

Miller Creek School District
Safe Routes to School Task Force Meeting Notes

Monday, September 9
4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

[VIEW RECORDING - 76 mins \(No highlights\)](#)

Participants

- Gwen Froh – SR2S/MCBC
- Andres Gonzalez – Parametrix
- Matthew Hartzell – WTB-TAM
- Brad Honsberger – Miller Creek School Board of Trustees
- Wendi Kallins – SR2S
- Nick Miller – Miller Creek MS Assistant Principal
- John Neville – Marin County DPW
- Julia Reinhard – Aide to Supervisor Sackett
- Mary Sackett – County Board of Supervisors
- Jen Shriber – SR2S/Parametrix
- Dante Williams – Mark Day School Head of Security

Safe Pathways Projects (Andres Gonzalez)

TAM is issuing a call for Safe Pathways projects at end of month. Large projects will be funded up to \$450,000, and small projects will receive funding up to \$75,000. Safe Pathways funds construction projects but can also include funding for design.

Large Project

Parametrix is developing a large project that would connect through the Miller Creek District right-of-way to complete the Mark Day to Vallecito connector. The project is being developed in coordination with representatives from the City and Mark Day; Mark Day School is currently leasing land owned by the Miller Creek School District.

Brad noted that an area of concern along the pathway is by the underpass where people congregate and people sometimes sleep overnight.

The School District would need to apply for funding for this project since it is on district property. SR2S can't apply on behalf of the District due to a conflict of interest. It was also pointed out that the school would need to comply with the State School Architect.

Small Project

The small project is on City right-of-way and will be submitted by the City of San Rafael. This will be a two-block continuation of the Nova Albion two-way cycle track including a



buffer and new crossings. Curb ramps would not be installed as part of this submission but would be a longer-term feature. More outreach is needed on this project given that it impacts parking. Mary suggested that special consideration be given to the transitions to/from the cycle track, particularly given that the Montecillo intersection no longer has a crossing guard. She also suggested that Parametrix should coordinate with Marin Transit since there is a bus stop located on the Vallecito side.

Street Smarts Communications (Jen Shriber & Wendi Kallins)

Jen Shriber gave an overview of Street Smarts, an annual safe behavior education campaign that is part of the SR2S program. It features messages to educate the public on safe behaviors for drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists. The campaign features banners that will be displayed around the County, yard signs, and a social media component. This year's campaign will run from September 23 to November 15. For more information, visit the Street Smarts website at <http://streetsmartsmarin.org>.

Miller Creek residents can pick up yard signs from the City of San Rafael or at the County Public Works office at Los Gamos. Julia and Mary can pick up signs from John at the DPW office and bring them to the COE and elsewhere for distribution.

Wendi Kallins explained that people can also help share the message through social media. The Street Smarts website features a [Social Media tab](#) with newsletter templates, graphics, and email signatures that can be downloaded and shared. Wendi will also share a 'tip of the month' starting in October to keep the messages circulating outside the campaign dates. Task force participants offered to share the messages through the School District, County, and individual school sites.

Task force members noted that Vallecito and Miller Creek MS would be willing to hang signs. Ken Libby at the COE may also be willing to hang a sign on a fence.

Education & Encouragement

Fall Programming (Gwen Froh)

Gwen Froh discussed the latest updates around SR2S education and encouragement. The program has developed a video, PowerPoint presentation, and other information for back-to-school nights encouraging parents to walk, roll, and carpool with their students. The Buddy Up contest is currently live, and people can nominate students until November 15. Fall events include Walk & Roll Wednesday, International Walk & Roll to School Day, and Ruby Bridges Day. SR2S has a Vitamin D theme for the year, encouraging students and families to reap the health benefits of active transportation to school.

Looking ahead to the spring, SR2S will run a carpool campaign December through February, when rainy weather can discourage walking and biking. There will also be a celebration in the spring as SR2S turns 25.



The program currently has enough volunteers at the elementary school. SR2S will send links to schools for the student tallies at the end of the week. This year the tallies will be done using Google Forms.

E-Bike Registration (Nick Miller)

Nick gave an overview of Miller Creek MS's work to implement an e-bike registration system. The system is required for e-bikes only to focus on the issue of out-of-class e-bikes. Families fill out an online Google form that includes safety information and information about the different classes of e-bikes, including out-of-class e-bikes. The form includes a photo of the e-bike specifications; once the form is vetted and confirmed, a numbered tag goes on the bike.

The registration system has been effective. At the end of last year, 19 out-of-class e-bikes were counted on campus. As of the task force meeting, zero were parked on campus. Some students still park their out-of-class bikes off campus. Community support has generally been strong despite some pushback stemming from the loss of school bus service.

Coming laws will put the onus on manufacturers to stop creating e-bikes that can be modified. In addition, AB-1778, Assemblymember Connolly's bill, is on the governor's desk for signature. This bill is focused on class II e-bikes. It would require helmets for all riders and restrict class II use to people 16 years or older. The bill calls for a two-year pilot in Marin starting January 1, 2025, and jurisdictions would need to opt in to the pilot.

Mapping (Wendi Kallins)

SR2S is moving forward with mapping at the elementary schools. The program will have basemaps at upcoming event days so students can add their routes. They will then work with parent volunteers to find a venue at each school for parents to review the maps, confirm the routes, and add issues. This input will be turned into suggested route maps for each school.

Other issues

Carpooling

Julia asked whether SR2S has guidance on forming carpools, including using apps. SR2S has done a lot of research into apps, but they haven't proven to be very effective. A challenge is that parents don't want to put their children into cars of people they don't know and students don't want to carpool with other students who they don't know or who are a different age. In the past, successful events at schools have brought families together to meet each other in order to form carpools. These were done at two schools that had a point person who organized people into carpools. The PTAs could be good avenues for encouraging grade-specific carpools.



This winter SR2S will have a carpool campaign focusing on messaging and encouragement for the rainy winter months.

The Professional Center Parkway neighborhood is a priority for carpooling. Mary will work with Nick to encourage student carpools in this area.

Next Steps

- Wendi will share the task force participant list with Brad to help facilitate District participation
- Parametrix will coordinate with Superintendent Becky Rosales for Safe Pathways application submission
- Parametrix will flesh out the Montecillo connection as part of the final Nova Albion application design and will coordinate with the City on this. They will also touch base with Marin Transit to make sure the project design holistically incorporates transit
- Wendi will follow up with Kristy Treewater (District), the county (PIO@MarinCounty.gov), and individual school sites to spread Street Smarts messaging
- SR2S will coordinate suggested route map development at the elementary schools
- Mary will work with Nick to encourage carpooling for Professional Center Parkway students
- Nick will check in with school administrators about which meeting time works best for the next task force; Gwen will check in with the volunteers

Next Meeting

- Monday January 27, 4 PM or 5 PM (tentative)

