



Petaluma Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Task Force

Meeting Notes of Tuesday, August 5th, 2026

Members in attendance

Christina Panza	Director, Safe Routes to Schools & Education	Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition
Sarah Hadler	Safe Routes to School Education/Encouragement Program Manager	Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition
Bjorn Gripenburg	Active Transportation Planner	City of Petaluma
Bob Mittelstadt	Legal E-bikes Advocate	E Bike Access
Deb Fox	Climate Action Manager	City of Petaluma
Brian Miller	Police Chief	City of Petaluma
Mario Giomo	Traffic Sergeant	City of Petaluma
Clint Barbour	Motor Officer	City of Petaluma
Jayce Hanson	Motor Officer	City of Petaluma
Dan Osterman	College and Career Pathways Coordinator	Petaluma City Schools
Ryan Williams	Trustee	Petaluma City Schools
Mady Cloud	Trustee	Petaluma City Schools
Laurel Chambers	Public Health Division; Chair of Vision Zero Advisor Committee	Sonoma County Health Services
Margot Ocañas	Senior Transportation Planner	Sonoma County Transportation and Climate Authorities (SCTCA)
Davina Goldwasser	Superintendent	Petaluma City Schools
Lori Rhodes	Assistant Superintendent	Petaluma City Schools
Paul Kaushal	Petaluma Public Works	City of Petaluma
Emily Shartin	Outreach and Advocacy	Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition
Maria Arce	Petaluma Transit	City of Petaluma
Lindsey Fisher	Park and Recreation Supervisor	City of Petaluma
David Felix	PBAC member, Parent	Pedestrian and Bike Advisory Committee; McNear Elem
Danny Kanbur		

Notes on Agenda items:

1. **Introductions:** Christina welcomed everyone and then everyone went around and introduced themselves (see above for attendees).
2. **E-Bicycles, E-Motos & Youth Safety: Presentation(s) from Bob Mittelsteadt ([E-Bike Access](#)) and Sonoma County Safe Routes to School.** Presentation(s) will cover current trends, legal considerations, youth e-bike/e-moto usage in Sonoma County Schools, policy considerations, e-bike education, and more.
 - a. Presentation by Bob Mittelstadt, "[Electric Bicycles and Electric Motorcycles: The Difference, The Problem and the Solution](#)"

b. Questions/Discussion:

- i. Ryan Williams asked Chief Miller about his preference for school policy. Chief Miller said that it's important to work with the school districts on this; the way to approach high school policy is different from the way to approach middle school policy; there are council and staff members who are e-bike riders and might not be supportive of a restrictive policy. The model of not letting a 12-year old ride a motorcycle is a good one and throttles are problematic and challenging. For enforcing, when on the road, it's often hard for officers to identify whether a device is illegal. There are also multiple school locations which makes this conversation more complicated. Chief Miller would like to see the conversation take place over the next few months and also have a regional discussion with schools in Santa Rosa and other towns, making a mid-year decision with the focus for policy on K-6 schools and junior high schools.
 - ii. Mario said that he agrees with having policies for the elementary and junior high age group; the Class II e-devices with throttle is the most pervasive issue.
 - iii. Bob said that the paradox is that we're not seeing many legitimate Class II e-bikes at schools and if we allow the legal Class 2 e-bikes with throttles, we end up allowing all of them.
 - iv. Chief Miller sees both ends of the conversation and acknowledges that the outreach hasn't been fully effective; the PD has been ramping up enforcement and wants to do more with looking at the bike racks at schools and having outreach to the parents. The PD has been impounding the illegal e-motos. The PD, schools and SRTS have been working together, sharing policy and updating and sharing outreach materials.
 - v. Laurel said that there is a need for better data on the collisions that happen and asked if there's a way to make note of whether the device involved was an e-bike, an e-moto, etc.
 1. Mario said that this had not been getting categorized correctly, but now they are working on fixing that. They've had prior meetings with reps from Marin County who are keeping a separate dashboard with injury statistics from the hospitals that police don't necessarily know about, in an effort to try to capture everything. Laurel said that she'd be glad to help with reporting.
 - vi. Deb mentioned that the holidays will be coming up fast and she'd like to see a campaign towards parents around not buying these illegal e-devices/e-motos for their kids.
- c. Presentation by Sarah Hadler, "[Sonoma County SRTS E-Bike Education Presentation](#)"
- i. Note: Because of time constraints, Sarah started with Slide 8 "Our Approach to E-bike Education"

3. Sonoma County Safe Routes to School Program Update (Christina Panza)

- a. Presentation by Christina Panza, "[SRTS Update Petaluma Task Force Meeting](#)" —goals, encouraging active transport; eliminate barrier to that through education, infrastructure improvements
- b. Questions: Mady asked if we could get parent volunteers through the PTAs. Christina replied that SRTS works with schools to establish a SRTS team at that school and schools do their best; we mostly work with principals and teachers and we need parents more for the encouragement side of things like supporting Walk/Roll days and leading/supporting walking school buses and bike trains. If there are parents who are interested in being on the SRTS team or helping out, schools can pass on this parent info to SRTS.

4. City of Petaluma Public Works: Safe Routes to School Project Update (Bjorn Gripenburg)

- a. Presentation by Bjorn Gripenburg "[Public Works Safe Routes to School Task Force 2026](#)"
- b. Bjorn mentioned that every public school campus in Petaluma has been systematically audited over the last few years. Each school has had a walk audit that took place during drop off or pick up where safety concerns and areas of improvement have been identified and public works has tackled and implemented and tackled all the low hanging fruit concerns. Public Works will continue to come out and look at the schools and improve safety around schools and please use the City as a resource (list of resources on Slide 15).

5. Partner Announcements

- a. Petaluma Transit—Maria said that the bus schedule changes on 8/10 and will affect all evening and weekend service. The good news is that LumaGo will have on demand micro-transit (called Access by LumaGo) and will now be city-wide, the funding for this lasts until June 2027, and the same app works. Paratransit and LumaGo will all be together. There are a few upcoming community outreach events on how to use the new systems and to get feedback from the community and also input on what people want to see in the next schedule for Jan 2027:
 - 1. In-person on Wed, 8/26 at 7pm, at the Petaluma Community Center, 320 N McDowell Blvd
 - 2. Virtual meeting on Tue. 9/22 at 5:30pm, and the zoom link is provided after you RSVP.
 - 3. Maria passed around a flier with the info on the community outreach meetings that had a QR code for registering and this will be shared at all school events. She also asked that the message for students is to be kind and respectful with the bus, and on the bus, focusing on behavior issues.
 - 4. Mady asked if scheduling will remain the same for schools and Maria said yes, the reductions were at the low-ridership times.
 - 5. Officer Clint mentioned that officers can't enforce vehicles speeding past transit buses like they can with school buses and wanted everyone to be aware of that.
- b. Ryan asked that the intersection in front of Penngrove Elem be improved during fall break, not when school is in session in order to minimize impacts on school traffic. Christina said that she will be in touch with county planners to let them know of this request.

6. District/site SRTS infrastructure, education or enforcement issues, concerns & opportunities (n/a)

7. Next Meeting(s) & Adjournment--TBD

**SRTS issues and concerns may also be emailed pre- or post-meeting to Christina Panza, SRTS Director & Task Force Facilitator at christina@bikesonoma.org*