



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



**Ross Valley Safe Routes to Schools Task Force  
Zoom Meeting Notes  
Friday April 30, 2021**

**Attendance:**

Wendi Kallins- Safe Routes to Schools, Wendi Kallins- Safe Routes to Schools- Program Coordinator, Gwen Froh- Safe Routes to Schools Program Director, Brian Colbert -San Anselmo Mayor, Renee Goddard- Councilmember Fairfax, Peggy Clark- Safe Routes to Schools, John Neville- County of Marin Traffic & Transportation Engineer, Jennifer Schriber – Parisi Transportation Engineer, David Parisi- Parisi Engineering, Warren Wells- Policy and Planning Director for Marin County Bicycle Coalition, Rachel Litwack - School Board Trustee, Scott Schneider- Asst DPW Director San Anselmo, PollieRobbins - PTA President & SR2S Parent Volunteer, Christopher Whitlock- Marin Transit Operations Analyst, Nancy Vernon - Aide to District 2 Supervisor Katie Rice, David Gehman - School District Director of Maintenance and Operations, Karin Baigrie - Former Team leader, Chance Cutrano- Town of Fairfax Council Member and TAM Commissioner.

**Special Announcement:**

Hub Transportation Study - Virtual Community Workshop- May 31, 2021

This will be the first workshop for the Hub Study. The town is excited to begin this process to look at short-, medium- and long-term improvements to help manage pedestrian, bicycle and vehicle traffic flow. These workshops will give the community an opportunity to plan for the future.

The workshop has been announced in the local newspapers, town websites and MCBC. Future workshops will be planned and announced.

**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. At the time of this meeting, the campuses were not permitted to have outside visitors.

SR2S Education Programs Offered 2020/2021 school year:

- Remote Learning Lessons (recorded)
- Live Virtual Classes (instructor led)
- Family Biking Classes (virtual and recorded)
- April (in person classes scheduled)

Hidden Valley School was the first school in the county to schedule a 4th grade Bike Rodeo- very exciting. Manor's is scheduled in May. All schools but for the middle and high school presented the SR2S pedestrian and/or bicycle education remote curriculum.

SR2S was a resource to the county by providing Social Distancing information for walking and biking, Principals received eblasts messaging 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.

SR2S encouragement moved forward with limited access to campuses. Contests included safety education from the SR2S remote learning curriculum. Both Hidden Valley and Wade Thomas participated in Chalk N Walk- sidewalk encouragement and safety messaging (highly received by the school community). Park N Walk was encouraged at Hidden Valley School using SR2S resources.

#### [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 now open. 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. Manor will be celebrating National Bike 2 School Day with a "bike spin celebration/raffle at the end- it will be a very festive COVID style event!

#### High School Program

The school reached out to SR2S requesting this year we present a "Sustainable Transportation presentation - What's Transportation Really Going to Cost You?" A presentation addressing environmental messaging to encourage students to drive less.

#### Share the Road- High School Program

This has been presented for a number of years to freshman and sophomores. The curriculum addresses the perspective from being a pedestrian and a cyclist when driving a vehicle. The presentation includes examples of specific intersections and the challenges they present to all users (using video examples).

SR2S will plan to schedule all their curriculum at Ross Valley schools in 2021/2022.

### SR2S Team Leader Update

SR2S annually plans for recruitment support via: former parent volunteers, principals, PTO/PTA and SR2S on-site introductions.

Brookside will need a team leader, Hidden Valley and Manor have returning volunteers, Wade Thomas has one parent volunteer; additional parent support will be needed. The school administration has been very helpful. Post pandemic SR2S will be returning to the campuses to encourage and recruit parent volunteers to support. Referrals from current school volunteers will continue to be a key resource. Many parent SR2S volunteers do not attend task force meetings, but do support the campus events.

A free Family Biking event is scheduled for Saturday, July 24. Information is [here](#).

### **Bus update**

Marin Transit (MT) will be scheduling a school transportation meeting with the Office of Education in May to identify expectations for the fall. The Joint Powers Authority (JPA) will meet to discuss next steps.

Marin Transit will develop a survey after the meeting with the Office of Education to gain an understanding of where the communities stand regarding their students riding a bus. MT needs to have an understanding of rider interest to plan for the yellow bus program needs.

### Traffic Count for White Hill School

The JPA had been wanting a true understanding of the volume of traffic going to the middle school and just how the yellow bus impacts the number of vehicles on the roadways during school commute hours. During COVID that count was not possible; however now that schools have resumed a count will be conducted in May and in the fall. The data will be presented to the committee and the towns. It will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the program and funding moving forward.

The May count will be conducted over a week's time and will include volunteers counting vehicles and engineers using a "road tube" to collect data. The middle school principal did say many, many students are walking and biking (bike corrals are full!).

### **Town updates**

#### **Butterfield Road**

Butterfield and Sir Francis Drake Blvd Intersection:

Re: recent collision with a student cyclist and motorist at this location.

Butterfield serves 4 schools every day: 3 of the schools are on Butterfield and the 4th is the high school located just off Butterfield. Currently there is no yellow bus service and there is no public transport for high school students. This intersection is heavily used by school and work commuters.

