



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL TASK FORCE MINUTES

Date: September 16, 2020
Time: 9:00-10:30 am
Zoom videoconference

Present:

Lydia Lee, Complete Streets Commission
Petrice Espinosa, Complete Streets Commission
Adrienne Philippe, La Entrada Middle School
Nell Curran, Las Lomas Elementary School District
Wendy Valencia, Menlo Park City School District
Wilfin Morales, Menlo Park City School District
Madeline Hardcastle, Menlo Park Fire District
Victoria Trask, Menlo Park Police Department
Ruchi Murlidhar, Laurel SRTS Parent Champion
Emily Gudaitis, Lucile Packard Children's Hospital
Patrick Palmer, Menlo Park Public Works

Nicholas Yee, Menlo Park Public Works
Cindy Chin, Ravenswood City School District
Vanessa Castro, San Mateo County Office of Education
Joel Slavit, San Mateo County Office of Sustainability
Hanieh Houshmandi, San Mateo County Public Works
Allison Silvestri, TIDE Academy
Brigid Roberts Corcoran, Parent
Andre-Anne Cadieux, Safe Routes to School Coordinator

1) Introductions

First Task Force meeting of the school year 2020-21.

2) Back to School Updates

- TIDE Academy. Allison Silvestri, Principal:
 - No plans for reopening the school yet.
 - Last year, the school worked with Victoria Trask, School Resource Officer (Menlo Park Police Department) to organize a bike rodeo. The event was cancelled because of Covid-19.
 - PE teacher is Hector Cornejo. The SRTS program can reach out to him directly regarding opportunities to provide virtual bike/pedestrian safety education.
- Menlo Park City School District. Wendy Valencia, Administrative Assistant to the CBO & Director of MOT:
 - MPCSD is currently in Phase 1 of the district's reopening plan, which mean students with special education needs are on site.

- The school district is planning for the Phase 2 and 3 to reopen to other students. The school district had submitted a waiver application to reopen to grades K and 1 and is figuring out transportation for Tinsley Program students.
- The school district received the SMCOE SRTS grant and is figuring out how to use the fund to provide education and incentives (Back to school day).
- Menlo-Atherton High School, Andre-Anne Cadieux, Menlo Park SRTS coordinator, shared the school updates:
 - There was a recent installation of a new bike repair station on campus.
 - The school bike club has been busy repairing and donating bikes and James Nelson (teacher and SRTS Champion) worked on the development of a liability form for that purpose.
 - There an opportunity to collaborate with the school's video production program for an online education series. The SRTS Program could provide content and scripts, e.g. safety tips, rules of the road or student project.
- Ravenswood City School District, Cindy Chin, Director of Student Services:
 - The district is consolidating schools: 3 elementary schools, 1 middle school.
 - They have created learning hubs with community partners to provide support for students during distance learning. The district is also working on providing childcare. The community was really impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - No plans for in-person education in the short-term. A conversation regarding the waiver to reopen school will have to have with unions and board. Not short term.
 - The district is working on student transportation, figuring which families qualify for the school bus.
 - RCSD was awarded the SMCOE SRTS grant for education on pedestrian and bike safety.
- Las Lomas Elementary School District. Nell Curran, Wellness Coordinator:
 - The district was awarded SRTS funding to: 1) install a rapid flashing beacon. The district is working with City of Atherton and the community. The installation has to be done by June 2021, 2) plan programming that will encourage students to stay active while remote learning and to commute via bike or on foot once school resumes.
 - Would like to brainstorm on how to engage students while in virtual learning. Some thoughts: story time about Ruby Bridges in partnership with PTA, school staff.

Action: Considering that younger kids might be going back to school in October, the SRTS coordinator will reach out to school administration and PTO about safe routes to school information and guidance.

3) Safe Routes to School Updates

a) Citywide suggested routes to school map

An online citywide suggested route to school map was developed based on the Walk and Roll maps. The map could eventually a multimodal map for the City.

The app currently includes:

- All bike and pedestrian routes
- Peninsula Bikeway route
- SamTrans bus routes and bus stops
- Traffic lights, stop signs and crosswalks
- Private and Public Schools

Other features: possibility to zoom in the map, search for addresses. It is not possible at the point to search from one location to another like in Google Maps.

Limitations at this point:

- Both the bike routes and pedestrian walking routes are placed on the road centerline, which means that since they are on top of each other, only one can be viewed at once. The user has the ability to toggle these on and off, so they can see both, just not at the same time.

b) Suspended bus route alternatives

Since the announcement in June that many school bus routes would be suspended this school year to respect physical distance in the buses, the SRTS program, in collaboration with the Complete Streets Commission SRTS sub-committee started to map those routes and suggest walking and biking alternatives. Most of the lost school bus routes are inside a 20-minute walk radius or 9 minute-bike ride radii from schools and some bus routes overlapped on suggested walking or biking routes to school.

There's a discussion on how to promote and share the alternative routes to parents without sending too much information, e.g. addition in the Walk and Roll Map, on the online map, pdf, etc. Consider two different audiences (two separate issues): parents and students who already walk or bike and parents who need to find an alternative to school bus when in-person education resumes.

