



Safe Routes to Schools
Kentfield Task Force Zoom Meeting Notes
August 11, 2021

Attendance:

Wendi Kallins- Safe Routes to Schools, Peggy Clark- Safe Routes to Schools, John Neville- County of Marin Traffic & Transportation Engineer, Jennifer Schriber - ParisiTransportation Engineer, Gwen Froh- Safe Routes to Schools, Nancy Vernon - Aide to District 2 Supervisor Katie Rice, Allison Fortini-Crawford - Neighborhood Captain, Anne Petersen - Kentfield Planning Advisory Board, Beth Rhodes - Communications Director College of Marin, Bree Eaton- Neighborhood Captain, Melanie Wollenweber- Neighborhood Captain, Matt Farber- SR2S Lead Instructor, Cooper Miley SR2S Volunteer Coordinator, Kristine Duran- Bacich Vice Principal, Dan Cherrier - TAM Crossing Guard Manager

Invite Ross School to Kentfield task force

Ross School does not currently belong to a Safe Routes to Schools Task Force. It was suggested they join the Kentfield Task Force moving forward. They do have a school representative. Historically they do not have many facility issues; they would primarily join this group to learn more about the Safe Routes program and education.

Concern was expressed that adding another school/district could make the meetings run longer and their potential issues are very separate from those for the Kentfield School District. A suggestion was made to set meeting agendas moving forward (in advance) if they joined.

Safe Routes Education and Encouragement for fall

Welcome to Safe Routes to School Volunteer Coordinator Cooper Miley (cooper@marinbike.org). He joins the team with extensive experience in the cycling industry and is currently a mountain bike coach for Berkeley High. His professional experience has been in marketing and sales. He will be coordinating efforts for Safe Routes encouragement and parent volunteer work.

Matt Farber joined the team last January as the Lead Instructor. He started off presenting remote learning classes last school year and in-person outside events last spring.

Safe Routes remote learning resources were utilized by teachers at Bacich and Kent MS last school year- no in-person classes were taught on campus. For the 2021-22 school year SR2S vaccinated staff are planning to teach pedestrian and bicycle safety to grades 2-6. SR2S will continue to work with the school district if COVID parameters should change.

The school district is permitting volunteers on campus in a limited capacity to start the school year. There will be an expectation that all volunteers are vaccinated.

International Walk and Roll to School Day is October 6, 2021. Nationally and locally, this is the largest event to promote walking and rolling to school. SR2S volunteers typically host welcome tables at all the Kentfield schools and small incentives are handed out to students. Volunteers are needed for schools to participate.

A Safe Routes to School Back to School notice was sent out to the school in early August. This comprehensive document provides information on walk, rolling and carpool to schools. It is important for this information to be included in the Back to School packets to all families at the start of the year.

[SR2S Walking Safety Tips 2021](#)

[SR2S Biking Safety Tips 2021](#)

Safe Routes to Schools- Student Travel Survey

The fall travel survey will be conducted at all schools during the week of Sept 14 or Sept 20th. Save the date notices will be emailed to all schools mid August and survey instructions will be emailed 1 week prior to the scheduled week to conduct the survey. IMPORTANT- last year SR2S was not able to conduct the survey; therefore, we are really encouraging every school and classroom to collect the requested data this year- thank you!

College of Marin (COM) Updates

830 College Ave Building Update

Over the past few months COM has been meeting with school district staff to address concerns related to traffic to/from the building once it is open and how that relates to

student safety. The building will not be occupied until late December 2021 or January 2022.

The goal for the district and COM is to minimize the number of times students would interface with traffic from the building. One of the issues to address is the driveway from the building that meets with a lane from the school. Closing this lane is planned. It is currently closed to traffic due to the construction fencing that is in place. This will give the community an idea of how this will or will not impact traffic.

Learning Resource Center

COM will be hosting a community town hall Zoom meeting on September 7 at 6:00pm to share the design development concepts. Meeting details will be sent out to the community and SR2S task force. COM does want to have the school community attend to help address safe student flow between the campuses. There have not been any changes to the building size or location.

Landscape Master Plan

The focus is how this relates to College Ave and its impact on drop-off/pick-up. Recently representatives from the County of Marin and COM met on site. This was a productive meet to introduce the new DPW Director for the County to the entire corridor of College Ave down to Woodland and issues on this busy roadway in the future when COM is completed with its many construction projects.

Acacia Closure Volunteers

The County of Marin conducted a pilot program during COVID to adhere to requirements for people to maintain 6ft of social distancing. This was one of the stipulations provided to the neighbors. Now that there is no “social distancing” requirement the county does not permit the road closure under the same conditions. SR2S supported this because there are no sidewalks along this section of Acacia to/from the school.

