

San Rafael School District
Safe Routes to School Task Force Meeting Notes

Wednesday, January 22
5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Participants

- Mo de Nieva-Marsh – SRCS Board
- Brian Cardellini
- Bridget Daly – Coleman parent
- Alexis Fineman – SR2S/SEI
- Gwen Froh – SR2S/MCBC
- Liz Hall – Coleman parent
- Irene Garcia – Coleman parent
- Matthew Hartzell – WTB-TAM
- Dan Hernandez – SR2S/MCBC
- Brad Honsberger – Miller Creek School Board president
- Wendi Kallins – SR2S
- Joanna Kwok – City of San Rafael Public Works
- Monica Leifer – SR2S
- Shannon Levenson – Coleman parent
- Melinda MacKaben – Coleman parent
- Todd MacKaben – Coleman parent
- Bob Marcucci – SRCS Deputy Superintendent
- Joe Mulligan – TAM BPAC
- John Neville – Marin County DPW
- Molly O'Donoghue – Laurel Dell teacher
- Alex Peck – Coleman Principal
- Kate Powers – TAM Citizens Oversight Committee
- Julia Reinhard – Aide to Supervisor Mary Sackett
- Aneri Rodriguez – SR2S/SEI
- Pilar Sanchez – Laurel Dell community liaison
- Mira Schwartz – SR2S/MCBC
- Jen Shriber – SR2S/Parametrix
- Lotta Smith – Coleman parent



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. Task force members can also email her (wkallins@igc.org) by the end of February with any new issues. The following issues were raised:

Coleman

Rafael is a narrow street, and when cars park on both sides of the road it's very difficult for two-way traffic to get through. This road has no sidewalks, and the sun can be very bright in the spring. There have been near misses with students here. Some ideas that were discussed included making the road one-way in the morning and having a crossing guard or traffic advisor to encourage one-way travel. John shared Acacia Road closure example and challenges from Kentfield. Todd offered to put up and take down temporary signs; a City Council resolution would be needed for this. Coleman should work with the City on a path forward.

A lot of students walk down Rafael to school, but there are particularly speeding vehicles at the intersection with Jewell where they cross. There is currently no school signage.

There are issues with garbage and uncomfortable conditions on the overpass. Joanna suggested using the city's See-Click-Fix portal to address these issues.

Laurel Dell

There is very little parking for families at pick-up and drop-off. As a result, some students get out of their cars in the middle of the street. Buses park in front of the school and the campus is on a large hill, which makes getting into or out of cars difficult. One potential solution could be to add a drop-off zone only during certain hours. The school was directed to contact the City about this.

The crossing guard at the western side of Woodland Avenue reported speeding vehicles coming around the corner from the north.

Wendi mentioned that a walk audit will be scheduled in the coming months and asked for the email address of anyone interested in participating.

SR2S activities (Gwen Froh)

Education

Gwen reported on the education program, which includes teaching second grade pedestrians, fourth grade bicycle rodeo, sixth grade bike drills, and a share the road class in high school. So far during the school year classes have been taught at Davidson and Venetia Valley. Sixth grade Venetia Valley classes and education at the



other schools will be scheduled for later in the year.

Gwen introduced Dan Hernandez, the SR2S new lead instructor. He has 15 years of experience as a lead instructor and is fluent in Spanish.

Encouragement

Monica discussed the upcoming parent volunteer meeting, which will occur on February 13 to roll out the programming for the second half of the semester. These will include the Bike Hero Award, National Walk & Roll to School Day, contests, and Walk & Roll Wednesdays.

The Have a Heart Challenge will run from February 3-14. March will feature a Doctor Seuss-themed Walk & Roll Wednesday. During April and May there will be an adventure-themed challenge contest ending in National Walk & Roll to School Day. Schools opting out of the contest will have an Earth Day event.

Youth Leading Active Communities (YLAC) activities (Alexis Fineman)

Alexis introduced the Youth Leading Active Communities (YLAC) program, which aims to promote safe routes and active transportation among students. The program involves a 5-lesson curriculum suite, including an introduction to active transportation, safe routes for all, making safe choices, safety in surroundings, and communicating what students have learned. Alexis also mentioned that the YLAC team is available for classroom presentations, assemblies, stakeholder meetings, and can help with park and walk locations.

New business (Task Force)

Julia announced the opening of a new multi-use pathway along the SMART train tracks from McInnes Parkway to Smith Ranch Road. More information can be found here: <https://www.sonomamarintrain.org/mcinnis>.

Next Steps

- People should email Wendi (wkallins@igc.org) with new issues by end of February.
- Wendi will update the issues list with new additions.
- Wendi will schedule a walk audit including those who expressed interest.
- A Coleman working group will be formed regarding one-way circulation on Rafael.
- Laurel Dell will reach out to the City about creating a drop-off zone in front of the school.



Next Meeting Date

- April 23, 5:00 – 6:30 PM

