



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



Mill Valley Safe Routes to Schools Task Force
Meeting Notes
Thursday, May 13, 2021

Attendance:

Wendi Kallins- Safe Routes to Schools, Wendi Kallins- Safe Routes to Schools- Program Coordinator, Gwen Froh- Safe Routes to Schools Program Director, Peggy Clark- Safe Routes to Schools, John Neville- County of Marin Traffic & Transportation Engineer, Jennifer Shriber – Parisi Transportation Engineer, Julio Arroyo-Maintenance, Operations, and Safety Director Mill Valley School District, Dan Sauter-Marin County Parks Chief Ranger, South District, Ahmed Aly P.E - Mill Valley DPW Project Manager, Amanda Finlaw - Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/Communications Specialist, Urban Carmel - Councilmember and TAM Board, Sarah Estes-Smith - Aide to Stephanie Moulton-Peters, Clay Kunz -Parent and VC of BPAC, Kevin Cuffe - Parent Volunteer Tam High, Kathy McLeod - Crossing Guard Sup/Outreach Coordinator, Des McKissock - Transportation Director Marin Horizon School, Christina Mueller - Parent Volunteer Edna Maguire, Warren Wells- Policy and Planning Director for Marin County Bicycle Coalition, Jacqueline Graf-Reis – Lt. Mill Valley Police Chief

Safe Routes Education and Encouragement for spring and fall

All the staff have been vaccinated along with the county's teachers; special thanks to Mary Jane Burke and the Mill Valley District Office.

SR2S Education Programs Offered 2020/2021 school year:

*New Lead Instructor was hired in January and is a bi-lingual (English/Spanish) instructor.

* Hidden Valley School was the first school in the county to schedule a 4th grade Bike Rodeo- very exciting.

Remote Learning Lessons (recorded)

Live Virtual Classes (instructor led)

Family Biking Classes (virtual and recorded)

April- May (in person classes are scheduled)

SR2S was a resource to the county by providing Social Distancing information for walking and biking, Principals received eblasts messages asking parents to be aware; students have returned to campus and controlled speeds and driver awareness is very important. Team Leaders were requested to post the same messages on Next Door and other social media resources. Thank you, Christina, for all her efforts!

SR2S encouragement moved forward with limited access to campuses. Contests included safety education from the SR2S remote learning curriculum. On campus pedestrian and bicycles education classes were presented at Old Mill, Park and Tam Valley Schools. Edna Maguire presented the Live Virtual classes. Strawberry 4th grade classroom teachers also hosted a class. MVMS will schedule classes in the fall of 2021. Chalk N Walk- sidewalk encouragement and safety messaging is available for scheduling this school year and next.

Cory's Ride Program will have bicycles and helmets available for San Rafael High School students. This program supports Safe Routes to Schools' goal to provide safe and healthy access to school for all students in Marin County and is presented in Spanish and English.

[Safe Routes Newsletter SPRING 2021- Safe Routes BACK to Schools!](#)

This is the spring issue, highlighting Bike to School Day on May 12, 2021 and Bike Month- Bike Hero nominations. An elementary and middle school student will be selected from the nominations- deadline is May 30.

Bike to School Day- posters (artwork from local students) and encouragement give-aways will be distributed to elementary, middle and high school teachers to give out. SR2S welcome tables are not permitted on campus this year.

SR2S Team Leader Update

SR2S annually plans for recruitment support via: former parent volunteers, principals, PTO/PTA and SR2S on-site introductions. Parent Volunteers will be needed at the following schools: Park, Old Mill, Tam Valley and Strawberry. Historically parents that walk or cycle with their children to school have been actively supporting the SR2S program.

Multi- use Path- Marin County Parks

The Mill Valley pathway continues to be the busiest facility for the Parks. The pandemic has only increased the use of the pathway. They use PSA and social media resources to address safety as the number one priority. The Share the Path program will kick-off again this spring; it started in 2015 with the partnership of many local agencies.

Education signs will be posted along with enforcement. The [Slow and Say Hello](#) campaign will be hosting events on the pathway. Maintenance to the two northern bridges has been completed. Path paving from Almonte to Gate Six is scheduled for fall 2021.

A request was made to the Parks to redirect the faster paced cyclist to use Camino Alto. There is currently a sign at the Almonte gate area. The MV police department, County Sheriff and Town Council are working with Parks to upgrade the sign for visibility and enforcement. The stretch of path from the dog park to the middle school is an area where fast paced and e-bike riders need to manage safe speed for all the users.

The One Tam Update

The team has completed an analysis of the Draft Adaptation Concepts for enhancing the Bothin Marsh Open Space Preserve's tidal marsh and elevating the Mill Valley-Sausalito Multi-Use Pathway. Learn about how we evaluated the ecological and public access benefits, as well as other important considerations for each of the concepts. A summary of the Adaptation Concepts Survey and discussing how the community's input informed our evaluation will be included. We look forward to sharing next steps and hearing your comments and questions.

Link to recorded presentation: [Evolving Shorelines Community Meeting](#) from June 8, 2021

Crossing guards Update

Throughout Southern Marin it has been a challenge to hire guards now that most schools have reopened. There are a number of guard positions that have not been filled. Guards that live in the area of the open positions that need to be filled tend to work best; it is easier for them to get to work in the AM/PM. A job announcement will be sent out for task force members to share with the school and neighborhood community.

Blithedale project update

TAM approved part of the funding for the East Blithedale project scheduled to start in early July and be completed by October. On May 17 the DPW will present the design to the Town Council from Camino Alto to the freeway for approval. This project does include traffic signal upgrades that will not be completed until January 2022; materials will take time to order/receive.