If the community would like to move forward with the road closure it would have to be approved by the Board of Supervisors. SR2S task force members will work with Katie Rice’s office to request a temporary resolution until a formal request is made to the Board of Sup. The school is reopening in two weeks and it would be best to start the year off with parents understanding how traffic can and cannot flow through this area before and after school. There is a big concern if it is not in place at the start of school there will be push back from parents.

A suggestion was made to explore more options for who would manage placing the signs in the AM/PM. Kent students are required to do community service and so volunteers did a great job this year and they may be available again this year. Once they are trained and signed up the process works pretty well. Parents who sign up for “car-line” duty could also be a resource to move the signs on a daily basis.

Education and messaging from the school district will be needed to support the success of this change.

SR2S requested a stipulation stating that this is a permanent road change (during a school year only) does not have an end date. The hours would be the same (times not confirmed) 7:30AM to 9:00AM and 2:00PM to 3:00PM. It would be in effect during each school year moving forward.

The County has a process for this proposed road closure that would include a new letter to all stakeholders from the county: neighborhood and the fire, police and trash departments must review and give their approval before presented to the Board. The type of barrier (temporary A frame vs. a weight barrier) impacts these services. Last year's pilot was conducted when traffic was reduced due to COVID restrictions. When school resumes traffic will potentially go back to normal. The county needs to understand how this closure will impact (diverted traffic) other roadways in the community.

Update from Nancy since the meeting: After our meeting this week, I went back to County and checked in with our county counsel as well as our head of DPW. Given that the letter/resolution was based on social distancing guidelines which are no longer in place at the school, this closure will need to be re-noticed (as traffic congestion not COVID) and approved again by the Board of Supervisors. John and I can start working on this next week to try to move the process along so if all goes well with neighbor feedback and agency approval, the barriers/notices can go up again sometime in October (just my guesstimate). The good news would be that this effort would not be tied to temporary COVID restrictions...

Know this isn't ideal, but do think communications to parents would be helpful (realizing some won't read!) asking them to not drop off and pick up on Acacia and letting them know that the temporary closure is in the works...

Wolf Grade Crosswalk

A meeting was held with SR2S, County, School District Operations and administration to discuss the issues at the new crosswalks for Sir Frances Drake and Wolfgrade. A

meeting was also conducted with Dan from TAM, the County, SRTS, School District Operations to discuss what would be required if two guards were placed. The following summary was provided:

SFD/Wolfe Grade (WG) Crossing Guard Options:

1. Keeping current guard in place (Wolfe Grade) and not adding additional guard at new crosswalk. This guard can handle Wolf Grade and walk out halfway on the north side of the new SFD/WG crosswalk.
2. Adding an additional guard to the new SFD/Wolfe Grade crosswalk to be stationed on the south side of SFD. Guard would walk out halfway into SFD on the south side of the street. Could cover the right turn on red. Not enough time for guard to get all the way across and back per light cycle. Existing guard could cover the north side SFD. Would be an additional \$19,000.
3. Moving current guard in place (Wolfe Grade) to new SFD/Wolfe Grade crosswalk. Would be stationed on the south side. Right turn at WG not covered.
4. Using a volunteer guard identified by school and under workman's comp by school for either location. TAM to manage, train and carry liability. Cost is \$5,000.
5. Consider moving a guard from another Kentfield School District location. Would need further conversation/assessment.

Other considerations:

- *Need for education in schools/families/Safe Routes for bikers to walk bikes in crosswalks and make eye contact with drivers*
- *Use parent volunteers to remind bikers to get off bikes at crosswalks*
- *No funding available for crossing guard from County or TAM*
- *New SFD/WGrade crosswalk will be assessed in September after school starts*
- *Concern over long term viability of the Laurel Grove Guard possibly not qualifying for the next ranked list due to intersection modifications (ranked 2022 and implemented August 2023)*

In addition, a safety issue has been identified due to students cycling across the crosswalks and vehicle drivers taking a right turn onto both of these roads. Students are not getting off their bikes and walking; this makes it very difficult for drivers to see a fast moving bike approaching during their turn.

SR2S is available to assist with an education campaign focusing on the recommended safest behavior when using all crosswalks. Parents and students would benefit from these resources and understand it is always best to walk bikes in a crosswalk. If cyclists choose not to walk, they need to follow the rules for motor vehicles using roadways in CA.

A concern was expressed on the long term use of these crosswalks; students will generally follow the rules when guards are present but when they are not, will they follow the same rules on this very busy roadway (?).

A recommendation to develop a “pledge” could support efforts to change a behavior. The pledge could include language addressing unsafe behavior; if students are seen riding in a crosswalk there could be a consequence... school could restrict a student from riding their bike to campus. Crossing guards cannot “make” students get off their bikes to use a crosswalk. SR2S, Nancy agreed to meet with the principal to consider solutions, messaging and education.

