



Ross Valley Safe Routes to Schools Task Force
Zoom Meeting Notes
August 6, 2021

Attendance:

Wendi Kallins- Safe Routes to Schools- Program Coordinator, Gwen Froh- Safe Routes to Schools Program Director, Brian Colbert -San Anselmo Mayor, Renee Goddard- Councilmember Fairfax, Peggy Clark- Safe Routes to Schools, Christopher Whitlock- Marin Transit Operations Analyst, Nancy Vernon - Aide to District 2 Supervisor Katie Rice, Chance Cutrano- Town of Fairfax Council Member and TAM Commissioner, Sharon Mayer-Neighbor to Brookside School, Jill Nail- PTO President at Hidden Valley, Robin Gluck- Parent Brookside School, Malissa Reyes- Parent Brookside, Sean Condry- San Anselmo Public Works Director, Marci Trahan- District Superintendent, Matt Farber- Lead Instructor- Safe Routes to Schools, Cooper Miley- Volunteer Coordinator- Safe Routes to Schools, Rachel Litwack- School Board Trustee

Safe Routes Education and Encouragement for fall

Safe Routes is planning to provide in-person instruction throughout the county. Last spring Hidden Valley and Manor were able to host in person classes outdoors. The other Ross Valley schools had access to SR2S remote learning resources.

The SR2S encouragement program is underway and we are actively recruiting for parent volunteers. This is a great opportunity to support activities at your students' school and to learn more about what SR2S is doing in the community. These schools need parent volunteers to participate in SR2S encouragement events: Brookside, Manor, Wade Thomas.

International Walk and Roll to School Day is October 6th 2021. Nationally and locally, this is the largest event to promote walking and rolling to school. SR2S volunteers typically host welcome tables at all the Ross Valley schools and small incentives are handed out to students. Volunteers are needed for schools to participate.

NEW Safe Routes to School Volunteer Coordinator- Cooper Miley
Cooper joins our staff this year. He has experience working with adults and youth while working with Backroads and years of experience with marketing and sales.

Summer Program

Thank you, Ross Valley School District and Recreation Center, for hosting summer bicycle education classes for students and adults this summer. All the events were well attended including the Family Biking event hosted at Brookside School.

Family Biking- October 14, 2021 at the Marin County Bicycle Coalition - [Biketoberfest](#). There will be a fun group ride from Fairfax to San Anselmo along the green way with a scavenger hunt. Advance registration is required.

Safe Routes to Schools- Student Travel Survey

The fall travel survey will be conducted at all schools during the week of Sept 14 or Sept 20th. Save the date notices will be emailed to all schools mid August and survey instructions will be emailed 1 week prior to the scheduled week to conduct the survey. IMPORTANT- last year SR2S was not able to conduct the survey; therefore, we are really encouraging every school and classroom to collect the requested data this year- *thank you!*

Return to School for Ross Valley School District

All schools are planning to open for in person learning and events this fall. The Superintendent will be sending out a welcome letter the week of Sept 9th that will include the most recent updates. The administration and teachers are very excited to be returning to campus.

The guidelines by Marin County Health and Human Service were issued August 4th. The updated guidelines were updated for this coming school year; they kept elements of the prior plan and marked them as “not applicable at this time”. If case rates change and they have to be reinstated they are already available.

The CA Dept of Public Health requirements for masking: students and staff regardless of vaccine status must wear a mask indoors. Marin County Public Health requires masks for indoors and outdoors. There are no social distancing requirements at this time. Volunteers Update: 1 time event; vaccine status is not required; more frequent visits to campus from a volunteer recommends proof of vaccination.

Quarantine guidelines: have not been released yet. There will be a decision tree for vaccinated and unvaccinated students. If families are traveling, they will need to quarantine if they do not return by a specific date.

Bus update

Marin Transit (MT) conducted a lottery for White Hill Middle School. It is closed and the remaining passes are available on the [website](#). Pass

Sales for Hidden Valley and Ross Valley Charter are available. MT was anticipating a 25% reduction in pass sales due school enrollment being down. It is actually lower; they anticipated 650 passes to be sold by now and only 493 passes have been sold. Typically, they sold 57-62 passes per route: down to 50 this year. Some families did not get the route they wanted and chose not to buy a back-up route. MT has learned from conversations that families plan to carpool and walk/ roll to White Hill this year. There will be service to Hidden Valley School this year.

Service this year will still reduce the number of vehicles on the roadway. MT is able to serve the same number of routes; there is a cap on the number of students on a bus 50 vs 57/62 students due to the contract with the bus contractor guidelines. There will be 5 buses contracted for this school year.

The bus contractor's guidelines have not changed due to the Delta Variant as of this meeting.

Thank you was expressed to MT for managing the process and all the components including pricing.

San Anselmo Town Update

Sean Condry was able to join the meeting briefly and provide bulleted comments on the following project. Thank you for attending Sean! Scott Schneider provided more details via email.

Town Projects Update:

BPAC - accepting applications, once we get enough, the Town Council will interview applicants. Meetings every 6 months.

Sierra/Broadmoor intersection traffic signal. The town is working on a design to separate the phases.

Brookside (Drake to Butterfield) sidewalk gap closure project has been awarded and should start in August/ September and be finished by the end of the year. The new

sidewalk will extend along Drake Blvd from Suffield to Suffield where it meets Butterfield. The portion on Butterfield/ Suffield is not included in this project due to lack of funding. The median will also see improvements.

School Bike Spine- will award contract next week, work should start in a month and continue thru October. Project includes adding signs and sharrows, also includes refreshing crosswalks and replacing old 24" stop signs with larger ones (30") The Bike. It has been a long time coming.

