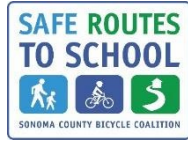




METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION



# **Petaluma Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Task Force**

## **Meeting Announcement:**

**Date/Time:** Thursday January 18th, 2024, 4:00pm-5:30pm

**Location:** Petaluma City Hall, Council Chambers  
11 English Street

## **Goals & Objectives:**

1. Seek input from Task Force members and the public, in order to identify barriers to active transportation, opportunities for improvement and collaboration, and set priorities for future infrastructure projects within the city of Petaluma.
2. Provide a venue for sharing of program initiatives and projects in the city of Petaluma, as well as inter-agency collaboration.

## **Agenda:**

### **1. Attendees**

- a. Christina Panza, Director, SRTS/SCTA SRTS program
- b. Peggy Flynn, City Manager, City of Petaluma
- c. Bjorn Gripenburg, Active Transportation, Public Works, City of Petaluma
- d. Christopher Bolt, Director, Public Works, City of Petaluma
- e. Gina Benedetti-Petnic, Assistant Director, Public Works, City of Petaluma
- f. Drew Halter, Director, Parks and Recreation, City of Petaluma
- g. Jared Hall, Transit Director, City of Petaluma
- h. Ken Eichstaedt, Traffic Engineer, Public Works, City of Petaluma
- i. Kent Carothers, Public Works, City of Petaluma
- j. Jessica Medina, Communications Consultant, The Design Guild, Communications Contractor serving the City of Petaluma
- k. Chris Ricci, Traffic Unit, Petaluma Police Dept
- l. Mady Cloud, PCS Trustee
- m. Dan Ostermann, College and Career Pathways Coordinator, PCS
- n. Molly Nagel, Community Schools/Wellness Coordinator, Petaluma City Schools
- o. Carly Costello, Petaluma Accelerated Charter Assistant Principal/McKinley Elementary
- p. Lia Goldman-Miller - parent of preschooler and Live Oak Charter School
- q. Nathan Spindel, Safe Streets Petaluma, future Live Oak parent
- r. Rebecca Hachmyer, parent, Mckinley Elementary, PTSA president
- s. Julia Blum, parent, Mckinley Elementary,
- t. Richard de Leon, Petaluma Blue Zones Project

- u. Danny Alvarez, Boys and Girls Club
- v. Deb Fox, Cool Petaluma

## 1. Partner Announcements

- i. Safe Routes to School Program update
  - 1. [Link to SRTS Update Presentation](#)
  - 2. **Walking School Bus** opportunity for McKinley with PPSC
    - a. It was suggested a video taken of the walking school bus to promote what it is and share with other schools so they can start one.
  - 3. **[Walk in Roll for Our Hearts](#) February** challenge is up next. Flyers are available in English and Spanish, as well as a new commercial to share with students or post on your social media!
  - 4. **May 8th is Bike to School Day.** To support the day, please encourage your schools to set up a Bike Train. SCBC is hosting a [Bike Train webinar on March 13th](#).
  - 5. **Kids Learn to Ride Lessons** in partnership with the City of Petaluma's Parks and Recreation Department. There is one Wednesday a month until June for only \$5! Sign up through the [Petaluma Park & Recreation Online Portal](#) (under Youth Programs)
  - 6. **[Family Bike Workshop](#)** - June 22nd at Lucchesi Park and will have free helmets for registered families (sponsored by CHP)! Space is limited, so register early!
  - 7. **Travel plans** are now available for every school participating in the SRTS program, including participating Petaluma Schools on the SRTS [website](#).
- ii. City of Petaluma (public works, transit, police)
  - 1. **City Manager: Peggy Flynn** - As of Jan 1, 2024, the city took over management of the fairgrounds. They are excited to talk about pop-up events at the fairgrounds for things like bike rodeos, drop-in free events to start using the property to get ideas on how to program for the future.
  - 2. **Parks and Rec Director: Drew Halter** - They are still assessing the property. Hoping to have community groups use it for pop up indoors or outdoors to help imagine what it could be like. Such as night bike rides, Thursday Farmer's Market, popup pickle ball and roller derby, etc. [Check out the website](#) to ask about events. Contact parks and rec directly to book.  
<https://cityofpetaluma.org/rentthefairgrounds/>
  - 3. **Public Works Traffic Engineer: Ken Eichstadt** - Update on public works projects:

