



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



## **Ross Valley District Office**

### **Task Force Meeting Notes**

**January 25, 2013**

#### **Present (15)**

Wendi Kallins – Program Director for Safe Routes to School; Laura Kelly – Volunteer Liaison for Safe Routes to School; Deborah Cole – Street Smarts Coordinator; Carey Lando – Senior Transportation Planner, County of Marin; Lori Lopin – San Anselmo Town Council; Nancy Vernon – Aide to Supervisor Katie Rice; Bret Joyner – Director of Maintenance for RVSD; John Reed – Fairfax Town Council; Joe Loll – Wade Thomas Team Leader; Mark Howlett – Fairfax Police Department; Shelley Flint – San Domenico School; Kristy Marksbury – San Domenico School; John Ferguson – Manor School Parent; Debra Merten Brookside School Team Leaders.

#### Fairfax – Oak Tree Lane Crosswalk Area and Speeding Issues

Brett complimented the Fairfax police car presence at peak school hours at Oak Tree Lane/Sir Francis Drake Boulevard. Speeders slow down especially when coming East from the Valley.

John mentioned branches over the creek bed that need to be trimmed so that the blinking light is visible on both sides. The overgrown vegetation prevents the light from being seen on one side. The absence of a blinking light means no reason to slow down.

Joe suggested having a speed limit radar trailer, which flashes 25 mph. to slow the pace of drivers. Mark said the police department has a 6-week trailer rotation. He also said the trailer is the width of a car, and the location is not wide enough. Wendi said that OTS funds speed feedback signs and recommended applying.

Joe asked if we can have more signage in hot areas where drivers speed. How do we get drivers to slow down on Laurel? Lori will send a request to the police department. Wendi suggested getting Street Smarts campaign signs posted, but you need to go to residents door-to-door to seek approval to post signs on their property.

Deborah suggested for Joe to follow-up and contact Sean Condry at San Anselmo public works about Street Smart signs. Public works can put them up on public property. Brett suggested working with the Principal at Wade Thomas. Deborah said the Street Smarts lawn signs are effective in getting drivers to slow down. Deborah has banners and a supply of signs.

### Fairfax Bike Spine



John Reed shared an update on the Fairfax Bike Spine, a project funded by the Transportation Authority of Marin Safe Pathways. The overall goal of the project is to improve the safety of the Town's streets for student bicyclists, as well as increase awareness of motorists who share the road with them. Signage and street markings to identify the bicycle routes to school will be installed this spring. The budget does not allow for road repairs, like patches and repaving. John mentioned the budget is short \$10-\$12,000 for the next phase.

Wendi said the Bike Spine is a precursor to a corridor plan. TAM is planning to pursue more corridor plan projects in the future.

John asked if the Bike Spine is a numbered bike route. John said no because it's a school route. John said why not overlap the routes? Wendi said because school routes are specifically for children. The parents want to take the safest route – even if it's longer way to get to school. Wendi said meandering routes are not always the most direct, but often safer than the most direct route to school. John was wondering if it's possible to connect and network the Bike Spine routes with other major bike routes. Wendi said sometimes the route depends upon the proficiency of the rider. Wendi suggested we bring maps to the next meeting and continue this discussion with with Sean.

### Student Travel and Safety Committee

Bret provided the Task Force with an update on the Manor Student and Travel Safety Committee. A meeting was held on January 16<sup>th</sup> and included an outstanding turnout of community and school leaders, and neighbors. The committee continues to discuss traffic disruption issues and recommended strategies to assist the community in coping with disruptive project work. Manor School construction is

due to start summer of 2014 to address the expanding student population, which is currently at 430 students. Construction will consist of two new classrooms.

A new pathway and gate was installed last fall at Manor School on the inside of the fence from the church to the playground. The adoption of the bike path has been tremendous. This has enabled bikes and walkers an option other than the narrow sidewalk to get to school. The Town and Safe Routes to School collaborated to put a new sidewalk on the corner of Sir Francis Drake and Oak Manor Drive in front of the church. The HOA asked about having the fence line on Oak Manor Dr along the field to be moved in to be able to widen the sidewalks.

