

**Ross School District**  
**Safe Routes to School Task Force Meeting Notes**

Monday, January 13, 2024  
10:00 – 11:30 AM

[VIEW RECORDING - 60 mins \(No highlights\)](#)

**Participants**

- Todd Bickel – Branson School
- Gwen Froh – SR2S/MCBC
- Misty Gibbs – Ross School parent & PTO member
- Wendi Kallins – SR2S
- Raffaello Pata – Ross Police Chief
- Mathew Salter – Ross Town Council Liaison to Safe Routes Task Force
- Mira Schwartz – SR2S Volunteer Coordinator
- Jen Shriber – SR2S/Parametrix
- Richard Simonitch – Ross DPW

**Overlay Mapping Process (Jen Shriber & Wendi Kallins)**

Jen introduced the concept of developing an overlay map for each school that would be used internally to guide infrastructure plans and prioritize efforts. The maps would include, among other data layers, suggested walking and biking routes, anonymized student locations, high collision network locations, and data on issues. Jen also mentioned the development of a prioritization scoring method to determine where to focus efforts. Wendi led a discussion to identify new issues to include on the map, which included the following:

*Ross School*

- Sir Frances Drake – Only the west side has a sidewalk and there are no crosswalks to access it except at the lights.
- Laurel Grove Avenue sidewalks (work is currently underway)
- Winship/Sir Francis Drake Boulevard people who live on Winship can only cross at Bolinas and Sir Francis Drake
- Bike signage on Shady Lane for those that bike on the street
- Allen Avenue: The town is considering a pedestrian walkway at the school
- Add the crossing guard at Bolinas on the map (funded by Ross)

*Branson*

- Fernhill Avenue: Speeding vehicles



- Hillgirt Drive: This is a biking route to school, but the school can't advertise it as a school entrance because it's a private road. Can it be opened up for bikes to use.

### **Update on Traffic Issues at Bolinas & Drake (Richard Simonitch)**

Richard provided an update on projects underway in the Town. Last week, a leading pedestrian interval was implemented at two crosswalks across Sir Francis Drake Boulevard at Bolinas Avenue.

The Town recently applied for four small Safe Pathways projects, each of which could get up to \$100,000 in funding from TAM. Two projects would extend the Laurel Grove pathway past Skyland Way and to Macon Grade. An application for Shady Lane would complete pathway improvements to Fernhill, including installing sharrows on Shady Lane (pending approval). The last application was for improvements to Allen Avenue.

Richard also mentioned the potential for a pathway on Fernhill Avenue but noted that it would need to wait until the West Ross undergrounding district project is completed. He estimated that the Fernhill project would be at least a year or two out. Richard also discussed the proposal to restripe and repave Sir Francis Drake, with a focus on safety signage.

### **SR2S Activities (Gwen Froh & Misty Gibbs)**

#### [PowerPoint](#)

#### *Education & encouragement*

Gwen mentioned that SR2S recently hired a new lead instructor, Dan Hernandez. He is a native Spanish speaker with 15 years of lead instructor experience. He can also teach instructors to become certified.

The Ross School classes are not yet scheduled but will be held in the spring.

Misty provided an overview of events. Ruby Bridges Day was a big success in the fall. Volunteers made neighborhood designated spots consistent with previous years and used reusable totes. The school incorporated curriculum content leading up to the event. In the winter, Jingle All the Way to School included branded bike bells, festive costumes, carolers. Volunteers saw a large uptick in the number of kids walking/biking in this event over the years. Upcoming events include special events for Earth Week and a Wheel Kids Road Safety Camp for third and fourth graders.

#### *E-Bikes*

Gwen discussed the issue of non-compliant e-bikes on school campuses. Class II e-bikes that can exceed 20 MPH are out of class and are not legally e-bikes; they cannot be ridden on public



roads and pathways. She shared a survey showing an increase in non-compliant e-bikes from 63% in April to 80% in December. Chief Pata noted that a lot of e-bike riders are headed to Archie Williams or schools outside the jurisdiction. Ross School has outlawed out-of-class e-devices on-campus, and Chief Pata has seen a reduction from the previous year. However, some students park their e-devices off-campus. Gwen also mentioned a lawsuit against a manufacturer of these devices. Todd mentioned that about 50 of the 390 Branson students cycle to school, with about 20 of those being powered cycles. The group agreed on the need for better enforcement and education regarding e-bikes.

### Next Steps

- Wendi will create an issues list based on the issues raised at today's meeting. People can email her with additional issues at [wkallings@igc.org](mailto:wkallings@igc.org).
- Todd will reach out to Gwen about e-bike education opportunities.

### Next Meeting

- April 21, 10 AM