Action: For parents looking for bus route alternative, create a simple tool like a pdf with only the new routes. Avoid sending too much information to parents to process.

Vanessa Castro mentioned that SMCOE started the discussion with SamTrans about how to help them to promote walking/biking alternatives. The alternative routes could help to continue the discussion.

There are no plans to change the current suggested routes to school although the SRTS program is working with Public Works to see where street improvements could be done (in regard with the Transportation Master Plan). A potential collaboration with the County is also under consideration regarding Coleman Avenue.

c) Menlo Park Pedestrian Curriculum – training

There was no training in August, as suggested last June, due to lack of time and uncertainties regarding school reopening.

Nell Curran explained that there are challenges from PE teachers to fit the curriculum in their planification. She suggested that recess time could be opportunities to teach the curriculum to students. Kids will be in different spaces and more supervision will be needed to respect physical distancing. Yard duty folks could maybe take the lead. Crossing guards could also be involved, that'd be an opportunity to give them more hours and maybe facilitate the recruitment.

Lydia Lee suggested to change the name of the curriculum to show that it includes traffic safety and could be taught to older students.

Brigid Roberts suggested to create a mailer with Ped safety info to send from school principals directly to families prior to school resuming in person and not wait for curriculum to be implement in schools.

Andre-Anne Cadieux added that the Santa Clara County SRTS Providers worked on recommendations for School Reopening Guidelines that are inclusive of all transportation modes. The guidelines will be released next Tuesday and might be useful for schools who'd like to send guidance to encourage active transportation modes.

d) *Other SRTS resources*

A Google Drive folder was created to gather SRTS resources for schools and families, e.g. a list of ped/bike safety videos, activities to do from home, etc. Lydia Lee suggested to add to the material draft emails including safety tips and information for the school principals to send to parents.

e) SRTS Programming Overview

- International Walk to Anywhere Week
- Helmet giveaway at Belle Haven school: There will be a helmet giveaway event at Belle Haven school, probably in October. 50 helmets were provided by Lucie Packard Children's Hospital. Details to be confirmed.
- Pedestrian Curriculum Training: TBD

4) **International Walk to Anywhere Week, October 5-9, 2020**

Suggestion:

- One activity to do from home for each day of the week
- Involve teachers so they can include a SRTS-related activity in their curriculum during that week.

Vanessa Castro added that SMCOE is organizing a poster contest and a one-month activity challenge that could be both promoted as the week.

Nell Curran suggested to include something related to daylight saving, how kids can stay visible.

5) **City Project Updates**

Nicholas Yee, Menlo Park Public Works, provided updates on the city transportation projects:

Transportation Master Plan

- Transportation Master Plan Oversight and Outreach Committee will be reviewing the draft TMP on Thursday at 5:00pm.

Completed project

- Bike lanes: Chilco St from Constitution Dr to Hamilton Ave
- Bike routes (sharrows): Chilco St from Hamilton to Newbridge St
- Sidewalks:
 - West side of Chilco St from Constitution Dr to Fire Station #77

- North side of Oak Grove Ave from Marcussen Dr to Nativity School Driveway
- Speed Feedback sign (as part of the Belle Haven Traffic Calming Plan – temporary measures) on Chilco St between Hamilton Ave and Ivy Dr

Under construction

Santa Cruz Avenue between Orange Ave and Elder Ave.

Under construction contract

- Sidewalk:
 - Complete missing gaps on east side of Pierce Rd from the Alley way to Del Norte Ave
 - Complete a short missing gap (~75 linear feet) on west side of Coleman Ave next to Santa Monica Ave
- Bike routes (sharrows):
 - Ringwood Ave from Bay Rd to Van Buren Rd
 - San Mateo Dr from Valparaiso Ave to PA/MP ped/bike bridge

Sharon Road Street Improvement Project (near La Entrada School)

- Public meeting held on 9/9/2020 during a Complete Street Commission meeting
 - Preferred option recommended by City staff for an asphalt walking pathway (street level). The Complete Streets Commission requested to investigate the concrete alternative (traditional raised sidewalk) that seems a safer option as the asphalt design would preserve on street parking and could create potential conflict with pedestrians.
 - The City Staff will take consideration of the Commission's comments and the project should pass at City Council late 2020.
- Construction should start Summer 2021

6) Announcements

- SMCOE: Request for proposal for SRTS vendors that is due for October. Please email Vanessa Castro for any recommendations.
- Updates from the Spare the Air Youth Technical Advisory Committee (9/15 meeting)
 - Bay Area Bike Mobile started virtual workshops (Facebook Live). Calendar of the events here: <http://www.bayareabikemobile.org/visit-calendar/> Lots of videos on their Facebook Page too.
 - Palo Alto SRTS: [A Student's Guide to Smart Biking](#) (Lego presentation), created by San Carlos Bike Coalition
 - [SMCOE Ruby Bridges webpage](#)
- Andre-Anne Cadieux will be on maternity leave from early November to February. Task Force members can continue to reach out through the SRTS email address (saferoutestoschool@menlopark.org) or directly to Nick Yee (NGYee@menlopark.org).

7) Next Meeting (virtual) – December 8th, 9:00 am