[TAM May 10 Presentation 5-7-2021](#)

Comments below were made during this presentation
Sunnyside to Hwy 101- Phase 1- summer 2021

- Page 8: The multi-use path entry to the path on the south side of E Blithdale will be redesigned; improvement to the crosswalk and a ramp for cyclists' access to the path. Page 11 Class IV bike lane with a buffer starting at Roque Morales.
- Page 10: The Ashford and Meadow design will include a strip lane for cyclists only.
- A new crosswalk will be painted on Ashford just west of Meadow
- Page 13: Details the Construction Logistics; paving schedule, lane closures construction noise management plan

The DPW will be checking in with the construction team on the questions below.

- The task force had questions about the type of delineators that will be used; requesting strong ones that will help to separate moving vehicles from the cyclists.
- Where will cyclists wait to turn left onto Meadow from Ashford when traveling east?
- West bound cyclists from Blithdale entering Ashford in the slip lane- who will have the right of way; the motorist coming from the Frontage Rd or the cyclists? The hedges may block drivers' view from seeing cyclists also traveling west.
- Will signs warning drivers that cyclists (including students) are traveling in the area be included?

The SR2S Task Force thanked Ahmed for all the work he has completed on these projects and how well he has worked with all the stakeholders. These improvements are huge and will improve safe travel for multi-modal users in Mill Valley.

Downtown plan

[Mill Valley Downtown Project- Community Meeting Presentation](#)

Comments below were made during this presentation

- Phase 1 was completed last summer
- Phase 2 is scheduled for summer 2021: red circles on slide 6 identify the intersection planned for curb ramps and bulb out upgrades.
- Slide 10: Daylighting with Red Paint and/or curb extensions; upgrades need to be completed due to the CA guidelines and ADA compliance.
- Slide 11 & 12: East Blithedale / West Blithedale / Buena Vista / Throckmorton- sidewalk will be widened to improve visibility and ADA compliance; currently they do not. Some parking spots will be removed.
- Future Phases slide 14 and following provide concepts under consideration: meetings have been and will continue to be scheduled to address design options.

The town will be posting a story sign for the phases of the project for the community to view.

The DPW will be checking in with the construction team on the questions below.

- Due to the traffic configurations changing during the pandemic to encourage people to safely move about downtown; how will these proposed designs be impacted? The DPW will continue to track these changes to learn if they will impact these future plans.
- How will the students traveling from Strawberry get to Mill Valley schools with the current designs? Mill Valley is coordinating with Caltrans; they are aware of what changes are planned. Caltrans projects are scheduled for a few years out. TAM is looking at all the overpasses in Marin; many of them need to be upgraded in the next few years.

Yellow Bus Program Update

At this meeting no one had an update on whether the bus service was returning or not, but probably not.

Issues list Review and Update

[Issues List](#)

[Issues List Map](#)

This current list needs to be updated. Tasks: address current issues, learn if they are being addressed, if yes, they would be removed, add new ones and then prioritize each one. The map corresponds with each issue, providing a visual of the location under review.

The updated list will be provided to the town and county DPW departments to help them review and evaluate SR2S future safety improvement projects. The prioritization of this list helps SR2S staff and engineers focus their efforts and resources; identify quick build solutions vs long term projects and where/when to seek grant funding.

If a project is only partially funded and portions still need to be funded it will be separated into different issues; this will influence the SR2S prioritization.

Priorities are ranked with the following considerations:

#1: major safety concerns and a high number of students traveling this area, may be possible to address with current funding or grant funds. Some issues may be easier and less costly to address.

#2: either a major safety issue but low number of students or a high number of students but not a major safety issue..

#3 not a major safety issue and does not have a high number of students traveling in the area.

MV1: Shell Road is a very busy street; could signs prevent vehicles from parking on the sidewalk. BPAC members will look into this issue and report back. Priority 1

MV2: Kipling & Roque Morales - Students travel from the area (by the police station) to get to MVMS or Edna Maguire Priority 3 E. Blithedale from Lomita to Tower Dr.

Currently class 2 bike lanes are planned. The Ashford cut through has conflict - being addressed

Janes/Montford need tree trimmed for better visibility, assess crosswalk, changing stop/yield signs at intersection - resolved- trees trimmed

MV3: Tiburon and E. Strawberry a dangerous intersection due to drivers coming off Tib Blvd onto E Strawberry Drive approaching Belvedere Dr. Drivers come off Tib Blvd quickly. Recommend Caltrans "square off" the curve to slow drivers down. Also a dangerous area when drivers are traveling northbound on Tiburon Blvd to east bound Strawberry (both right turns). The Bay Trail will be developed in this area too, which may complete the unsafe conditions. Priority 1

MV4: Ricardo Road/Richardson Dr - this is main route for students traveling to Strawberry (the county has this area under study) Priority 2

MV5: Columbia/Stadium/California - High school students travel this way priority 3

MV6: Redwood Hwy Frontage Road - dangerous area for students - PGE underground work is planned for this area- may be a good time to have it updated. Priority 1

New Issue:

- Bridge out Greenwood Cove Rd. between Green Bay Drive and Harbor Cove Way. The bridge is falling down and is scheduled to be repaired in July 2021.
- Montford and Miller- Currently there is a crossing guard at Evergreen; however, most of the students use Montford. Request was made to move the guard to Montford. (the area needs to be studied to obtain student counts)

Next Zoom Meeting

Thursday, September 16 at 9:00am