



## SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL TASK FORCE NOTES

**Date:** September 14, 2023

**Time:** 9:00-10:30 am

**Hybrid meeting:** Virtual and in-person at the Menlo Park City Hall, Downtown Room

### 1) Introductions

- Andre-Anne Cadieux, City of Menlo Park, SRTS Coordinator
- Andrew Brunicardi, Menlo Park Police Department, School Resource Officer
- Ashley Guillot, Laurel School Lower Campus, Counselor
- Christy Peetz, Hillview Middle, Parent Champion
- Deniz Diber, Silicon Valley International School, Director of Transportation
- Ellen Kraska, Encinal Elementary, Assistant Principal
- Fang Fang Paulson, Encinal Elementary, Parent champion
- Francesca Segre, Menlo Park City School District, Vice-President
- Gabriel Anguiano Jr, Ravenswood City School District, Coordinator of Family & Community Engagement,
- Hugh Louch, City of Menlo Park, Assistant Public Works Director - Transportation
- Jaqui Cebrian, Oak Knoll Elementary, Reading Specialist, Menlo Park Complete Streets Commission chair and member of SRTS subcommittee
- Jean-Francois Merckling, Silicon Valley International School, Upper School Dean of Students, Co-curricular
- Jeff Scanlan, Pedego Menlo Park, Owner
- John Leikauf, Oak Knoll Elementary, Parent, Oak Knoll Safe Routes to School committee.
- Karen Clancy, Oak Knoll Elementary, Assistant Principal
- Katie Behroozi, Menlo Park Complete Streets Commissioner
- Lena Yasui, San Mateo County Office of Education Safe Routes to School, Sustainability Service Corps Fellow
- Matthew Hui, City of Menlo Park, Assistant Engineer
- Meredith Bergin Bailey, Laurel School, Parent Champion
- Michael Grieves, Menlo Park Police Department, Corporal, Traffic Unit
- Nell Curran, Las Lomas School District, Wellness Coordinator and Laurel Elementary Parent
- Nicholas Yee, City of Menlo Park, Associate Transportation Planner
- Rich Rollins, Resident and Former CSC commissioner
- Ross Silverstein, Menlo Park Complete Streets Commissioner, SRTS sub-committee, Laurel Parent
- Tom Lyons, Hillview Middle School, Assistant Principal
- Vanessa Castro, County of San Mateo Office of Sustainability, Sustainability Specialist

## 2) School Updates and Priorities

- Laurel School had their 3<sup>rd</sup> grade bike rodeo and 4<sup>th</sup> grade bike education in the classroom. Group bike ride to Hillview in August.
- Encinal Elementary is working on promoting carpooling and grouping families to walk or bike. Also have bike rodeos planned.

Citywide messaging to encourage alternative transportation to the family vehicle.

Discussion on school bus – how to encourage more families to take the bus instead of the car? Costs? Messaging? Is there enough school bus? There are wait lists for Menlo Park City School District schools.

Allows more flexibility for families to take the schools bus – for example need to sign up at the beginning of the school year, price if it just for a few days per month.

## 3) E-Bikes and Youth, *Discussion*

Jeff Scanlan, the owner of Pedego Menlo Park presents on e-bikes and youth. See presentation.

*Discussion:*

- Students riding too fast, not respecting the rules of the road are a challenge downtown Menlo Park, on Santa Cruz Avenue and on other streets throughout the city.
- Concerns about the potential higher speed and the heavier weight of the e-bikes. In case of a bike-vehicle collision or bike-pedestrian collision, injuries might be more severe for the bicyclist and pedestrian.
- Unless they are cargo bikes, e-bikes are not made to carry more than one person.
- Messaging and tips:
  - Riding an e-bike is an earned privilege not a right. It comes with responsibilities – that means operating it safely.
  - Good maintenance of the e-bike to ensure its good and safe condition on the road. E-bike should be checked by a professional after a fall or crash.
  - Parents should show good example, e.g., wearing a helmet when riding a bike.
  - Riding on sidewalk: if children ride on the sidewalk regularly and is not comfortable to ride in the street, might not be ready for an e-bike. Families should know where it is prohibited in Menlo Park (downtown streets)
  - E-bike are relatively new to drivers too – drivers might not be used to the speed of e-bike.
- Education starts at home. It is the parents' responsibility to educate their child and make sure they are mature enough for e-bike, understand rules of the road, and so on.
- Role of the school was discussed. Education, enforcement, communication with parents. Can schools give detentions or extra homework for unsafe biking behavior. School could call the parents if officers give students' names. Bike license plates for middle and high school students?
- Role of enforcement was discussed. Balance between enforcement, engineering and education. How to be a community that encourage safe biking? What are good practices from other cities? Traffic unit has limited staff. Traffic unit is evaluating if they should give warning citations but does not have capacity to be on Santa Cruz Avenue every day. Enforcement limited to change behaviors – education opportunity.
  - Community service related to transportation
  - Consequences at the school
  - How to frame the conversation, less enforcement/punishment and more encouragement to keep the car at home to travel to school?
- Bike infrastructure in Menlo Park currently adequate for e-bikes?

- Bike rodeo vendor – adapt materials to include e-bike topic

#### **4) SRTS Program Updates**

-See presentation for details.

- School Year Overview
- SRTS resources
- See presentation for details.

Blocks used for an activity with kids at Belle Haven for the Coleman-Ringwood Avenues study could be borrowed by the school.

#### **5) Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day – November 14, 2023**

-See presentation for details.

#### **6) Traffic and Safety Updates**

##### **7) Local Road Safety Plan**

- Now called Vision Zero Action Plan.
- Community outreach events were held in August.

More information on [city website](#).

##### **8) City Project Updates**

- See presentation for details.

##### **9) Announcements**

- Oak Knoll Elementary Group Ride, 9/24
- Atherton Bike Rodeo, 9/30

**10) Next meeting** - Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023. 9-10:30 am