The configuration of the intersection includes a left turn (traveling east) off Drake to Butterfield where drivers, cyclists and pedestrians need to navigate around an "island" then cross over to Butterfield. Drivers that are traveling west and taking a right turn off Drake onto Butterfield are difficult to see when users are trying to cross the street to travel up Butterfield. Visibility is very challenging when there is a good deal of traffic; it is hard for students and adults to safely negotiate the crossing. There are a number of safety issues that need to be addressed.

The DPW is looking at a green pavement treatment where the south bound bike lane on Butterfield crosses the intersection to make drivers (headed up Butterfield) aware of cyclists. They are looking into changing the traffic "red arrow"; currently it is activated only if a pedestrian pushes the button. The "red arrow" may be programmed to turn red before the Butterfield light turns green; this could give users crossing onto Butterfield time to cross over.

A request was made to the DPW to inform the community that the programming of the lights will be changing and to expect this delay.

A comment was made regarding the perceived speeding on Butterfield. Cycling on Butterfields narrow bike lane positions cyclists toward the flow of vehicles which in many occasions are oversized construction vehicles. A request was made for a digital flashing speed reader to emphasize actual speeds and to encourage drivers to slow down and to increase awareness of multi road users along Butterfield.

Another issue for students traveling safely along Butterfield is the number of construction vehicles parked along the roadway forcing cyclists to ride around them into

the roadway. This is unsafe for all cyclists and for pedestrians needing to walk around them due to very little sidewalk space.

Construction permits due include language identifying windows of time when construction vehicles can and cannot park in the roadway during school hours. People are encouraged to take a photo of the vehicles parked illegally and provide them to the county.

### Butterfield Safe Streets Committee Meeting Updated

The recent spring Safe Streets meeting is the first meeting since people have been out during COVID. About 25 people attended the meeting and many were new and members of the HOA new Safety Committee. There were two issues raised during the meeting that have fueled a good deal of discussion:

- A student was hit by a driver walking his bike across Green Valley Court crosswalk.
- The construction and re-configuration of the driveway for the HOA clubhouse. There is a concern for a safe roadway crossing because there is not a marked crosswalk.

The Butterfield Safe Streets supports the need for education. Roadway infrastructure improvements are key along with supported community education. The Eyes-Up campaign was launched just before COVID. Now that travel is resuming, they will be evaluating steps to take to get messaging out and have a plan for a fall 2021 re-launch. The county is taking a wider approach; collecting data with a multi-model study that will help the community, towns and county to improve safety on the Butterfield corridor.

Behaviors and roadway use has shifted and changed during COVID; now is a good time to step up education.

### San Anselmo Town Update

The town has a very robust summer construction program. There are three paving projects and the bike spine signage and sharrows will go out to bid once approval from the town is received. The Brookside sidewalk project will be completed soon; this is a new sidewalk along Drake Blvd between Butterfield toward Fairfax. This will close the only sidewalk gap in San Anselmo along Drake Blvd; to be constructed fall 2021.

A “lead pedestrian interval” at the Barber Ave /Drake Blvd intersection was installed. There were some issues with dated technology that need to be addressed to make the improvement. This will provide pedestrians the chance to begin crossing the street before drivers move into the intersection.

The Ross Valley Sanitary District has a sewer project underway from Arroyo Ave to Kenrick Ave. The work will begin when school gets out and hopefully finish before school resumes. Daily starting at 9:00 am traffic flow will alternate for one lane; this restriction will include cyclists using the roadway. Some potholes along Arroyo will be patched; this will help cyclists that choose to use the “back route”. The town does not want to encourage vehicle drivers to use The Alameda; it is a very narrow roadway.

## Fairfax Town Update

### List of Projects:

Broadway continues to be a community discussion regarding the suggested routing for student travel.

The Azalea project has been funded and a contract has been awarded for the design of a crosswalk near the Fairfax Market. It will include a flashing pedestrian beacon, a crosswalk and a new sidewalk along the steep section of the roadway.

The town engineer will be working with Parisi Transportation on an alternative Bike Spine route for students traveling to the middle school along Olema.

The town is looking into adding “sharrows” along Bolinas and Broadway to increase awareness that bikes are permitted to be in the roadway and to drive safely.

### Issues list Review and Update

[Issues List](#)

[Issues List Map](#)

This current list needs to be updated; addressing current issues and adding 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.

RV1 #1 Butterfield and Sir Francis Drake improvements underway - this will be separated into different issues due to the funding status Priority 1

RV2, RV 3, RV 4, RV5, RV 11 and RV 12 # 1 Green Valley Court issues and future options to increase safety will be influenced by the Butterfield Corridor Study to be conducted by the county. These issues will be evaluated by SR2S to properly rank them.

RV6 Broadway between Pacheco and Claus is a big gap in Fairfax; making it a #1 keeps it in front of the council and community

RV10 Olema Road addition to the bike spine This issue can be addressed by the town priority 2

RV7 Sunnyside: project is funded and designed; the DPW continues to work with a resident who does not approve of the design and is proposing an alternate design that would have students crossing the street multiple times. The DPW is working with her and is hopeful the project will be completed this summer.

RV8 San Anselmo Bike Spine is moving forward

RV9 Drake and Barber is completed

Additional Issues will be added to the SR2S list before it is shared with the task force.

Next Zoom Meeting

Friday August 6, 2021 at 10:00am