Neighbors asked about speed bumps. Bret said they are difficult to obtain neighbor consent, and that additional police coverage is better for the Manor School area. Although speed bumps on Glen Drive near White Hill School are a better area for speed bumps. John said that speed bumps are not used because they interfere with emergency vehicles response times. Fire truck frames and drivelines can be damaged. Speed tables could possibly be used. HOA will work with public works on this issue. FPD will do extra patrols, HOA will write letter to FPD for overview. The Fairfax Police Department will have three jurisdictions that patrol the Oak Manor area, the school; Piper Court and Lane are in Fairfax's jurisdiction. All of Oak Manor Drive, west and east are in the County of Marin and is the Sheriff's Department jurisdiction. Fairfax Police has only one car on duty during the day.

### **Street Smarts – New Safe Driver Campaign**

Deborah provided a presentation on the new Safe Driving Pledge Campaign by Street Smarts. The Safe Driving Pledge Campaign encourages residents to drive safely while spreading the message about the program. Interested Marin County residents pledge to drive safely and courteously on local streets. In turn, they receive the official "Safe Driving Pledge" static cling decal to display on the rear window of their vehicles.

The purpose of the Pledge campaign is to raise awareness and encourage motorists to drive within the legal speed limit on neighborhood streets, and share the road with pedestrians and bicyclists, be courteous, and drive safely.

The website offers the community valuable education and resource tools in the ongoing campaign to improve driver, pedestrian, and bicyclist behaviors. The link to the Safe Driving Pledge Campaign is on the Street Smarts Marin website:

<http://www.streetsmartsmarin.org/pledge.html>

Speeding is 70% of the problem in Marin.



By taking this pledge I am doing my part to make our neighborhood streets safer and friendlier for all.

### SAFE DRIVING PLEDGE

1. *I will drive within the posted speed limit or slower depending on current conditions.*
2. *I will plan my departure to avoid rushing to be on time.*
3. *I will not give in to the impatience of others to drive above the speed limit.*
4. *I will only talk on my phone while driving when the call is urgent and always hands-free.*
5. *I will not text, use the internet, or use any mobile device when driving.*
6. *I will treat people who are walking and bicycling with respect and share the road safely with them.*
7. *I will display the Safe Driving Pledge decal on my vehicle and encourage others to take The Pledge.*

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_



StreetSmartsMarin.org offers education and resources in the on-going campaign to improve driver, pedestrian, and bicyclist behaviors.

Street Smarts Marin is a program of Transportation Authority of Marin and partner jurisdictions in Marin County, CA.

## School updates

Wendi reminded Team Leaders that three important dates are coming up:

**February 12 is the Team Leader luncheon at the San Rafael Community Center from 11:30 a.m. to 1 pm**

**March 11 through April 6** is our countywide GO GREEN Classroom Challenge. Team Leaders need to seek approval to host our GO GREEN Classroom Challenge with the school Principal. The contest is a month-long Marin County initiative to reduce traffic and pollution by promoting green travel to school. A 'green trip' to school is when your child travels to school by walking, biking, carpool or bus. The classroom at a school with the highest percentage of green trips at the end of the four-week period wins a trophy.

**May 8 – Bike to School Day** – Safe Routes to Schools will supply Team Leaders with buttons to give to children as they arrive at school bikes racks on the morning of Bike to School Day.



Three Riding with Youth workshops will be hosted this spring in preparation for Bike to School Day. Please contact [peggy@marinbike.org](mailto:peggy@marinbike.org) to register in advance. The locations and dates are:

- Saturday, April 6, 9:30 to noon - Tampalpais Community Center, Mill Valley
- Saturday, April 20, 9:30 to noon - Marinwood Community Services District, San Rafael
- Saturday, April, 27, 9:30 to noon - Larkspur Recreation, Larkspur

Brookside School – Deb said that 257 are signed up for the scanner tags. Most are using them every Wednesday. But they do have a core group using them daily. A challenge for the Go Green Spring Challenge is planned with Bacich School. Brookside is trying to get SchoolPool up and running, but it's been going slow.

San Domenico School reported that bike ridership is way up, and that they have had some successful Green Ways to School days with police escort, and snacks served to students upon arrival. The administration greeted the students on the Green Ways to School Days. A video campaign to educate parents has also been created.

The Golden Wheel contest is underway at Wade Thomas in three classrooms. The first Wednesday of every month is tabling. Joe would like to increase it to every Wednesday and launch SchoolPool.

**Our next meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**