List

[Virtual Walk Audit Notes- Tiburon Blvd](#)

Task Force members virtually toured Tiburon Blvd referencing the issues list. It was a successful experience; thanks to David Eshoo. Sergio from Caltrans did attend the meeting (Jake reported on behalf of Sergio).

The paving project on Tiburon Blvd can include all or most of the SR2S issues. The project must go to the CA Transportation Commission. The current timeline is 2024. If the City wanted to do something sooner they

could apply for an encroachment permit. Some of the listed issues such as signals at Stewart Drive can be addressed before 2024.

Caltrans still needs to review the entire list; they will announce and host a public meeting for review of the project detailing the project. No timeline is available because the project has not been programmed yet. Caltrans was requested to provide a timeline and report back to SR2S for these meeting notes.

New request: Caltrans will a bike lane be included in this project on Tiburon Blvd after Trestle Glen toward Hwy 101?

Safe Routes would like to be notified when the project is formally introduced in the Caltrans SHOPP program. This will help SR2S to know exactly what issues will be included.

Next meeting

July 14, 2020 at 4:00pm. Zoom meeting invitations will be sent out in advance.