We had a request from the neighbors for a 3-way stop at Arroyo/The Alameda, we are reviewing it now with Parisi, who will do traffic counts once school starts.

Memorial Park- The yellow bus stop is approved. They are now signed and enforced for no parking during specific times.

All of the crosswalks across Butterfield in the Town section have the appropriate signage (sign with people and down arrow at the crosswalk, and sign with people and 'ahead' in advance of crosswalks).

Butterfield Sewer Construction- should wrap-up before school starts. There could be some linger work that will be scheduled from 9 to 3:00pm.

Butterfield and Drake Blvd Sidewalk Safety Concerns:

Robin reported that a number of incidents of vehicles on the sidewalk have been a safety issue. An inquiry was made to learn how the town can make improvements along Drake to the high school and to Butterfield. The section of road on the northeast side of the road where students stand is a dangerous location. Robin believes there is a good deal of space for a guard rail. Families experience drivers taking the corner (Drake on Butterfield) very fast and often have to stand back to feel safe and avoid the fast moving vehicles.

The DPW conducted a study several years ago and learned there were many issues with installing a guardrail that would actually stop vehicles from driving up on a sidewalk. They observed that there are many driveways (railing would have to stop/start) along this stretch and places where residents place trash cans for pick-up.

The DPW will check in the police department on reported vehicles on sidewalks.

This area is a challenge and has been under review for some time. If funding were available the town would like to consider changing this intersection to a roundabout in the future. This would include Drake, Butterfield and Suffield Ave.

Sean agreed to meet with the parents to learn more (please email scondry@townofsananselmo.org and sschneider@townofsananselmo.org). This area is a challenge and has been under review for some time. If funding were available the town would like to consider changing this intersection to a roundabout in the future. This would include Drake, Butterfield and Suffield Ave.

Broadmoor and Drake Blvd Update

This intersection has been under review for some time. The streets are offset which makes it a challenge. The conditions are similar to San Francisco and Tamal which was updated with a 3 signal: Tamal and SF have one traffic light and Drake has its own light to avoid conflicts.

The DPW is looking at doing something similar at Broadmoor and Sierra Aves. A LED pedestrian interval light provides pedestrians with the option to begin crossing before drivers get the green light; this increases visibility of the pedestrians.

The DPW will also be planning to add more red curbs going down Morningside Drive to Drake.

Comments:

Mother witnessed many near misses during school drop off; the start of the day is so unsafe when trying to cross Drake Blvd. The new light will be a big improvement. The LED light will be helpful.

Crossing guards are managed by TAM; typical intersections with traffic signals do not rate high for placing a guard because of the controlled intersection.

The DPW is committed to make safety improvements throughout the corridor.

Butterfield Road Update

Two projects are underway.

1. The Eyes up campaign members are doing a fall campaign specifically focused on crosswalk safety that will roll out in September. This could include adding “pedestrian ahead” signs on Butterfield before a number of crosswalks. This campaign can be a template to be used in other communities in the future.
2. Butterfield Transportation Safety Group. This group will work with the County and the DPW to look at making improvements along the corridor. They want to look at

a safe crossing at the community center. The center is re-opening and there will be more activities conducted. It is a challenge due the roadway conditions.

Data collection will be collected on speeds and usage including vehicles, pedestrians and bicycles. They will also revisit considering adding a bike lane.

Once these campaigns move forward the support of the school community will be very important to the success and safety improvements.

Oak Manor Committee Update

About 4 years ago the county attempted to develop a safety campaign with community members. . It was a challenge that never got momentum. Nancy would welcome the opportunity to work with new families in the area. Renee offered to reach out to Nancy and learn of parents that may be interested in supporting safety efforts.

Fairfax Town Update

The new interim Public Works Director has started but was not able to attend this meeting. There is an interim Town Manager as the town conducts a search for a permanent one. The town has not had a PWD in 10 years! The council is looking forward to many good changes in the future around schools and other public spaces.

The Azalea sidewalk project that comes off Drake Blvd is slated to go and it will include a bike lane.

Issues list https://earth.google.com/earth/d/1gBlm_Vfzy9COoN7WNI6L634xLYG9-qFZ?usp=sharing

Safe Routes to School presented at the last meeting the new tool being used to identify, view and track each issue on the SR2S Ross Valley Issues list (Google Earth).

Since the last meeting the issues have been prioritized 1-2-3. These issues are shared with the town DPW departments and updates(status) will be recorded on these resources/links.

New issues:

- Request for a Crossing Guard at Butterfield and Drake Blvd.
Drivers do not pay attention to the “red arrow” and take the turn when students are trying to cross.

TAM funds the crossing guards; after evaluation of this intersection with the light facilities they removed the guard. There is a guard at the front of the school.

A suggestion was made to move the guard at the front of the school to Butterfield and Drake and get a volunteer or school staff person. There are district/union regulations/laws on using staff for such needs. In addition, the district is experiencing low enrollment; funding is down and there are campus positions that have priority.

TAM does have a volunteer training program for guards. The fee is \$5,000 for training and Worker Compensation insurance must be covered by the school district. A suggestion was made to ask the PTA to raise funds annually for a guard position. The YES program's focus is Art and Music not safety; if that focus was to change crossing guard funding could be an option in the future.

Marci and Safe Routes to Schools will schedule a meeting to discuss potential options.

- Fairfax new issue

Sharrows and a flashing beacon on Bolinas; students use this route to get downtown on foot, bicycle and skateboards. Not sure how this should be prioritized; this is a durable facility improvement

Next Zoom Meeting

January 14, 2022 at 10:00AM