

Kentfield School District

Safe Routes to School Task Force Meeting Notes

Thursday, January 23, 2025
9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Participants

- Meredith Brewer – McAllister/Berens neighborhood captain
- Brian Colbert – Marin County Board of Supervisors, SR2S Ad-Hoc Committee
- Lou Goodwin – SR2S/MCBC
- Dan Hernandez – SR2S/MCBC
- Wendy Holmes – Kent MS Assistant Principal
- Erin Kahn – Parent volunteer
- Wendi Kallins – SR2S
- Andrew Kingsdale –Bon Air/Greenbrae neighborhood captain
- Jenn Mariska – Bacich parent
- Scott McDonald - TAM
- Susannah Mrasek – Aide to Supervisor Colbert
- John Neville – Marin DPW
- David Parisi – SR2S/Parametrix
- Mira Schwartz – SR2S/MCBC
- Jen Shriber – SR2S/Parametrix
- Cass Walsh – Bacich Assistant Principal
- Melanie Wollenweber – Greenbrae parent

Overlay mapping project (Jen Shriber & Wendi Kallins)

Wendi and Jen introduced a new tool being developed to help prioritize improvement areas for each school. The tool, an internal overlay map, combines various data layers to better understand issues at schools. The maps will be created for each school and will show suggested routes to schools, student density, high crash rate intersections and segments, and issues identified by the task force, among other things.

Wendi led a discussion on new issues to add to the list. She also sought volunteers to form a committee to discuss the issues in more depth. The following issues were raised:

- A student was struck in the crosswalk on College Avenue at the exit of the Kent Middle School driveway adjacent to the bike path. The flashing beacon was not working at the time. A lot of students cross the street here after dismissal.
- Bacich is having difficulty staffing its parking lot for pick-up and may close the parking lot following kindergarten pick-up. This could have impacts on circulation and safety on Sir Francis Drake.



Update on Acacia closing (John Neville)

John provided an update on efforts to close Acacia during school drop-off and pick-up times. He noted that per the California Vehicle Code local authorities may not erect permanent barriers on roadways only allowing local residents. Meanwhile, the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices says that 'road closed' signs must be installed on a barrier in the center of the street. As a result, any barriers must be moved during the day, although the current system of putting up and taking down barricades four times a day was deemed too much work.

Wendi suggested combining education with the slow street concept to reduce traffic congestion. However, John clarified that the issue was not speed but congestion during pickup and drop-off times. Melanie proposed minimizing congestion by implementing no-parking zones and using law enforcement to encourage good behavior. Cass agreed with John's assessment that no-parking signs would not eliminate congestion, citing their experience with parking enforcement during kindergarten pickup times.

Past recommendations considered one-way circulation, or narrowing the roadway to provide traffic calming and a buffer for pedestrians. Continual education could also ask parents to not use Acacia.

Meanwhile, the Department of Public works is striping a crosswalk from the corner of Berens to the chicken path. This will be built once there is a good weather window and the community will be notified by Supervisor Colbert's office.

Safe Routes activities (Mira Schwirtz & Lou Goodwin)

Encouragement

SR2S will provide carpool support for schools, if desired, and Mira has been in touch with principals about this service. A volunteer meeting will be held on February 13 to roll out programming for the second half of the spring semester. Spring events include Walk & Roll Wednesdays and a spring challenge. Meanwhile, school newsletters encourage walking and rolling and include Eyes Up safety messaging.

Lou has been working with the Kent Eco-Action club to create a safety video for the school. The video will raise awareness of the importance of stopping and looking at crosswalks along Sir Francis Drake. Lou will share the [video](#) with team captains when it's complete. Kent students could also share the video with students at Bacich.

Education

SR2S has a new lead instructor, Dan Hernandez, who has 15 years of lead instructor experience and is fluent in Spanish. The second, fourth, and sixth graders all had their education classes last fall.

New business (Task Force)



Near miss at Wolf Grade

The group discussed the reported near-miss at the Wolfe Grade intersection. Melanie shared her conversation with the crossing guard, Victor, who reported drivers running red lights, including when people are in the crosswalk, and speeding. Potential solutions such as increased enforcement and red light cameras were discussed. Before a crosswalk was installed at the intersection, students used to use the overpass. This isn't ADA compliant, though, and so the crosswalk was added. One potential solution would be to encourage students to use the overpass instead of the crosswalk.

Manor speed bumps

Melanie raised the issue of flexible bollards that have been added next to speed humps in the bike lane on Manor. John stated that this is an interim measure by Brett Cutler at the DPW to minimize the County's exposure to liability while the DPW figures out what to do with the speed bumps. Melanie will follow up with Brett about this.

Equity

The task force discussed ways to ensure that diverse communities' feedback is heard. Wendi mentioned that, through experience with other jurisdictions, it is better to reach out individually rather than getting them to come to meetings, particularly if they don't speak English. SR2S can set up separate meetings with the Spanish speaking community if necessary; the Greenbrae captain can help assess the need for this. Additionally, SR2S can think about ways to involve Greenbrae that doesn't involve volunteerism, and it was noted that it is difficult to find an advocate for every neighborhood

Wendy Holmes mentioned that the school's community family liaison could do outreach, and that regular English language advisory committee meetings could be a platform. She offered to help connect Sr2S with Corinna Hernandez, the family liaison. Cass proposed that some questions about school transportation could be added to an upcoming survey for the English learner community.

Next Steps

- Wendi will form a committee to take a deeper dive into the issues list. Jenn, Erin, Melanie, and Andrew offered to participate.
- The task force will continue to look into next steps for Acacia.
- The Eco Action Club to continue its video efforts and will share the final video.
- Melanie will reach out to Brett about the Manor speed bumps.
- Wendi will work with Wendy and Cass to reach out to school community groups outside of the task force.
- Cass will add a question to the upcoming English language learner survey about

particular areas of concern when students walk and bike to school, and will ask for specific locations.

Next Meeting Date

- April 24, 2025, 9:30 – 11:00 AM

