



Mill Valley Safe Routes to Schools Task Force
Thursday Sept 23, 2021

Attendance:

Wendi Kallins- Safe Routes to Schools- Program Coordinator, Gwen Froh- Safe Routes to Schools Program Director, Peggy Clark- Safe Routes to Schools, Jennifer Schriber - Parisi Transportation Engineer, Tara McIntire- Marin County Parks Principal Architect, Ahmed Aly P.E. - DPW Mill Valley Project Manager, Kevin Cuffe Tam High Parent Volunteer, Andrew Poster -DPW Mill Valley Director, Cooper Miley- Safe Routes Volunteer Coordinator, Urban Carmel - Councilmember and TAM Board Member, DanielMcCord - Edna Maguire Principal, AnnaRussel - Mill Valley School District Communications Specialist, Christina Mueller - Parent Volunteer, Julie Hamilton- Strawberry Point Parent Volunteer, Danny Marsh - Parent and Old Mill Teacher, Daniel Blomquist P.E. DPW Consultant, Jacqueline Graf-Reis - Mill Valley Lt Police Officer, Ryan Canepa- Parent and Owner of Mill Valley Market, Lisa Wojcik- Almonte Resident, Sarah Dobrovolny - Aide to Supervisor Stephanie Moulton-Peters, John Neville - Marin County Traffic and Transportation, Matthew Hartzell - WTB/Transportation Alternatives for Marin,

Safe Routes Education and Encouragement for fall

Safe Routes instructors are happy to be back at schools; teaching classes at MVMS and Tam Valley School. The other schools will be scheduled throughout the school year.

[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 schools and small incentives are handed out to students. Volunteers are needed for schools to participate. If vaccinated parents are permitted to be on campus, Safe Routes can work with them and the schools to plan a successful IWalk Day.

Mill Valley Middle School has allocated funds via the PTSA to support encouragement incentives for this school year. The Student Council has been asked to support IWalk Day events.

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. These schools need volunteer contacts: Tam Valley School, Strawberry Point School, Park and Old Mill Schools.

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!

Crossing Guards

There is a need for guards county wide, especially in Southern Marin including Mill Valley. Please spread the word to the retirement community as there are varied work schedule options.

E. Blithedale Project Presentation

[DPW- Mill Valley E. Blithedale- BPAC Meeting Exhibits Presentation](#)

The notes below are comments made during the presentation (link provided above) that provides an overview of the project to date.

Phases #2 Camino Alto to Elm & # 3 Elm Ave to Sunnyside Ave,

Phase #1 Hwy 1 to Camino Alto is underway: signal upgrades, curb ramps, crosswalks. MUP improvements by Lomita, traffic signal upgrades for all users (installed Jan/Feb 2022). Currently ground conduit is being installed which will cause traffic delays. Street paving is planned for November during the night. The Ashford crosswalk and signal will be upgraded.

Phase #2 & #3

This is a roadway rehabilitation that includes pedestrian and bicycle improvements.

Slide: Bicycle Facility Design Objectives

Proposed Improvements include: curb and gutter improvements, ADA curb upgrades, improve bicycle route guidance (sharrows), uncontrolled crosswalks will be improved with curb extension or bulb-outs and rapid flashing lights and re-painting crosswalks, relocation of the bus stop, utility poles to be relocated where they block ADA/pedestrians safe passage or the sidewalks will be widened.

The DPW will be contacting residents regarding encroachment issues for these proposed improvements; landscaping overgrown etc.

The City is underfunded by \$4 to \$5 million dollars. The City Council is looking into options: fund the current separate phases or combine the phases to one large project. This will go to the Council in December with final design, including feedback from the community and BPAC.

Questions and Comments:

Questions:

1. Will Phase 1 include roadway markings for the area over the freeway; on and off ramps? This was to be included a few years back when the roadway was improved. *TAM is working with engineers. CalTrans is repaving Route 131 East of the freeway. A request has been made to upgrade the stripping; possibly 2 years away. TAM is also working with Caltrans on a study of all freeway entrances up and down the corridor. A pilot program will be implemented for two of those interchanges. The previous work did not include the roadway markings requested.*

Additional Comments:

1. Ashford sidewalk has been widened, the street lighting will be improved and will be repaved. There will not be a rapid flashing light installed at this time. The new stop sign will help slow traffic.
2. Safe Routes requested a “yield to children or bicyclist” where it merges with Ashford to help drivers understand the roadway has changed.
3. The road is splitting along this corridor (Grove Street to Sunnyside that is planned for Phase #3. The students now ride on the sidewalks because it is so dangerous. The roadway and

sidewalks are in very poor shape for students traveling to Park School.

The curbs and sidewalks will be reconstructed and the roadway will be sufficiently improved in Phases 2 & 3. The DPW has asked the maintenance staff to “fill in” the roadway areas that are in really bad condition.

Not all of the sidewalks will be replaced by the city. Homeowners will be asked to fix their area of responsibility.

4. Will bike route signs be added?

E. Blithedale is not a designated bike route; there will be bike route guide signs at Millwood & Sycamore directing riders to the defined routes.

5. Traffic concern should be directed to:

Adam Felix

Coastland Construction Inspector

felix@coastlandcivil.com

707-806-9276

6. Safe Routes commented on the improvements that are proposed for the crosswalks. These are the locations where students/pedestrians are most vulnerable. A request was made to have “school route” signs for students traveling to/from Park. These students cannot be redirected to Miller Ave as it is way out of the way.
7. WTB- Transportation Alternative of Marin suggested adding a new bicycle facility on E. Blithedale from Park School in the westbound direction (Class II), remove parking to widen the sidewalks due to the narrow roadway in specific locations and permit students to ride a bike on a sidewalk.

