



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL TASK FORCE NOTES

Date: September 16, 2021

Time: 9:00-10:30 am

Virtual meeting

1) Introductions

- **Andre-Anne Cadieux** (Menlo Park SRTS Coordinator)
- **Brigid Roberts** (Parents for Safe Routes)
- **Carol Parker** (Menlo Park Fire District - Public Education Officer)
- **Chief Dave Norris** (Menlo Park Police Department)
- **Christy Peetz** (Encinal Elementary School SRTS Champion)
- **Commander Jaime Romero** (Menlo Park Police Department)
- **Elizabeth Lee** (Peninsula School)
- **Ellen Kraska** (Laurel Elementary School Assistant Principal)
- **Emily Gudaitis** (Stanford Children's Health & Safe Kids)
- **Hugh Louch** (Menlo Park, Assistant Public Works Director – Transportation)
- **James Nelson** (Coordinator for M-A On the Move, the traffic and truancy abatement program at Menlo-Atherton High)
- **Jeff King** (Oak Knoll Elementary School SRTS Champion)
- **Jessica Gronski** (Encinal Elementary Parent)
- **Julia Malmo-Laycock** (San Mateo County Office of Sustainability)
- **Karen Clancy** (Instructional Coach, on behalf for Oak Knoll Elementary School Vice Principal)
- **Katie Behroozi** (Menlo Park Complete Streets Commissioner, SRTS Subcommittee)
- **Lizbeth King** (Menlo Park Complete Streets Commissioner, SRTS Subcommittee)
- **Lydia Lee** (Menlo Park Complete Streets Commissioner, SRTS Subcommittee, Hillview SRTS Coordinator, Bike Menlo Park)
- **Meredith Bergin Bailey** (Laurel Elementary School PTO)
- **Nell Curran** (Wellness Coordinator Las Lomas District/Parent of children in MPCSD)
- **Nicholas Yee** (City of Menlo Park, SRTS Project Manager)
- **Sergeant Chris Adair** (Menlo Park Police Department, Traffic Unit)
- **Sherman Hall** (Sacred Heart Schools)
- **Sonali Suratkar** (San Mateo County Health Policy and Planning)
- **Tina Messerlian** (La Entrada Middle PTA Wellness Chair, SRTS Lead)
- **Vanessa Castro** (San Mateo County Office of Education Safe Routes to School)

2) School Updates / Back to School Plans

- Menlo-Atherton High School: James Nelson, teacher at Menlo-Atherton High School, gave an update on the school bike club, M-A on the move. The bike club continue to collect and repair donated bikes to give to students in the community. He has fixed 25 bikes and has 17 more bikes to repair. At the moment, students are not allowed to repair the bikes, due to COVID-19. A new bike shed is to be installed soon and will enable students to come back and work on bike while socially distancing.

- Las Lomas Elementary School District: Nell Curran, Wellness Coordinator at Las Lomas Elementary School District, gave an update on Las Lomas and La Entrada schools. There's construction in both school parking lot. The school district received a grant from the San Mateo County Office of Education for Safe Routes to School. The district will organize focus group and family events to get to know the challenges to walking and biking to school. All crossing guards are back at the schools.
- Laurel Elementary School: Ellen Kraska, Assistant Principal at Laurel School (Menlo Park City School District) gave information on Laurel campuses SRTS activities. There will be a bike rodeo planned at both campuses next month. She is looking for bikes for students. Laurel students also participated in the SMOCE poster contest. Ellen would like to organize a bike ride for 5th graders to know how to get to Hillview when they graduate to middle school and get a real experience in the streets. Especially for children who will have to exit from the Willows neighborhood. She asked if others had experience organizing that kind of event and if the police department could escort the bike ride.
These kind of bike rides have been organized at Hillview for small groups of students. WheelKids and Ecology Action are mentioned as good vendors to conduct community bike ride.

3) Safe Routes to School Program Updates

a) SRTS priorities for school year 2021-2022

- Citywide events:
 - Two helmet giveaways in the Belle Haven neighborhood (Fall 2021): 100 kid bike helmets donated by California Kids' Plates Program will be distributed in the Belle Haven neighborhood in October and November (October 6 and November 17).
 - Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day, November 17, 2021
 - Walk and Roll to School Week in May
 - To encourage participation to the events, there will 150 gift cards from local stores to be raffled among participating schools for Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day and Bike to School in May
- Monthly newsletters ([link](#) to sign up)
- Pedestrian Safety Curriculum (now [available online](#))
- Support to school-based events: the SRTS program can provide technical assistance to schools and PTO/PTA, flier and poster templates, bike blender, small incentives, Walk and Roll map copies. Reach out to saferroutesttoschool@menlopark.org if needed.

