



## SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL TASK FORCE MINUTES

**Date:** March 17, 2021  
**Time:** 9:00-10:15 am

### 1. Introductions *(Name, organization and brief updates on what you are working on)*

- **Nicholas Yee** (*Safe Routes to School Project Manager, City of Menlo Park*)
- **Sonia Schendel** (*San Mateo County Office of Education, Safe Routes to School and Climate Corps AmeriCorps Fellow*): Works with Ravenswood City School District on a on bike/ped gratitude journal that is going out this week. SMCOE SRTS team continues the Story Time events and is planning a poster contest.
- **Ruben Trabanino** (*Menlo Park City School District, Director of Maintenance, Operations and Transportation*)
- **Victoria Trask** (*City of Menlo Park Police Department, Community Safety Police Officer*): Police Department has a new chief, David Norris.
- **Emily Guidaitis** (*Safe Kids Santa Clara/San Mateo Coordinator*): Will start ordering helmets soon, organizations can reach out if they need helmet for their events.
- **Lydia Lee**, (*City of Menlo Park Complete Streets Commission - SRTS sub-committee*): Santa Cruz Ave shutdown continues in Menlo Park. More public interest in places for pedestrians.
- **Jen Wolosin** (*Menlo Park City Council Member*)
- **Vanessa Castro** (*San Mateo County Office of Education, Safe Routes to School*): SMCOE is leading a virtual walk audit for Belle Haven school. SMCOE Parent and Caregiver Survey is open through April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- **Nell Curran** (*Wellness Coordinator at Las Lomitas School ES District*): schools are open. Will start to plan more SRTS-related events in the spring.
- **Joel Slavit** (*San Mateo County Office of Sustainability*): County Board adopted the Active Transportation Plan.
- **Brigid Roberts** (*Chair Parents for Safe Routes*): Continues to explore the options for a traffic garden in San Mateo County.
- **Cindy Chin** (Ravenswood City School District Director of Student Service)

### 2. Safe Routes to School Program Updates

#### a) *Public Input Map*

- The City of Menlo Park SRTS Program wants to collect data on student transportation and infrastructures near schools for all private and public school in Menlo Park. The project is in two part: 1) an online survey/public input map and 2) community meetings.

- The virtual walk audit led by SMCOE at Belle Haven school and the City of Menlo Park public input map are different from the school walk audits that were included in the Transportation Master Plan in November. To conduct the walk audits tied to the TMP, an associated budget need first to be adopted by City Council for the fiscal year 2021-2022. At the moment, no funds are allocated by the City to conduct walk audits near schools.
- Lydia's feedback:
  - Feels like there was lots of surveys since the beginning of the pandemic. Seems fundamental to go on site, surveys are not as efficient – it's a completely different experience to be on site to understand the issues. She strongly suggested to go on site with stakeholders.
  - A Complete Streets Commission member on the SRTS sub-committee also lives in the Belle Haven neighborhood and could help with the walk audit at Belle Haven school.
- Vanessa explained the format of the virtual walk audit in Belle Haven. SMCOE has a funding for walk audits that expires soon. They wanted to take advantage of the funds for RCSD schools and it has a virtual format because of the timing. Vanessa is working with schools and community organizations to collect input. Belle Haven school is the only RCSD school to participate.

*b) SRTS priorities for school year 2020-2021*

- Andre-Anne presented the SRTS priorities for the rest of the school year:
  - Public Input Map + Community Meetings
  - Ped Safety Curriculum Teacher Training
  - Bike to School Month 2021
  - Citywide SRTS online map (presented before in September's meeting)
- Nell asked how to answer to families who don't feel safe on the suggested routes. She asked if there's a possibility to work with Menlo Park Police Department to have the suggested routes monitored at drop off and pick up hours.
  - Victoria: Police officers are patrolling around the school in the morning and afternoon. They are highly visible. She could give them the Walk and Roll maps.
  - Lydia suggested to advocate for pedestrian flags at the school and provide bike vests to make kids more visible on the streets. Parents have legitimate concerns. They could try the suggested routes to school with their children on weekend to make themselves more familiar with the route.

*c) Share your Feel-Good SRTS stories*

- Menlo Park SRTS program wants to publish stories about walking and rolling in the community in the monthly newsletter. You can send your story to [saferoutestoschool@menlopark.org](mailto:saferoutestoschool@menlopark.org)

### **3. Bike to School Month in May**

Discussion and brainstorm on Bike to School Month.

- To be more inclusive, suggestion to change the name for Walk and Roll to School
- One month is a lot to ask– we should be more focused on our effort.

- Silicon Valley Bike Coalition (SVBC) is doing a lot of events around Bike to Work Day (May 21<sup>st</sup>, Bike to Anywhere Day) – e.g., stations for snacks and water. SRTS could tie an event with that day and take advantage of the momentum.
- SMCOE is planning a poster contest, asking students to draw their dream neighborhood. SMCOE bought a full page add encouraging students in the newspaper and hope to have responses for May. They ordered a few bike tags to give away for the day.
- LLSO started to brainstorm to do some activities in the Month: activity stations after school, e.g., bike/scooter decoration station, sticks with streamer for kids who walk, mural, calendar with activities – prize if students submit their calendar at the end of the month, bike fairy, etc. First week of June – collecting all of the challenges and give prizes.
- Celebrate per school, school-wide.

#### 4. City Project Updates

- **Oak Grove repaving project:** between Alma St and El Camino Real that will start early April and will last about a week or two. The street shouldn't be closed for bike lanes/sidewalk, but may be more challenging with construction. It is a major way for students to go to school. Encourage Menlo-Atherton High School and Hillview administrations to communicate before the project start with parents.
  - Andre-Anne and Nick will reach out to the school to inform them.
- **Citwide Online Map:** Lydia asked if Complete Streets Commission could review the online citywide map for feedback. The map is not yet available to the public but can be reviewed at the following link: [menlopark.maps.arcgis.com/apps/InteractiveLegend/index.html?appid=83bdd474649c498f84e4e6cf321d55dc](https://menlopark.maps.arcgis.com/apps/InteractiveLegend/index.html?appid=83bdd474649c498f84e4e6cf321d55dc)
- **15 mph Speed Limit Sign Expansion in School Zones:** Should be installed by end of April. Suggestion to tie the project with Bike to school days to celebrate the project when completed.
- **Other:**
  - **Refreshing Crosswalks:** when are the crosswalks and traffic signs refreshed near schools and what is the process to make request to Public Works? Parents for Safe Routes would be happy to help to identify where maintenance near school is needed.
    - The paint is refreshed on a per-request basis. If Parents for Safe Routes can identify some locations and take pictures, the City can assess them and possibly put in a work order with the Streets crew.
  - **Pedestrian Flags:** what is the process to install pedestrian flags? Can the City provide tube to fix on traffic pole and explanations? Nick will follow-up.

People can subscribe to the “[Weekly Construction Updates](#)” list to get updates on City projects ([menlopark.org/223/Construction-News-updates](https://menlopark.org/223/Construction-News-updates)).

#### 5. Announcements

#### 6. Next Meeting (virtual) – June 16th, 2021, 9:00AM