The police and DPW would not enforce a code prohibiting students from riding a bike on a sidewalk.

Multi-use Path

[2021-09-23 MCSPath Maintenance Project](#) - Mill Valley/Sausalito Multi Use Path Maintenance Project Presentation (Marin County Parks- MCP). This project is funded by TAM funds- big thank you!!!
Below are notes and comments made during the meeting presentation.

MCP is in the pre- construction phase. They understand this is a connector for students traveling to/from schools and planning for student travel is a priority.

The project extends from Almonte to Gate 6 (Mike's Bikes Shop). This is a maintenance project that will resurface the existing path, it is not a re-paving project. It will include re-stripping, share the path graphics and ADA facilities supporting pedestrian safe use of the path. It will be a great improvement to the current conditions.

Project Implementation and Closure

The work is dependent on tides and weather/temperature conditions; therefore, MCP cannot announce a future date. The path will be closed between 24-48 hours. As soon as MCP has a window of time in the forecast all organizations, schools and social media resources will be notified. There are digital and construction display signs (bi-lingual) along the entire path announcing work will be conducted in October on weekday(s) or weekend days. The volume of users for weekdays and weekends has been analyzed. MCP will inquire if the work can be completed on a weekend only to reduce the impact to students.

Two Closure Sections: McGlashan path/boardwalk will not be closed

Closure A: Almonte to the McGlashan path/boardwalk

Closure B: McGlashan (south) to Gate 6

Strawberry issues

The intersection of Belvedere Drive and E Strawberry Drive does not have a crosswalk. The nearest crosswalk is down by the elementary school. Students dash across E Strawberry Drive to get to the east side of the street; they do not want to walk to the school to cross (too far away).

The County DPW has reviewed this area in the past a number of times. Drivers exiting Hwy 131 to E Strawberry are driving at a speed that would prevent them from responding in time to pedestrians in a crosswalk at Belvedere Drive. The liability from a traffic engineering standpoint to install a crosswalk closer to Hwy 131 is not recommended. If the neighborhood was designed now the street design would be different; faster vehicles have made it a high-speed turn now.

A request was made to install a crosswalk at the intersection of Strawberry Circle and Strawberry Drive; it is further down the road providing more visibility for pedestrians and drivers. The DPW agreed to look into options with the Safe Routes Engineer.

It was also suggested to eliminate the slip lane off of Tiburon to slow traffic down. County responded that this could cause a backup on Tiburon Blvd and possibly a rear end collision.

Almonte

Lisa Wojcik has inquired with the County Supervisor to learn more about roadway facilities improvements for along Shoreline and Almonte to Miller Ave. This section does not have a sidewalk on either side of the road; the bollards on the west side are in poor condition due to vehicles running over them and they do not extend down the road due to driveways. When adults and students are walking or cycling along this section, they feel very vulnerable and unsafe.

There have been sidewalks installed/improved (Shoreline) but there are many sections that have no safe place to walk from Shoreline to Almonte/Miller Ave. A request was made to add pedestrian facilities/bollards on the marsh side of the roadway. There is more to do to make the area safe for all community members in this unincorporated area of Mill Valley. Age Friendly Mill Valley is a community group that may be able to help too. (It turns out there is not an Age Friendly Mill Valley, recommended contacting the Redwoods)

The County of Marin maintains the section of the road from the crosswalk at Almonte to Tam Junction, south of Tam Junction is Caltrans. The local community plan has not been updated since 1973 (possibly updated in 1982). Safe Routes to Schools needs to determine if this is a school issue for the safety of students traveling to/from school or not.

Many of the students traveling to the middle school are recommended to use the multi-use path, not the roadway.

Tam High Update

Safe Routes to Schools has a few programs planned to encourage more students to cycle to school. The principal is making efforts to develop a student parking policy that would include carpooling. Currently residents and students impact the limited amount of parking

spaces near the school; this also pushes students to walk in the roadway vs the side of the roadway.

The school's TAM Foundation has provided funds for new bike racks in locations that will hopefully reduce theft.

Meadow and Shell Street Issue

Vehicle speeds make this a very unsafe area for students; it is a wide road and there is no speed management from Meadow and Tower to Shell and Lomita intersections (County area). Drivers tend to drive slower on Lomita. It is very difficult for students to cross the road safely because of the driver's speeds.

A request to the County DPW was made to conduct a traffic survey in this area. There is a high demand countywide for these surveys. The DPW will inquire and report back. 15 & 20 MPH speed limit signs are no longer enforceable in the state of CA.

Mill Valley DPW Announcements:

1. New traffic signal at Mill Valley Middle School was turned on Sept 22. This new light has created different traffic patterns. All road users need to be aware.
2. The DPW is looking for better options for students traveling to Park School. As the city works on the E. Blithedale project they want to understand how they can better utilize a path that was upgraded in the area and updated the crosswalk on Walnut Street.
3. The DPW is looking to improve the crosswalk at Miller and Park School.
4. Olive and Throckmorton crosswalk improvements are under design; funding could come from a TAM grant.

Issues list

This list will be addressed at the next meeting

Next Zoom Meeting

Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 9:30am.