



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL TASK FORCE NOTES

Date: December 15, 2022

Time: 9:00-10:30 am

Virtual meeting

1) Introductions

- **Andre-Anne Cadieux**, Menlo Park Safe Routes to School Coordinator
- **Avery Drake**, Menlo Park, Parks and Recreation Department
- **Nina Garde**, San Mateo Office of Education, SRTS
- **Christy Peetz**, Encinal Elementary SRTS Champion
- **Dimitri Andruha**, Town of Atherton Police Department, School Resource Officer
- **David Norris**, Menlo Park Police Department, Chief
- **Francesca Segre**, Menlo Park City School District, Trustee
- **Gabriel Anguiano**, Ravenswood City School District, Coordinator of Family & Community Engagement
- **Karen Clancy**, Oak Knoll Elementary, Assistant Principal
- **Meredith Bergin Bailey**, Laurel Lower SRTS Champion
- **Nell Curran**, Las Lomitas Elementary School District, Wellness Coordinator
- **Sandra Franco**
- **Thomas Lyons**, Hillview Middle, SRTS Champion
- **Vanessa Castro**, San Mateo County Office of Sustainability, Active Transportation Specialist
- **Wilfin Morales**, Menlo Park City School District, Transportation Supervisor
- **Katie Behroozie**, Menlo Park Complete Streets Commission
- **Hugh Louch**, Menlo Park Public Works, Director
- **Lizbeth King**, Menlo Park Complete Streets Commission
- **Shelby Crespi**, Safe Kids Santa Clara/San Mateo
- **Rob Jordan**, Las Lomitas Elementary School District, SRTS Parent Champion
- **Andrew Brunicardi**, Menlo Park School Resource Officer

2) School Updates

- Las Lomitas Elementary School District
 - Rob Jordan is the new parent SRTS Champion. The district is working on bike and pedestrian education on campus and focus groups to understand what infrastructure is needed to improve the family's safety perception and comfort.
 - The district is looking for grant options to cover the costs of a fleet of bikes to deliver a bike curriculum to kindergartners and elementary students.
- Menlo Park City School District

- Lower Laurel: the school will do biking education in April. They organize a monthly walk to school day and got incentives from the San Mateo County Office of Education. Kids love the Laurel squirrel stickers!

3) SRTS Program Updates – See *presentation for more details.*

A. Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day Recap

- Participation is decreasing since the first year.
- After encouragement events, more kids walk or bike to school. Bike counts at Encinal before and on a bike to school day: 77 on a regular day, 120 on an event day.
- Poll: lack of interest, in-person event organized by the school would improve the participation
- For some families, walking not always an option. Include busing and other alternatives to be more inclusive, e.g., scavenger hunt in outdoor spaces on the weekend, fact about Ruby Bridges Day
- SCMOE incentives and promotional items are great and highly appreciated!

B. School Administration and Stakeholder Survey: Menlo Park Complete Streets Commissions SRTS subcommittee has been tasked to evaluate the SRTS Program. A survey will be distributed early next year.

C. Spring Events

- Crossing Guard Appreciation Week, in March. Menlo Park will coordinate with the SMCOE Crossing Guard appreciation week, 3rd week of March 2023.
- Spring Party: details to come.
- Motherload Documentary Movie Screening

4) Traffic and Safety Updates

- Incident with the crossing guard at Lower Laurel, intersection of Edge Rd and Ringwood Ave (County jurisdiction). People often get upset, yelled at each other, yelled at crossing guard.
- Andrew Brunicardi, stop sign violation and speeding. Traffic unit tackling issues near school in morning and afternoon time. Reminds parents and students to continue to communicate – email blast on driving behaviors
- Issue Santa Cruz Avenue: Parents don't wait and yield to bikes,
- PD makes safety videos on request! Encinal – specific training – how to navigate a green box, how to make a right turn in a bike lane.
- Helmet one crash only – remind that to families. Safe Kids has made videos too.
- CA CHP – funding for video. E-bikes will be a topic. The Task Force is invited to make feedback on the topics.
- Bay Rd Corridor has gotten a worst with traffic incidents, kids crossing to go to school.
- Suggestion to have a formal communication from the Police Department when there is a crash to help parents discuss and remind their children about walking and biking safety.
- PD records some of near miss. Will consider with the Traffic Unit how to record near miss. Full report is too time consuming.

5) City Project Updates - See *presentation for more details.*

- **Coleman/Ringwood Avenues Study:** Existing situation was studied, the working group got lot of feedback on needs and issues. Outreach on design options expected early next year
- New all-way stop signs: Approval from City Council to install new all-way stops. There will be outreach for some locations. Signs will be installed any day now.
 - Willows neighborhood:
 - Tier 1: Van Buren/Ringwood, Elm/Pope, Walnut/Pope
 - Tier 2: Elm/Laurel, Elm/Central, Gilbert/Pope, Terminal/Del Norte
 - Ringwood Ped/Bike Bridge

- Middle Avenue/San Mateo Drive
- **Middle Avenue Complete Streets Study:** City received a grant award from SMCTA for final design and construction. Expected to return to City Council early next year with design options.
- **Local Road Safety Plan:** new idea in the safety world. Comes from the Strategic Highway Safety Plan that identifies main safety issues in the state. Safety needs to be implemented at every level. Data collection (speeding, location where cars brake and accelerate quickly), data will help shape where to prioritize projects.
- **Shuttle Study:** City received a grant from Caltrans to do a City Shuttle Study. The RFP is out to consultants to help with a comprehensive evaluation of the City. Study expected to start next year.

6) Announcements

- Safe Kids Coalition – no fees to join, education, events, invite to join or get on email
- Cities to apply – school travel fellowship Tues 12/20, networking, technical assistant, demo project
- 20-30 bike helmets at PD – to giveaway. SRO can drop them up.

7) Next meetings

On Zoom:

- March 16, 2023, 9 am
- June 15, 2023, 9 am