- a. Lynch Creek Trail - New paving by North McDowell, and near Edith so it is ADA compliant and working to connect to the transit mall.
  - b. Maria Drive project is starting. It will include making improvements for pedestrians and bikes, starting in March.
  - c. ATP crossings for the 101 from Corona to Rainer, Lynch Creek trail to get safe connectivity.
- 4. **Public Works Communications: Jessica Medina**- Slow the Fast Down. Over 400 people have signed up so far. Looking to partner with the schools to give out the yard signs, stickers and magnets.
- 5. **Transit Director: Jared Hall**- Still doing K-12 free rider program, youth ridership is up 60%, holiday toy drive event, “Stuff the Bus” event had great turnout and will do annually. Fare-free and micro-mobility project to launch by June. Working on graffiti removal. No longer using “My Stop” App. now using Transit App. The app can be downloaded from the Apple or Droid app stores or via the [Transit App Web site](#).  
Transit app is one of the mostly widely utilized in the industry, has a user-friendly layout and will also include transit info for other nearby agencies. Petaluma Transit is currently working on creating additional outreach and signage over the upcoming months to better promote the app as the preferred option for Petaluma Transit.
- 6. **Police Department - Chris Ricci** - Wrote tickets today to build off of slow the fast down.
- iii. Other Partners (Cool Petaluma, Petaluma People Center, etc)
  - 1. **Cool Petaluma** - CP will be building off the community engagement they did in the fall for the City’s [Blueprint for Carbon Nuetrality](#) by building tasks forces that create community engagement campaigns that are measurable, actionable, and easy to understand with collaborative partnerships that utilize the knowledge, connections, and resources of the community. More to come for that, as transportation is a key Blueprint action for our community!

## 2. Site Assessments & Travel Plans

- a. Proposed schedule for site assessments. Ranked on collision history of last 5 years within a quarter mile. Next are:
  - i. Petaluma High School - February 8th
  - ii. Loma Vista, March 14th
- b. **McKinley Elementary & Live Oak Charter**: Post-site assessment report
  - i. [McKinley Travel Plan](#)
  - ii. [Link to Presentation](#)

- iii. Bjorn noted that typical enhancements for what is commonly done is usually under \$10,000 and can be done very quickly with supplies and design
- iv. Someone asked about green infrastructure to slow the streets. Bjorn noted there currently aren't any design standards for green infrastructure for trees, but it is possible on larger projects where there is stormwater benefits.
  - 1. Assistant Director of Public Works: Gina Benedetti-Petnic added that design standards are sets of drawings and standards that show how we build what we build. We have street standards on the website. They are getting updated to have best practices. But in the meantime, every street that has opportunities for trees is being considered every opportunity that they can. but it is complicated because of drainage, right of way, ADA clearance, width not available, and utility conflicts. But all are evaluated and will be done if possible.
- v. A parent noted that Ellis/Madison is the only out for the exit for that NE neighborhood. Could a connector be made from Burlington to Martin Circle? And if Payran's flow could be improved, it would help the flow on Ellis.
- vi. Bjorn it might be possible to get bike lanes on Ellis. It would take moving the perpendicular parking or making the lane really narrow. Ellis is an advantage because it is used by fewer cars than Payran and it connects to the Lynch Creek Trail.
- vii. A parent noted Madison/Ellis/Holly crosswalk:
  - 1. The whole intersection desperately needs bulb-outs. The slopes of the street and sidewalk where they meet at the corner of Madison and Ellis (where the McKinley sign currently is) results in a sudden dip that is challenging to navigate when crossing Madison at that crosswalk for kids with bikes and scooters falling, parents with strollers or wagons getting stuck, people on foot tripping, etc. With that same corner being the access point for cars entering the drop-off/pickup line, it seems like a particularly bad spot to have any impediments to safe and smooth sidewalk access.
  - 2. Madison crosswalk at San Marin: This crosswalk is terrifying.
- viii. ***Lots of joy was expressed by the administration and parents of McKinley to see improvements on the trail to school on Doris Way! Give thanks to Jeff Stutzman! Gold Staff!!!***
- c. **Live Oak Charter School**
  - i. [Live Oak Travel Plan](#)
  - ii. The group was asked by Bjorn where they thought a crosswalk would be most beneficial at D and Payram. The group was in agreement that crosswalks on both at Payran and D Street to look like Jefferson with painted bulb-outs is ideal.

- iii. A LOCS parent expressed happiness that the speed bumps were gone!
- iv. The gate to Payran/Jefferson was open at one point. Parents felt it would be good to do again for traffic flows at drop off and pick up.

### **3. Other SRTS issues, concerns & opportunities**

- a. A McKinley parent expressed the need for more trash receptacles throughout Midtown. Lack of trash receptacles leads to dropped litter and a sense that no one cares about the space.
- b. A Live Oak parent asked when/where the city might work on making it safer to ride to school from McNear, down D to Live Oak.
  - i. Bjorn noted that the [Active Transportation Plan](#) is being updated now. The city is going through exercise of what the whole network is and then what corridors to work on first as it relates to Safe Streets Nomination program
  - ii. Nathan noted the same issues about riding from the West side to Live Oak
- c. Peggy Flynn gave staff a shout-out for being responsive in real time!! PCS Trustee, Mady Cloud, confirmed! Super impressed with how quickly this is happening!

### **4. Next Meeting & adjournment**

***The next meeting of the Petaluma Task Force is scheduled for Thursday February 15th, 4pm-5:30 at the Petaluma Community Center, 320 McDowell Blvd***

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