

Ross Valley School District

Safe Routes to School Task Force Meeting Notes

Friday, January 17

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

[VIEW RECORDING - 82 mins \(No highlights\)](#)

Participants

- John Baker – White Hill Co-Principal
- Erick Betancourt – SR2S parent volunteer
- Lisel Blash – Fairfax Mayor
- Eileen Burke – San Anselmo Town Council
- Jason Cardillo – Wade Thomas parent volunteer
- Bridget Clark – San Anselmo BPAC
- Gwen Froh – SR2S/MCBC
- Josh Goldberger – Brookside parent/volunteer
- Matthew Hartzell – WTB-TAM
- Wendi Kallins – SR2S
- Michael Mason – Manor parent Bob Middelstaedt – E-Bike Access, SR2S volunteer
- Susannah Mrazik – Aide to Brian Colbert
- John Neville – Marin County DPW
- Nick Pappas – Wade Thomas parent
- Mira Schwartz – SR2S/MCBC
- Scott Schneider – San Anselmo DPW
- Jen Shriber – SR2S/Parametrix
- Loren Umbertis – Fairfax DPW
- Dan Hernandez – SR2S/MCBC

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. People can also email her (wkallins@igc.org) by the end of February with additions. The following issues were raised:

Brookside

- The Rosemont Avenue intersection with Butterfield Road is very large and the stop sign is located well back from the intersection. This can be confusing for drivers who are not sure who has the right-of-way.
- The paw prints need to be repainted to keep people out of parking lot
- The Brookmeade entrance is problematic and the walkway needs to be made more visible. The school would like bicyclists to dismount and walk, although the green sharrows send a mixed message. Signage and increased education at the school could help get this message across.



Hidden Valley

- Butterfield has 2 legacy crosswalks, but no curb ramps or sidewalks at their ends and one crosswalk ends at a driveway. The County is looking at putting in curb ramps on the Hidden Valley side and would skew the crosswalk away from the driveway. Butterfield has a heavy crown, so the feasibility of putting in curb ramps and sidewalks on 3 corners would need to be assessed.

Wade Thomas [Map of Laurel](#)

- Laurel has several narrow turns with poor visibility that need traffic calming. Sight lines are blocked by vehicles, fences, and vegetation.

[Updated issues list](#)

[Changes to Azalea project](#) (Loren Umbertis)

Loren presented a proposal to reallocate funds for a crosswalk project originally planned for Azalea Street to a new location further east on Merwyn. The original location was deemed unsuitable due to its steep slope and lack of public right-of-way for an ADA-compliant ramp. The new location, near M&G Burger, would have a gentler slope and provide better access for pedestrians. The task force was asked to approve the reallocation of funds for this new location. There were no objections to the proposal, and it was assumed to be approved.

Additionally, Loren mentioned that the town of Fairfax had submitted several proposals for TAM Safe Pathways funding. These include the installation of a traffic signal at Glen Drive and Sir Francis Drake, improvements to the crosswalk near St. Regus Church and Ross Valley charter; and the refreshment of school bicycle route markings on the bike spine. Safe Pathways funding has not yet been awarded.

SR2S activities (Gwen Froh)

Education & encouragement

Gwen announced the appointment of Dan Hernandez as the new lead instructor for the SR2S education program. Dan shared his extensive experience in cycling education, including working for REI and Bike East Bay. Dan is a League-certified instructor coach and is fluent in Spanish.

Gwen also introduced a new February contest called the "Have a Heart Challenge." The contest encourages students to track their trips to school, including walking, rolling, carpooling, or parking and walking partway. The rest of the year's program will be rolled out at the volunteer meeting on February 13.

Mira discussed the success of the program in Ross Valley, with increased participation from families riding bikes to school. She praised hardworking parent volunteers at all the schools in the district. Bridget suggested collaboration with the bike-pedestrian action committee and the potential for incentives for carpooling at Archie Williams. Gwen



agreed to connect Bridget with the team coordinator, Lou Goodwin, to explore this idea further.

E-bikes

Gwen discussed the issue of noncompliant e-motorcycles being used by students, despite the schools' efforts to educate and enforce compliance. E-devices classified as Class 2 that can go above 20 MPH using the throttle alone are considered out-of-class and are illegal to ride on public roads and paths. An educational flyer had been shared with schools before the holidays to inform parents of illegal devices. Gwen mentioned that many students are still parking these devices on and off campus and suggested the need for stronger enforcement.

Bob presented [data](#) on the number of e-bikes and noncompliant devices at White Hill and Archie Williams and highlighted the issue of these devices being parked off campus, sometimes with the help of parents. He also mentioned the presence of electric scooters that require a license or permit.

The group discussed the need for enforcement and education to address the problem of e-motorcycles. Jason shared his observations that parents are not concerned about the legal status of e-bikes, and that they see the e-bikes as a convenient alternative to driving their kids to school. The group also discussed the lawsuit raised by a Fairfax mother against Super 73, and Bob suggested that community members should reach out to Hillary Whitman to offer their support.

Lisel offered to raise the issue of e-motorcycles to the police chief, while Ellen offered to reach out to specific parents who are encouraging use of these devices. It was hoped that education, particularly at the lower grades, combined with individual conversations could ease the issue.

Next Steps

- People should email Wendi (wkallins@igc.org) with issues to be added to the list by the end of February
- Wendi will update issues list
- Gwen will connect Bridget with Lou Goodwin.
- Lisel will follow up with Fairfax police chief and council members regarding enforcement of e-bike regulations.

Next meeting date

April 18 at 10 AM