Other potential projects discussed in the meeting:

- Bike education
- School Walk Audits
- Traffic Safety Campaigns (Drive Safely Neighborhood Yard Sign)
- Community Bike Rides / Parent education
- Bike etiquette education for older riders (high schoolers)
- Add Locking bikes securely to the educational material
- Create a centralized bike rodeos/training for all districts
- Online videos for teachers or the families to review with their children safe walking and biking practices.

b) Walk and Roll maps

- Updated Versions (pdf) of the maps will be soon posted on the [SRTS webpage](#).
- Citywide Interactive Map available online: bit.ly/MenloParkWalknRoll

- Schools and families can email saferoutestoschool@menlopark.org for feedback and suggestions on the Walk and Roll maps.

c) Program Evaluation

- Student hand tallies will be conducted this Fall during the week of October 18.

4) Traffic and Safety Updates

Menlo Park Police Department and Traffic Unit representatives were present at the meeting to provide the “Traffic and Safety Updates” and talk about the three accidents that happened in the past week involving students. Commander Romero oversees the patrol division and Sergeant Adair (cadair@menlopark.org) is the newly appointed traffic supervisor.

- New fleet of officers trained to be bicycle officers, passionate about riding bikes and bike safety. Great opportunities to partner with the community.
- Police Department will put together a curriculum to address bicycle safety. Can partner to bike rodeos and family bike rides and create newsletter for the school to share information on safety.
- Police Department has recently created a traffic complaint log to share cases of collision, near misses, complaints. Parents, school staff, students can email directly Sergeant Adair (cadair@menlopark.org) to add their complaint in the log. The log will be updated every month to make sure the Police Department addresses the problems as they come up.
- Sergeant Adair gave updates on the accidents. Details of the collisions can't be discussed publicly.
 - Collision on Laurel between a bike and car, minor injury.
 - Collision on Encinal Ave
 - Trends observed: bicyclist usually at fault. Need to work on bike education. Students often ride their bikes on the wrong side of the street, ride too fast at the intersection and don't respect car right-of-way to turn.
 - Hard to get information on juveniles involved in collision, would help to know from which school the student come from. Easier for the communication with parents and the school.
- More staff soon in the traffic unit for education. Police Department is using a positive behavior approach and reward students for good behaviors (e.g., coupon for free ice cream).
- Suggestion from the Police Department to keep a master calendar of bike rodeos and other safety events available so officers can attend.
- The Police Department is working on strategies to educate drivers and parents and provide bike safety. Two state grants, the Office Traffic Safety grant and the California Highway Patrol grant, will help with saturation patrols in an effort to help educate and enforce violations. Purchase education materials and Safety equipment for bicyclists.
- Concerns and issues shared:
 - Student behaviors downtown: don't wear their helmets, don't stop at stop signs.
 - Bicyclist behaviors (e.g., riding wrong side of the street) that can be improve by street configuration.
 - Santa Cruz Ave, many bicyclists ride the wrong side of the streets. Chaotic

5) City Project Updates

a) New Assistant Public Works Director

Hugh Louch, new Assistant Public Works Director- Transportation.

b) Middlefield Ave Construction Project

PG&E project hours are during the night, from 8 pm to 6 am. The construction starts on 9/16 in the evening.

c) Menlo Park Community Campus

A new multigenerational community center will be constructed near Beechwood School on Terminal Ave and replace the Senior Center, Onetta Harris Recreation Center and Belle Haven Library. Demolition started the week of September 13.

d) Sharon Road Sidewalk Project

The project is pending because of current litigations. Parking restriction signs during drop off and pick up hours were installed for the start of the school year.

e) Colemand/Ringwood Ave Study

Improvements studied on Coleman between Willow and Ringwood, which segment is in both Menlo Park and County (unincorporated area) jurisdictions. The goal of the Colemand/Ringwood Ave Study is to look into possible scope and determine a preferred design for Coleman and Ringwood. The County is currently in discussions with stakeholders. The County expects to kick off the study in November. The SRTS Task Force will be informed of the next steps.

6) Announcements

[Registration and Order Form](#) for schools who would like to get incentives for International Walk to School Day on October 6 from the San Mateo County Office of Education

Bike to School Day at Encinal Elementary on 9/16, organized by the SRTS Champion