



## SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL TASK FORCE AGENDA

**Date:** December 8, 2020

**Time:** 9:00-10:00 am

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://zoom.us/j/94201232967?pwd=RW9TMGFieFBaUGdKQ3hJcXp6VXpxZz09>

**Meeting ID:** 942 0123 2967

**Passcode:** 327102

### 1. Introductions (*Name, Organization, What's been your experience going back to school?*)

- **Sonia Schendel** (Climate Corps AmeriCorps Fellow with the Environmental Literacy and Sustainability Initiative and the Safe Routes to School Program at the San Mateo County Office of Education): Programming has been pivoted to virtual programming.
- **Nell Curran** (Wellness Coordinator Las Lomas ES District): Grades K-5<sup>th</sup> went back to school in September. In January 2021, Grades 6-8<sup>th</sup> are coming back to school. The Wellness Coordinator role has shifted to lead COVID screenings. Nell has noticed that parents/caregivers are driving to school more often during the pandemic.
- **Lydia Lee** (City of Menlo Park Complete Streets Commission - SRTS Subcommittee Member): It's been tough to push SRTS programming in Hillview MS during this unprecedented time. The energy is channeled for the future.
- **Jon Johnson** (Menlo Park Fire District Marshal): Its been difficult to get a hold of schools. Schools are overwhelmed at the moment and have limited communication. By Spring, the department will have online learning resources to share with schools.
- **Madeline Hardcastle** (Menlo Park District Risk Reduction Officer): As Jon mentioned, online resources will be available soon.
- **Vanessa Castro** (San Mateo County Office of Education Project Specialist): It's been tricky to communicate with schools. Schools are currently overwhelmed. There's been adjustments to accommodate schools by providing online resources.
- **Jen Wolosin** (Menlo Park City Council Member): Families are adjusting going back to school and finding alternatives from previous traveling methods such as carpool.
- **Cindy Chin** (Ravenswood City School District Director of Student Service): Not in session at the moment. Hosting different learning hubs with community partners. Thinking about bringing back urgent learners in January and working with various unions to ensure how do this properly. Some teachers are volunteering. Some families have also expressed interest. Currently evaluating how this might impact existing learning hubs.
- **Victoria Trask** (City of Menlo Park Police Department, Community Safety Police Officer): Hasn't been out in the field due to an injury. Victoria has been doing light duty work at the office.
- **Hanieh Houshmandi** (San Mateo County Public Works, Engineer): Currently evaluating what schools are doing as well as traffic patterns developed in the future. Hanieh offers support to schools during this time.
- **Nicholas Yee** (City of Menlo Park Transportation): Updating SRTS Walk and Roll Maps and Bus Alternatives this year.

- **Brigid Roberts** (Chair Parents for Safe Routes): At the beginning of the year it was a struggle commuting to school. Parents are adjusting as they go. The focus at the beginning of the year was to encourage the City of Menlo Park to include walk audits for all schools in the new transportation plan.

## 2. Safe Routes to School Updates

- On November 18, 2020, the City of Menlo Park celebrated the second annual Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day in San Mateo County. The Safe Routes to School team invited schools across the City to honor Ruby's legacy by promoting the event. Although some students have remained at home during the school year, schools encouraged students to walk around their neighborhood to celebrate the event.
- In total, we had 180 students participate with 74 percent of students walking/rolling to school while approximately 25 percent of students walked/rolled around their neighborhood. Approximately 68 percent of students walked while the remaining students rode their bike, scooter and/or skateboard. In addition to students walking on this day, teachers discussed the historical impact of Ruby Bridges and encouraged students to create artwork highlighting what they had learned. Some classrooms also reviewed the health benefits of walking and biking.

## 3. City Project Updates

- Transportation Master Plan was adopted by City Council at Nov 17, 2020 meeting
- Lowering speed limits as part of Oct 13, 2020 City Council resolution
  - i. Expanding 15 mph speed limits for school zones
  - ii. Will be a 500-foot buffer from school, per CVC prima facie standard
- Santa Cruz Ave bike lane/sidewalk project now complete
  - i. Added on both sides between Olive St and Orange Ave/Avy Ave
  - ii. RRFB now added at Santa Cruz/N Lemon
- Middle Ave street repaving project now complete
- Construction for Pierce Rd sidewalk gap closure now underway, completion early 2021
- Sharon Rd sidewalk project will go to City Council in January 2021
- Questions
  - i. Jen – Is there any coordination being done with unincorporated San Mateo in regards to lowering speeds?
    - a. Nick will follow up on this.
  - ii. Katie – Is there a process or policy to inform schools about construction projects?
    1. Nick – Schools receive public notices.
    2. Katie also mentioned there seems to be a gap of communication between schools and public works projects, especially the construction project near Santa Cruz Ave. Katie suggests calling schools in addition to the public notices.
  - iii. Brigid – Was there information available to include bike safety improvements for Middle Ave St project?
    1. Nick – The item will go back to Council next year. There are provisions for bike infrastructure and traffic calming.
    2. Brigid - Who is the point person for the Middle Ave St project?
      - a. Nick will follow up on this.

#### 4. Announcements

- Next Meeting (virtual) – March 17 at 9:00 am
- SMCOE Story Time Registration Link
  - i. [https://smcoe.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUof-2ppj4pHddiv3B2ZXCK1K\\_I-CM4RnYc](https://smcoe.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUof-2ppj4pHddiv3B2ZXCK1K_I-CM4RnYc)
- Collision & Citation Updates
  - i. Collision Overview from August and November 2020: 8 collisions, three involved juveniles.
  - ii. Citation Overview from August – Most of the citations are located in areas that are often traveled such as Willow Road.
    1. Black Dots – bike stops
    2. Blue Dots – bicycle citations. Only three have occurred.
    3. Red dots – motor vehicle citations

