



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



Sausalito SR2S Task Force

Meeting Notes

5/20/20

Attendance:

Wendi Kallins, Peggy Clark Safe Routes to Schools, Maureen Parton- Aide to Kate Sears, Aaron Roller- Team Leader Willow Creek & BPAC, Pierre Ahuncain-Marin County Sheriff, John Neville- Marin County DPW, Itoco Garcia- Sausalito Marin City Superintendent, Eric Payne-Resident, Terrace Ave/

Planning for school opening - discussion

Dr Garica addressed what the vision of the school reopening for MLK School will look like. Willow Creek has a Board that will make the decisions for that school. The schools are working closely together to hopefully develop the same protocols for the fall.

MLK has been open for students struggling with distance learning, more will be joining the program in May. There are protocols in place at the school to prevent virus spreading. They are piloting how school will reopen in the fall.

A brief outline of the protocol was provided:

- Some teachers have volunteered to return along with classified staff
- Hand sanitizer at every station
- 10 students - to 2 adult per cohorts (same for the fall). This is preferred for MLK if there were to be a spike in the fall. These are the guidelines with the most restrictive measures.

- Cohort will maintain 6 ft distancing
- Currently cohorts have their own bathrooms (in the fall they will have designated times)
- Students 3rd grade (8yrs) and up will be required to wear masks (Marin County is 12yrs and older)
- Bathrooms will be shared by a group of 10 students (they will be sanitized between student group use)
- Playground time will be scheduled for a group at a time, between each group the playground will receive a level 2 disinfecting
- Multi-purpose room will no longer be used to serve meals. Food will be delivered directly to the classroom.
- Staggered start and end times for students. In the fall the school day will be slightly shortened -9:00am to 2:00pm.
- Teachers will have 1 hr a day for preparing and 1 hr for collaboration
- Classroom aides will start their days later: 11:00am until 6:00pm to assist with after school care.

Other options under consideration:

- A & B Schedule: some students on Mon & Wed another group on Tuesday and Thursday.
- Early Bird - Late Bird Schedule: some students would attend school in the AM and others will attend in the PM.
- A year round school schedule; close the month of December when illnesses tend to increase. Other school closure days will be factored in for fire season.
- If days need to be made up that will be factored in
- Remote Learning will remain; one reason is the cohorts cannot be mixed. Single subject teachers will be with one group of students only. Other students of the same grade level will have to participate via Zoom
- Art, music and PE students will not be able to rotate thru; remote learning will need to be in place for students

At the end of this school year all students will complete the MAP assessment exam. This will provide details on how the current remote learning program (last 3 months) worked. The assumption is they will see some students did OK, others sustained and others did very poorly. Currently remote learning has gone very well for many students that struggled in the traditional classroom (amazingly well). Other students who usually perform well in the traditional classroom setting are struggling with remote learning. Other students need direct support and have great challenges producing anything with remote learning.

It will take a variety of strategies and continued community partnership and collaboration. Traditionally schools have not changed how they function. This is a very new and challenging process and the efforts by Dr Garcia and other community organizations is very much appreciated.

The morning commute will be minimized during all of the school opening scenerios. The volume of students will be reduced; spread out over the day. Speeds of vehicle drivers are increasing with fewer vehicles on the roadways. The city seems to be supportive with the changes that are coming; one consideration is to close Caledonia Street to vehicle traffic. Hopefully the city can consider safety measures for Bridgeway too.

Safe Routes to School is asking municipalities to look into temporary “roadway pop-ups” to encourage traffic calming. These could create space in the roadways; enabling physical distance for the students. Orange cones and planters are some of the creative ways to designate a coordinated off space. Engineers will also consider how not to impact/increase traffic with the “pop-ups”.

The Safe Routes to School engineer will be working very closely with town and county DPW staff to develop a toolkit. Each school has its own unique circumstances to create new and safe circulation patterns. It will ultimately be up to each jurisdiction to make the decisions for their specific schools.

There is a concern parents may believe a vehicle is a safer place to be even though more people are out walking and cycling. Awareness will be needed to encourage walking and biking to school and to reinforce the safety and benefits of walking and biking.

There are a number of Bay Area cities that are currently using pop-ups to reduce speeds in high density neighborhoods. They also enable pedestrians and cyclists to make use of more space to be physically distant. These facilities are encouraging more people to be outdoors vs in vehicles. Task force members supported exploring more ways to create corridors students could use to get to MLK and Willow Creeks schools.

The DPW will be presenting at the next BPAC meeting. The status of the application for funding and preliminary designs for facility improvements on Nevada Street will be discussed. School officials are invited to attend and present what the schools will need for safe student transportation to schools. The BPAC was requested to provide SR2S with locations to focus on as a Marin City/Sausalito Toolkit is developed.

Dr Garcial would like to see the proposed Safe Routes to Schools “ped pods” align with the sanitary cohort groups defined by the schools. Wearing a mask and maintaining 6ft physical distance must be a protocol.