TAM will be conducting an assessment of the crosswalks with the improvements. The new facility improvements have created less points of conflict. TAM will be counting the traffic volume of vehicles making a green right off of Wolfgrade to west bound Drake Blvd and a right off Drake Blvd on the Bacich campus. Data from the traffic volume and the count of students (walking or on a bike “in” a crosswalk) will be collected. The assessment takes into consideration if a guard is needed after a traffic light and/or pedestrian activated lights are installed. The guard at Laurel Grove will most likely be removed because it is no longer an uncontrolled crosswalk. If TAM was to consider moving a guard it would be best to move the one in front of the middle school.

Sir Frances Drake Blvd Project Update

The project is ahead of schedule; the roadway striping should be finished this week. They are pleased most of the project was completed before the start of the school year.

The landscaping is on hold due to the current drought. There are a few issues with the lights. The county and community advisory committee will be meeting on these issues. They expect the issues to be resolved by early fall. This will include updating the timing on the lights from the freeway to College Ave.

The HAWK Beacon (High-Intensity Activated crossWalk beacon) installed at Ash: The purpose of a HAWK beacon is to provide protected pedestrian crossings, stopping road traffic only as needed. It was installed because of the width and curve of the roadway (multiple lanes) and causing unsafe conditions for pedestrians and drivers. There was a fatality at this location.

A concern was expressed that pedestrians are not using the crossing buttons correctly. They tend to push one button, get to the island and not pressing the 2nd button but dash across the street. Education is needed for the users.

Update on Flood control grant

A representative was not available for this meeting. The following update was provided.

Re: bike route 20 by Stadium Way

The Lower COM Project may be included in the construction for the larger project now that Ross has vetoed Allen Park, **but that decision has not been made and won't be until after 8/11**. We did not get any funding for the larger project upstream (changing the location of the path to the other side of the creek) and other funding sources are not available at this time.

The county reported the EIR will be presented to the Board of Supervisors this month. Friends of Corte Madera Creek and the county will continue to meet and evaluate the budget.

Issues list map – Review and Update

[Link to issues list Map](#)

[Link to Issues List spreadsheet](#)

A separate meeting was held to prioritize these issues; they are all logged on this map to help identify the location and specific details. At the next meeting the #1 priorities will be discussed.

Key to Colors:

Orange= priority # 2

Yellow= priority #3

Red= priority #1

Blue= no priority yet

The issues below have not been prioritized; some may have been addressed. They will be updated before the next meeting.

- Bacich and Kent McAllister East entrance ramp and gate
The entrance area from McAllister is narrow, gates are not always open and swing shut, and stairs prohibit bicycle movement. Packs of Kent students come through in the opposite direction on route to Kent when Bacich children are entering. The ramp is too narrow for pedestrians and bicycles entering and leaving campus. Widen ramp, remove double gate door and railings. Make this a prominent, easy access, desirable, and preferred main entrance to school. Kristine will check with Paul to see if this has been resolved.
- Bacich and Kent SFD Sidewalk (Between Laurel Grove Crosswalk and Broadway) Raised sections of the sidewalk create a tripping hazard for little feet.
Will this be fixed with SFD upgrade?
Nancy will see if this was resolved during the SFD upgrade

- Bacich and Kent SFD Crosswalk at Ash One person was killed in this location two years ago. Lights are needed to alert drivers to pedestrians in the crosswalk. a Hawk is going in.
- Bacich and Kent Via Hidalgo north of Corte Lenosa Right-of-way confusion at the base of Via Hidalgo, before Corte Lenosa and a series of office buildings. Need neighborhood input on priority
- Bacich and Kent McAllister, Rosemont and SFD- Weeds in SFD medians reduce visibility for turning vehicles temporary because of drought, will be cut back

K-17 Marin County Parks and Open Space manages the medians - study was conducted 2-3 years ago. The vegetation plan requires plants be 30 inches or lower and trees be 7 feet or higher to provide visibility. If there is a need to do more, County DPW can look; their understanding is Parks has been doing a great job. This issue will be taken care of when the Drake project is completed.

K13 - This is in Greenbrae and no one had an update.

K11 - The new HAWK pedestrian light will resolve this issue.

Comments: drivers tend to get confused when they get the red even when no one is in the crosswalk. Public expressing frustration.

The crossing time for this light is longer than what most pedestrians need. There has to be a balance between pedestrian safety and driver being annoyed.

K10 - Laurel Grove Crosswalk and Broadway- update on issue is unknown. County will look into it.

K-8 - This could be an old issue. There have been some improvements- unknown if resolved at this time. Kristine will ask Paul to update SR2S if this was still an issue.

Next Zoom Meeting- Thursday, January 20, 2022 9:30 am

Meetings will be held as Zoom's with potentially one meeting a year in-person. Zoom meeting formats increase attendance.