



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



Ross Valley Safe Routes to Schools Task Force

Friday, September 12
Ross Valley School District
Meeting Notes

Attendance:

Wendi Kallins- Safe Routes to Schools, Peggy Clark- Safe Routes to Schools, Karen Baigrie- Hidden Valley Team Leader, Rachael Calvert- San Anselmo DPW, Bridget Clark- San Domenico Team Leader, Kathleen Cutter – San Anselmo Team Leader, Hadley Dettmer- School Board, Kristi Fish- Hidden Valley Principal, Renee Goddard- Fairfax City Council, Joe Loll- Wade Thomas Team Leader, Deb Merten- Brookside Team Leader, Maria Meyer- Quality of Life Commission San Anselmo, John Reed - Fairfax City Council, Nancy Vernon- Aide to Supervisor Katie Rice, Kelley Podboy- Sleep Hollow Homeowners Association, Jason Stoughton- Wade Thomas Team Leader

Infrastructure and Police

Wendi reported that Marin County will not receive any ATP funding this year. This is very frustrating and complaints are going to the capital. It is a very time consuming process to apply for these grants. This year 85% of the funding went to Southern CA. In the past the Bay Area was funded for millions of dollars in grants and this year just a very large grants and a few small grants were awarded.

Now is the time to be ready for TAM's RFP announcement. TAM will be receiving many applications that were submitted for ATP funding now. Hopefully local funding will come through. These grants are limited to small projects, \$250,000 or less.

San Anselmo- Applied for ATP funding that will not be awarded, now is time to look at those applications and reapply to TAM or other resources. ATP funds were requested for the Boardmoor and Butterfield sidewalks.

A bike spine is under view for Wade Thomas; there are concerns that the current route is not the best route for students. The “spine” needs to be the best route for students traveling to school, not for commuter bicycles.

The next step is to contact Sean (DPW) and create a SR2S sub-committee to review the best route(s) and get those recommendations in place for a TAM call for projects. The striping and signage should not be too expensive once the route is identified.

A Ross Valley School District meeting is to be schedule either on Oct 7 or Oct 21st- agenda has not been released yet

For Hidden Valley, a list of “issues” has been documented. The next step is for the County to apply on behalf of Hidden Valley. Kristy and Billy (principals at Hidden Valley and Brookside) need to meet with Sean to discuss the sidewalk issues for both schools.

The SR2S monthly news letter will announce the TAM call for projects timeframe. Now is the time to make sure everyone is working on the applications. Hidden Valley has not received funding and they are now high on the list to be funded.

A request was submitted for Colletta and Kenrick streets crosswalks (paint and signs improved). More attention needs to be brought to these areas of concerns.

Fairfax- Bike spine extension to White Hill Middle Schools was denied with the ATP application, other local funding resources will be considered. Glen Drive has several issues that need to be addressed; students are cycling very fast across Glen Drive to the back of the school. Vehicles at the intersections must consider at least 6 travel directions before crossing the road: pedestrians, turning vehicles, cyclists, traffic lights. A consideration would be to add Olema Road and take the students off Sir Frances Drake Blvd. These considerations must be reviewed soon. The observation scheduled for Sept will provide the opportunity to review options and concerns (*note, will be rescheduled due to rain*).

Additional bike racks are requested for White Hill Middle School. Wendi will look into funding resources. The “spine” also needs maintenance (new paint) and funding for ongoing maintenance. The ATP funds were focused on finishing the “spine” not maintenance.

Hidden Valley report – Kristy, SR2S representatives and neighbors have been working together for about a year regarding transportation issues. Nancy has been very helpful and the encouragement has proven to be very positive too. They are considering restricted parking during specific hours, applying for a grant for a pedestrian beacon, encouraging students to take the bus, and recruiting for neighborhood captains. The Homeowners Association has been very helpful and the community awareness has been great. The neighbors on San Francisco are exploring paying for a neighborhood shuttle.

Marin Transit is conducting a study for a separate bus division for school busses. No decisions have been made; in the future MT will present to the School Board, no date has been set. Considerations/concerns: some buses are not designed for neighborhood streets, school bus drivers are trained to work with students vs. the public bus drivers, some buses are less expensive to operate. Parents generally support school yellow buses vs. public busses for children to commute on. National studies state a school bus is the safest mode for students’ not individual vehicles.

White Hills MS- Administration is communicating with Marin Transit for school buses in 2015/16. There are many issues: where to park the buses during down time, the sizes of the buses, other bus use (field trips).

Back to School Day –

Manor- Currently there is no Team Leader, Renee will be meeting with the new principal who is new to Manor but not SR2S (previous principal at Park School). The next goal is to get the Walk and Roll Wednesday program on regular schedule. Without a Team Leader there is concern the historical momentum will fade.

St Anselms- Will be celebrating Iwalk day during the school's annual Run Day which has been successful. Carpooling has been very strong this year; positive results.

KangaDo- Is a phone app designed to help parents with carpool needs. SR2S has support from the Bay Area company to assist Team Leaders to establish an account/group for their schools. The app can be used to establish carpools, walking and cycling buses, after school ride support and more. When the app is used regularly encouragement and participation will stay high.

Hidden Valley has created a group and has seen activity with carpools. The app designers are very willing to work with SR2S for tech support and customization when possible.

Construction Notices- It was proposed that we provide public works with information on local schools events such as: bell schedules, SR2S events (Iwalk, Walk & Roll Wednesday and more) for when construction permits are awarded. This will give the construction companies advance notice of increased student activity on the streets, sidewalks and pathways.

Wendi will submit the 2014/15 school information once the Team Leaders have collected individual school details.

Iwalk Plans

Hidden Valley – Tuesday Oct 7th

Wade Thomas and Brookside - Wednesday Oct 8- Deb will be passing out paper flyers a week in advance to the neighbors asking them to take extra care and to park vehicles off the road if possible. They will be scanning green travelers this year and adding a random day each month.

Manor – TBD

San Domenico- Wednesday Oct 8

Family Biking Workshop: Sept 20th at Marin General Safety day.

SR2S Pilot Schedule: SR2S will be piloting a block schedule for grades 1-5 this year at a limited number of schools. St Anselms and Wade Thomas schools are considering the new schedule.

Next meeting is Jan 16th 2015 please mark your calendars.