MLK is piloting the extended school year now for special education students this summer it will begin June 22, 2020. The new school year would begin Aug 10, 2020. The extended school program has been proposed to the County Office of Education. No decisions have been made as of this meeting.

Transportation of Marin TAM *new* [Safe Routes to School](#) information site.

This is a one stop information site. It has links to the Safe Routes to Schools Remote Learning resources, suggested routes maps to schools,

encouragement contest and challenges for students and task force meeting information.

Due to COVID-19 "School Tag" was temporarily taken down. Aaron is focusing on other priorities and did not want to add to the schools challenge at this time. IT resources for the program are developed overseas and that too has added to delays. It will be a resource to encourage students to continue walking and rolling. It is especially attractive to SR2S as it would not require students to touch/interact with a person to track transportation.

Terrace Ave. Update

During the last meeting issues were discussed and suggested improvements were presented to the county. The county reported the traffic calming measures were addressed such as the 25MPH signs and road stencils. Additional stripping to narrow lanes is prohibited due to the narrow road. The county just received a grant for pedestrian improvements in the 2021/22 construction season. The county will install curb ramps and pedestrian crossing improvements at six different locations.

The intersections of Drake Ave at Terrace and Terrace and Tenners are very dangerous with many issues. The proposed center road strip would probably not be helpful because the street is so narrow; it would not be observed. Speed bumps were considered; however they too have issues to consider: noise, fire and safety vehicle needs. Another proposed idea was to make Drake and Terrace (on both ends) one way to reduce some of the traffic flow. It seems most of the traffic is cut through to avoid Drake Ave. Drivers take this longer route to avoid Drake; speeding and not stopping at the stop signs are dangerous behaviors for students getting to school.

This area is not a focus for the Sheriff's office. If an issue is reported an available CHP would be requested. It is a poorly designed street with parking on both sides and two way traffic. Visibility at the intersections is limited; red curbs would help with pedestrian and driver visibility.

The walk way from Drake that leads to the intersection of Terrace and Terners Dr. is dangerous for students walking, skateboarding and running into the street. There is no crosswalk at Terrace. When an oversized vehicle is parked at the intersection it takes up the entire lane; forcing drivers to the wrong side of the road; drivers run the stop sign and they cannot see pedestrians entering the roadway when visibility is blocked. Red curbs (no parking) is strongly requested at Terrace and Terners Ave.

Installing a crosswalk is a challenge due to the American With Disability Act. The crosswalk would need to meet the needs of the visually and mobility impaired. Specific curb ramps would be required; it is not a quick fix. This is where the grant funding is important. The DPW will look into the issues that will be considered in the grant application. SR2S would like the issues on Drake Ave, Terrace Dr and Terners Dr. included.

A request to the County was made to consider reducing the speed limit on Drake (toward the school) by adding a stop sign at Drake, Terrace and Eureka St. This proposal may not be the best as a stop sign is not designed to reduce speeds. The County DPW will consider speed controls at Terrace and Drake.

Cycling on the sidewalk under the freeway overpass is very challenging due to the trash that collects. The fairly new walkway lights are great; however the overgrown weeds and cracks narrow the walkway for all users potentially causing a collision. There are other areas where the weeds are overgrown too. The area is managed by both the county and Caltrans. The County has a Public Works request site, issues can be reported to Kate Sears office for follow-up too (photos are helpful).

A request was made to have the recording of this Zoom meeting be made available for the next BPAC meeting. This would help if Dr Garica cannot attend to explain the proposed COVID-19 plans for the school district in person.

Safe Routes to School will continue with planning. Virtual Walk Audits have been conducted along with Zoom meetings with municipalities. Funding will change given the economic slowdown; therefore SR2S issues may need to be reprioritized.

Safe Routes Offerings this Spring

[Art and Poetry Contest - April](#)

Elementary and Middle School students submitted works for the month of April. All school districts and local social media resources were provided information. Many (50+) wonderful submittals have been received.

[Walk and Roll Recess Challenge- May](#)

“Get your Ya Yas Out” is a fun contest for parents to conduct with their children. There are a host of activities students can do during the challenge; walking, rolling, hula hooping, ball toss and jump roping. There are students that have challenges getting out doors while practicing physical distancing. All healthy physical activities are encouraged and can be tracked for the challenge.

Remote Learn [Safe Routes to Schools](#)

[Social Distancing Tips for Walk and Rolling](#)- English

[Social Distancing Tips for Walk and Rolling](#)- Spanish

An information flyer was created as a resource to students and families throughout the county. With the increase of students walking and biking during the “shelter in place”; these tips are very useful safety reminders.

The Safe Routes to School program will be staying active throughout the county, providing meaningful resources to teachers and students; while supporting parents and the school districts. SR2S has developed on-line lessons; these lessons are normally presented in the classroom throughout the county each school year. [SR2S Remote Learning Lessons](#) are available to all students and parents.

Bike Week Middle School Students- May

Will be rolled out in May; daily cycling related activities will be presented to students. As students track their participation they will be eligible to win prizes at the end of the month.

Next ZOOM meeting

Thursday, July 30, 2020 at 9:30