

# San Rafael School District

## Safe Routes to School Task Force Meeting Notes

Wednesday, September 4  
5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

### Recording

### Participants

- Leo Bezar – Office of Supervisor Sackett
- Shannon Erby – San Rafael High School
- Gwen Froh – SR2S/MCBC
- Matthew Hartzell – WTB/TAM
- Monika Kainz – Former Laurel Dell parent, neighbor
- Wendi Kallins – SR2S
- Joanna Kwok – City of San Rafael
- Monica Leifer – SR2S
- Maika Llorens Gulati – San Rafael Councilmember
- Bob Marcucci – SRCS Asst. Supervisor, Business Services
- Stephen Marek – CHP
- Octavia Monelli – parent volunteer, Loch Loma neighborhood
- Joe Mulligan – Marin Cyclists, TAM BPAC
- Craig Murray – Merrydale Road/Meadows resident, HOA president
- John Neville – Marin County DPW
- Mo de Nieva-Marsh – San Rafael City Schools Trustee
- David Parisi – SR2S/Parametrix
- Julia Reinhard – Aide to Supervisor Mary Sackett
- Sindy Rivera – Laurel Dell volunteer
- Pilar Sanchez – Family Liaison, Laurel Dell
- Jean Severinghouse – Neighbor
- Jen Shriber – SR2S/Parametrix

### Safe Pathways Projects (David Parisi)

David reviewed projects for which the City will apply for Safe Pathways funding. He explained the program's funding criteria and highlighted several proposed projects, including the Rafael Meadows Project, a two-way cycle track from Terra Linda High School to the Vallecito School playground, and enhanced signage and striping at Bahia Vista Elementary School. A potential future project, which will not be seeking Safe Pathways funding during this round, would be to redesign the Grand and Belle intersection near Coleman Elementary School. David confirmed that the projects are prioritized based on geographic diversity and the needs of the task forces.

### Street Smarts Communications (Jen Shriber & Wendi Kallins)

Jen 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, including how residents can get free yard signs, visit the Street Smarts website at <http://streetsmartsmarin.org>.

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 and the City's social media platforms.

## **Education & Encouragement (Gwen Froh)**

### *Fall Program*

Gwen discussed the latest updates around SR2S education and encouragement. The program has developed a video, PowerPoint presentation, and other information for principals to use at 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.

SR2S is currently preparing volunteers for the coming school year. A volunteer meeting was held last week to bring together volunteers from around the County to meet and share best practices.

### *E-Bikes*

SR2S has a new [E-Bike Education](#) section of its website. The page features information for administrators, including e-bike registration programs at schools as well as useful information for parents.

SR2S advises parents to purchase a Class I bike. Many Class II bikes can be ridden by anyone regardless of age but are modified to go over 20 MPH, Class II bikes with engines over 750 watts and/or speeds over 20 MPH have been deemed illegal. Class III riders need to be 16 years old and must wear a helmet.

AB-1778 is currently on the governor's desk. This would prevent students in Marin County under 16 years old from riding any Class II e-bikes and require them to wear a helmet.

Class I and II bikes are typically allowed on paths, although every jurisdiction has its own regulations about this. Typically, the speed limits on the paths are 10-15 mph, but it falls on the rider to realize the "safe speed."



## Mapping (Wendi Kallins)

The SR2S team is finishing maps for the rest of San Rafael schools. Workshops will be set up for Glenwood and Venetia Valley, and the team will work with students on event days to identify suggested routes and issues.

## Other Items

### *San Pedro School (Bob Marcucci)*

Bob described challenging bus routing and turns at the San Pedro Elementary School. Currently, 10-11 buses arrive at the school every morning and afternoon. However, buses must do a U-turn to access the school driveway; it creates safety issues, particularly given the nearby blind corner and drivers coming over the hill.

Bob and the other task force members discussed potential solutions, including routing buses through the neighborhood, changing the school driveway loop direction, and contacting Marin Transit for ideas. Maika mentioned a past proposal to construct a pathway from the Canal to San Pedro and noted that the City is actively working on a project to construct a bridge across the San Rafael creek, although this would be located closer to 101/San Rafael High School.

### *Mahone Street Pathway*

An update was provided on the Mahone Pathway. The City has plans to formalize and move the homeless encampment to the northern portion of the pathway, opening the southern part for wider use. Students going to Davidson will be able to connect to the pathway from Lincoln Ave. starting in October or November.

The City communications team has a great updated website: <https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/sanctioned-camping-program/>. The City is hoping to have another community town hall conversation with the Davidson, Laurel Dell, and broader community about the encampment program update.

### *Report Back: Davidson & Laurel Dell Observations (Monika Kainz & Matthew Hartzell)*

Monika and Matthew reported on recent observations made at Davidson and Laurel Dell. Among issues observed were a lack of bicycle paths to Davidson and cars parked in red zones at Laurel Dell during drop-off and pick-up periods. Matthew presented recommendations for each school, including completion of the school travel plan recommendations, and noted that the City has already implemented some of the proposed improvements from the plans.

### *Second & Fourth Street Intersection Improvements (Maika Llorens Gulati)*

Maika updated the group on a project underway with the City that would facilitate a crossing around Miracle Mile that would connect to a new bike lane on Second Street. This would help students biking from the west. For more information, visit <https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/second-and-fourth-street-intersection-improvements/>

## Next Steps



- Wendi will follow up with Christina Fiorino (School District) and Maika (City) to share Street Smarts content through social media
- SR2S will complete the remaining San Rafael suggested route to school maps
- Bob will connect with the City regarding the San Pedro bus issue
- Mo will notify Wendi of any school transportation-related needs associated with the reopening of Short School
- SR2S/Parametrix will look at the recommendations from the Davidson and Laurel Dell observation and pass them along to the City as appropriate

**Next Meeting Date**

- January 22, 2025 5 – 6:30 PM

