

Mill Valley School District

Safe Routes to School Task Force Meeting Notes

Wednesday, January 15
9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

[VIEW RECORDING - 93 mins \(No highlights\)](#)

Participants

- Julio Arroyo – School District Maintenance & Operations
- Jared Barrilleaux – Mill Valley DPW
- Dominic Blurton – Parent
- Urban Carmel – Mill Valley Mayor
- Gwen Froh – SR2S/MCBC
- Gail Gordon – Tam Valley
- Al Grumet – Mill Valley Traffic Mobility Advisory Committee (TMAC), Sustainable Mill Valley
- Matthew Hartzell – WTB-TAM
- Langston Hazen – Marin County DPW
- Bill Hoppin – TMAC
- Jennifer Imbimbo, Aide to Dist. 3 Supervisor Stephanie Moulton-Peters
- Alexandra Jenkins – Tam High parent liaison
- Wendi Kallins – SR2S
- Rob LaPorte – Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy
- Jill Macri – Resident, Park School SR2S volunteer
- Tony Macri – Resident, Park School SR2S volunteer
- Logan Manning – Tam HS Assistant Principal
- Sarah McDonald – Strawberry Point parent
- Mike Mooney – SR2S volunteer
- Stephanie Moulton-Peters – District 3 Supervisor
- John Neville – Marin County DPW
- Mira Schwartz - MCBC
- Jen Shriber – SR2S/Parametrix
- Emily Spady – Safe Routes Tam Valley parent rep, TMAC
- Warren Wells - MCBC
- Ian – Tam Valley resident

Overlay Mapping Process (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:

- Catalpa and Elm are narrow streets that get congested and pose safety challenges during drop-off and pick-up times at Park School. The school asks parents to route one-



way, but people outside the school community aren't aware of this.

- Camino Alto: middle and high schoolers ride their bikes on the sidewalks and in the wrong way in the bike lanes. This may be because there is a gap in the bike lane south of Sycamore during school hours.
- There is a sidewalk gap near the Miller/Almonte bus stop. The steps above Tam High leading to the Rosemont/California neighborhood could be a possible alternative: if the county could make repairs to the steps, students could walk on local roads and take the steps down to the Almonte crosswalk to get to the middle school
- There are some talks of temporarily relocating middle school students to the Edna Maguire area. This would have significant traffic impacts. The school district is working through an EIR process and will be studying impacts.

Tam Valley & Almonte Presentation

Tam Valley - Marin Ave sidewalk extension (Emily Spady)

Emily discussed the need to extend the Marin Ave sidewalk in Tam Valley to improve safety and accessibility for families and children. She mentioned that the current sidewalk was constructed 20 years ago and has been well-used, but there is a gap from Green Glen to Maple. Emily also noted that there is a lot of interest in making the community more walkable and bikeable, with many young families moving into the area, and that adding a sidewalk would impact street parking for six homes. Stephanie and John emphasized the need to balance the interests of the neighborhood with the larger community, and the importance of forming a smaller working group to vet design options and concerns. Warren provided insight from a similar undertaking on Butterfield Road, where a community survey revealed wide support for improvements.

Almonte (Langston Hazen)

Langston provided updates on the signal warrant analysis the County had been conducting in the area, mentioning that they were working with Caltrans to get timing sheet information. The analysis's aim is to determine the effects of any changes to the traffic control at Almonte and Rosemont on the surrounding roads. Langston also mentioned that they were considering alternatives to a traffic signal, such as a HAWK signal. The County hopes to start the process in spring or summer of this year, once it has all necessary information, and aims to complete it by the end of the year or early 2026.

Rob reported that the Bothin Marsh project had been awarded some priority conservation area grant funds, which would help with environmental compliance and permit applications for the Bothin Marsh pathway.

SR2S Activities (Gwen Froh)

Education

SR2S taught fall classes at Mill Valley Middle and Tam Valley Elementary. Park, Strawberry, Old Mill are scheduled for January and February, with Edna Maguire classes later in the spring.



Encouragement

During the winter there has been a higher focus on advertising carpooling, since inclement weather can make walking and biking more challenging. The Have a Heart Challenge will take place in February. Students will get a card and, self-report how they get to school, and turn in the card on February 14 for a chance to win a popsicle party. A parent volunteer meeting will be held on February 13. During this meeting SR2S will roll out its Walk & Roll Wednesdays, spring contest, and National Walk & Bike to School Day.

SR2S is trying to support each school in their individual needs by working with principals to offer solutions. Parent volunteers can reach out to Mira for support.

E-bikes

Gwen discussed the issue of e-bikes safety in Mill Valley. Some devices, labelled as Class II e-bikes, can go above 20 MPH using the throttle and are therefore e-motorcycles that are not legal for use on public paths and roads. SR2S had sent informational flyers to principals before the holidays so parents could be notified. She mentioned that the Health Department found that children 10-15 years of age are 5 times more likely to be involved in an e-bike crash resulting in a 911 call. Gwen also shared that she is serving as an advisor on a countywide task force to address the e-bike situation among youth. She asked for advice on how to address the issue of e-devices being parked at the community center since they are no longer allowed on campuses. Dominic suggested that impounding a few bikes would send a strong message to parents, while Ian proposed better labeling for e-bikes to make it easier for law enforcement to discern between legal and illegal devices.

New Requests from Task Force Members

Traffic calming on Sycamore

TMAC subcommittee members have previously emphasized the need for traffic calming on Sycamore. This will be part of the neighborhood-level focus groups for the bike plan update; the existing bike plan calls for traffic calming on the street. Jared mentioned that the City has a neighborhood traffic calming policy through which residents can make requests and offered to answer any questions about the policy. Matt mentioned that the 2018 Bike/Ped Plan designates Sycamore as "Class 3 plus" with traffic calming

Park circulation issues

Currently parents are encouraged to use Catalpa and Elm street in one direction only, but this is not well known outside the school community. Task force members discussed strategies for spreading awareness about the one-way circulation. Suggestions to try "bike trains" or temporary street closures on select days. Jared mentioned that the City had applied for funds to close the sidewalk gap on the east side of Elm, near the school; this award has not yet been formalized.

From chat: Alexandra Jenkins to Everyone:

Thank you all, for your commitment to making streets safer for everyone! FYI, I'm looking for someone to step into the Safe Routes Tam High Parent Liaison role (my teen graduates in



June). Please contact me if you or someone you know might be interested! My cell: 415-609-6216.

Next Steps

- Wendi will form a sub-committee to go over the issues in more depth; anyone interested in joining should reach out to her.
- Julio will reach out to principals and share any additional issues/feedback.
- Urban will help spread the word and find people to help fill out the issues lists for each school
- The Tam Valley committee will convene.
- The County will continue its modelling efforts for the Rosemont signal.
- Jared will share more information about the City's traffic calming plan.
- Jill will reach out to Emily about bike trains.

Next Meeting Date

- April 16, 9:30 – 11:00 AM

