



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL TASK FORCE MEETING NOTES

Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2019

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: Menlo Park City School District, Room TERC
181 Encinal Av, Atherton

Meeting goals: To discuss the Task Force's roles and objectives, and to confirm the structure and members for following meetings.

1. Introductions & SRTS Task Force's objectives / expectations

- Ahmad Sheikholeslami, Menlo Park City School District
- Andre-Anne Cadieux, Safe Routes to School Coordinator
- Ashley Walker, Menlo Park Police Department
- Beth Polito, Las Lomas School District
- Jen Wolosin, Parents for Safe Routes
- Lydia Lee, Menlo Park Complete Streets Commission
- Nicholas Yee, City of Menlo Park (Public Works)
- Rich Struckman, Menlo Park Police Department
- Victoria Trask, Menlo Park Police Department

Attendees shared their expectations and priorities:

- To discuss communication and how to share information
- Crossing guard recruitment
- To have a sustainable program, to create a culture of biking/ walking in school community
- To learn more about the program, to discuss issues that affect schools in Menlo Park, e.g. challenges like construction

2. City of Menlo Park SRTS updates

Menlo Park SRTS Strategy

Final version will be on the SRTS webpage soon.

Walk and Roll Maps

A suggestion from the Complete Street Commission meeting (8/14) was to develop a top list of "things to look out for" for parents, schools, and to get people (parents, school administration) involved with the Walk and Roll Maps.

Jen Wolosin (Parents for Safe Routes) suggested on doing a pilot with one of the school maps to show at the next Task Force Meeting.

Ahmad Sheikholeslami (MPCSD) pointed out that those tips could be translated in short videos. Oak Knoll School did "Safety Tips" videos with the Menlo Park Police Department (Victoria Trask),

and it was suggested to do the same with each school; involving the students could be a Task Force project for this year.

3. SRTS next steps

Ideas for the SRTS Program:

- To create a Student Advisory Group; the mayor is working on creating a Teen Advisory Commission for Menlo Park. This youth commission could also have a SRTS sub-committee.
- To have a child be the “SRTS Mayor/Ambassador,” similar to what they have in Copenhagen.
- To plan a citywide demonstration project during Bike to School Day in May; to identify 3-4 schools (in each school district) and plan a demonstration project to show the demand for infrastructure improvement, in coordination with the Police Department; encourage the City and Schools’ Mascots to attend, invite council members, etc.

What should be the 2019-2020 goals and milestones for the Menlo Park SRTS program?

- Put together hand tallies data to establish a baseline of how students travel to school; set share modes goals.
- Communication: find a tool to communicate and share information, e.g. develop a list of SRTS contacts (names, contact information, roles).
- SRTS coordinator should continue to build a relationship with schools to get a sense of the needs.
- Long term: institutionalize SRTS efforts in Menlo Park, e.g. unified messages by grade.

SRTS structure / members

- Include San Mateo County and Town of Atherton
- Keep the meeting with school district representatives
- Other stakeholders (e.g. Facebook, ...)- as needed

The meetings would be open to the public.

4. Open Data Collision Map

Ashley Walker (Menlo Park Police Department) presented the Open Data Collision Map, including data. She showed a map of collisions involving youth that occurred during the weekdays, in both mornings and afternoons.

The Police Department can create heat maps, add school bus routes, pedestrian crosswalks, and strive to understand where people involved in the collisions were travelling to/from. This will be helpful information when planning out where to hold education operations.

Future of data: automation, feedback collection.

Rick Struckman gave an overview of the PD process (data driven, educating traffic officers on which areas to focus on each month...).

Menlo Park Police Department coordination

- Reach out to Traffic Sergeant Jaime Romero to send any requests to the Police Department
- In the case of a collision, it is better to call the emergency number at the moment of the collision. It is harder to check the fact if the call is made hours or days after the collision.
- For any school related issues- reach out to Victoria Trask (Community Safety Officer).
- Long term approach and police related strategy- reach out to Rick Struckman
- Discussion about Next Door
 - Officers are prohibited to monitor Next Door.

- Discussion about a Traffic Diversion program like they have in Palo Alto.

Crossing Guards Pilot Program

- Help is needed to recruit crossing guards. So far, no new crossing guards were hired.

5. Announcements

6. Next meeting

December 4th, 9:30am; keep meeting quarterly. No need for a meeting in October.