



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL TASK FORCE MINUTES

Date: September 15, 2022
Time: 9:00-10:30 am

1. Introductions

- **Andre-Anne Cadieux** (City of Menlo Park, SRTS Coordinator)
- **Andrew Brunicardi** (Menlo Park Police Department, School Resource Officer)
- **Chris Adair** (Menlo Park Police Department, Sergeant Traffic Unit)
- **Christy Peetz** (Encinal Elementary, SRTS Champion)
- **Ellen Kraska** (Encinal Elementary, Associate Principal)
- **Francesca Segre** (Menlo Park City School District, Trustee)
- **Hanieh Houshmandi** (San Mateo County Public Works, Traffic Engineer)
- **Hugh Louch** (City of Menlo Park, Assistant Public Works Director)
- **Karen Clancy** (Oak Knoll Elementary, Assistant Principal)
- **Leigh Wilson** (Upper Laurel Elementary, Administrative Counselor)
- **Lizbeth King** (Menlo Park Complete Streets Commissioner)
- **Lydia Lee** (Bike Menlo Park, Hillview SRTS Champion)
- **Meredith Bergin Bailey** (Laurel Elementary, SRTS Champion)
- **Nicholas Yee** (City of Menlo Park, SRTS Project Manager)
- **Vanessa Castro** (San Mateo County Office of Sustainability, Active Transportation Specialist)
- **Wilfin Morales** (Menlo Park City School District, Transportation Supervisor)

2. School-led Activities and Priorities

Laurel Elementary (Menlo Park City School District)

- The school organizes monthly “Squirrel Walk and Bike to School days”. The first walk was on Monday, September 12th. There was a great involvement and students were really excited to earn their sticker for walking or biking to school.
- First 3rd grade bike rodeo coming soon (5 classes of 3rd graders)
- The school is working with the district to get a bike repair/air pump station installed at the Lower Campus so the school can further encourage biking to school.
- Laurel Lower Campus received the SRTS grant and will have additional bike racks installed in September.
- The school is participating in International Walk to School Day

Encinal Elementary (Menlo Park City School District)

- There will be 2 bike rodeos this school year with external vendors, paid by the PTO fund.
- Christy wants to start a “Slow down” safety campaign with yard signs. The sign designs from Palo Alto are free to download. They could be put in bumper stickers as well.

Hillview Middle (Menlo Park City School District)

- Christy created videos on bike safety that are specific to Menlo Park and the streets near Hillview.
- The bike curriculum will be provided to all 6th graders in Hillview next week. It is a continuation of the bike safety presentation that was given last year at Encinal to the 5th graders.

Oak Knoll Elementary (Menlo Park City School District)

- There is a big group of parent volunteers that forms a “feet on the street/ground” for the first seven days of school. The parents were reminding other parents where to park, helping crossing guard in the morning with the traffic, etc.
- “Let’s keep otter safe” school magnet for people who bike to school and to put in cars
- There will be a bike rodeo for 3rd graders
- Community coffees every Thursday morning, parents are invited to chat. Topics can be about bike and pedestrian safety.
- Jeanie Ritchie grant used for bike and pedestrian safety.

Las Lomas Elementary (Las Lomas Elementary School District)

- Got a grant from SMCOE for a bike shed and a bike fleet. The PE teachers will teach kindergarten students how to ride on two wheels.
- Curriculum “Walk to Wheel”. Start on a progressive bike to two-wheel bike.
- Eventually let the kids practice in the school parking lot on evenings or weekends.

Discussion and comments:

- Parent enforcement and “fleet on the street: Sergeant Adaire mentioned that parents can volunteer and patrol the streets near the school but traffic control can escalate very quickly. Ask people/direct people and call Menlo Park or Atherton Police if people are not doing the right thing. Parents can make other parents accountable.
- Make sure everyone knows and apply the same rules, e.g., are drivers allowed to enter a bike lane when dashed near an intersection to make a right turn.
- In the past, Encinal parents created a “friendly ticket” for parents/neighbors parked incorrectly with no direct interaction.
- More resources on bike safety: [San Carlos Bikes and Bricks](#)

3. SRTS Program 2022

- See the presentation for details.

4. SRTS Volunteer/Champion Recruitment and Orientation

The SRTS Program is planning a SRTS Champion Orientation in the fall to discuss with parents and volunteers about the challenges to implement SRTS programs, ideas, learn from other champions. More details to come.

5. Collaborative Data/ Contact Management

The SRTS program is exploring different software options to manage SRTS contacts and data.

6. Traffic and Safety Updates

- New school resource officer (SRO), Andrew Brunicardi (arbrunicardi@menlopark.org). Officer Brunicardi is also on the Police Bike Team that provides bicycle education. Police department is created bike/ped education videos. Can create video specific to each school ([example](#)). Schools can reach out to Officer Brunicardi to get the video or have new videos created.
- Positive reinforcement for good biking/walking behaviors: gift certificate for kids stopping at stop signs, better response.
- Cloud based training for video for PD – like YouTube but secured. Can monitored the most watched videos, can be integrated to anything. Bike Unit could make bike safety videos in the future.

7. City Project Updates – See presentation

- a. Coleman/Ringwood Avenue Study Updates: The Technical Advisory Committee is doing walking tours on September 13th and 20th.
- b. Sharon Rd Sidewalk Project – Completed in August.
- c. Middle Avenue Complete Streets Project: On September 13th, City Council directed staff to pursue a pilot of a buffered bikeway on both sides of Middle Avenue, including removing of parking from both sides of the street. City Council also supported traffic calming measures throughout the corridor, temporary closure of Blake Street to vehicles, and continuing to explore intersection improvements at El Camino Real and University Drive.
- d. Beechwood new loading zone on Terminal Avenue: The transition to the temporary access at 243 Terminal.

8. Announcement

- [International Walk to School Day incentives and posters from the SMCOE](#)

9. Next meetings

- December, 15th, 9 am