



Petaluma Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Task Force

District/City Leadership Planning Meeting

Monday, 9/25/23 2:30pm-3:30pm

Action items:

1. Christina sent calendar invite for 3rd Thursdays 4-5:30 pm. Please accept.
 - a. Suggestions for other task force members can be sent to Christina
 - b. Task Force meeting invites can be forwarded to anyone of interest.
 - c. Schools should invite their whole community (parents). The agenda will posted on SRTS website.
2. Christina will work on location schedule (**see note in 4c*)
3. Send future agenda items to Christina—make sure these meetings are productive.

Meeting Notes:

1. Introductions

- a. Christina Panza, Director, SRTS/SCTA SRTS program
- b. Cindy Friberg, Co-Superintendent, Old Adobe Union School District
- c. Molly Nagel, Community Schools/Wellness Coordinator, Petaluma City Schools
- d. Michelle Gochberg, Co-Superintendent, Old Adobe Union School District
- e. Mike Gardner, Superintendent, Waugh School District
- f. Zoe Unruh, Multimodal Planner, SMART
- g. Adam Garcia, Data Analyst, SCTA
- h. Peggy Flynn, City Manager, City of Petaluma
- i. Drew Halter, Director, Parks and Recreation, City of Petaluma,
- j. Gina Benedetti-Petnic, Assistant Director, Public Works, City of Petaluma
- k. Jeff Stutsman, Deputy Director, Public Works, City of Petaluma
- l. Ken Eichstaedt, Traffic Engineer, Public Works, City of Petaluma
- m. Walt Spiller, Traffic Sergeant, Petaluma Police Dept
- n. Bjorn Gripenburg, Active Transportation, Public Works, City of Petaluma
- o. Deb Fox, Co-Founder, Operations and Collaborations, Cool Petaluma
- p. Chief Ken Savano, Chief of Police, Petaluma Police Department
- q. Brian Miller, Deputy Police Chief, Petaluma Police Department
- r. Esmeralda Sanchez Moseley, Asst. Superintendent, Student Services, Petaluma City Schools
- s. Matthew Harris, Superintendent, Petaluma City Schools
- t. Amanda Bonivert, CBO, Petaluma City Schools
- u. Elece Hempel, Executive Director, Petaluma People Services
- v. Christopher Bolt, Director, Public Works, City of Petaluma

w. Sarah Hadler, SRTS Coordinator/Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition

2. Goals and objectives for the creation of SRTS Task Force

- a. The Safe Routes to School Task Force concept is all over California. Marin County is model—purpose is to bring together school district staff, parents, City, Police, other stakeholders—identify traffic safety issues for the schools. It can result in the development of travel plans (include infrastructure barriers). It also becomes a venue for sharing info for projects, leads to interagency collaboration, and ultimately results in safe streets for everyone.
- b. Structure:
 - i. The Task Force is membership based. In this case, all attendees here and invited today are members of the task force because they are providing a service to a school. As a Task Force member, you should attend as many as possible or send a rep.
 - ii. Meetings have limited time. (1 to 1.5 hrs)
 - iii. Meeting are open to the public and publicly announced. Parents or other members of the public may attend to learn of initiatives, or voice concerns.

3. Brainstorm of community stakeholders not in attendance: Suggestions for other task force members can be sent to Christina and Task Force meeting invites can be forwarded to anyone of interest.

- a. Schools: The focus is on school districts located within limits of Petaluma City (if someone from unincorporated area comes to a mtg, they can speak to the TF and they will be connected to the County.)
 - i. Cinnabar (*Christina indicated all districts in Petaluma City Limits were invited and that she believed Cinnabar was invited. After meeting, Christina double checked and she misspoke; they were not invited b/c school is not located in city limits. Will consider b/c school catchment area includes areas within city limits*)
 - ii. Live Oak Charter School (public charter school w/in city)
 - iii. Private schools:
 1. Spring Hill
 2. St. Vincents
- b. Boys and girls club and other afterschool programs
- c. Petaluma Transit (invited)
- d. Local owned bike shops
 - i. Big Bowl Shop
 - ii. Smith and Bergen
- e. SRJC
- f. Other non profits
 - i. Hispanic community orgs (McDowell Family Resource Center)
- g. County Public Works

4. Schedule and locations for future meetings

- a. **Frequency and dates –3rd Thursdays:** The 3rd week was based on when school board meetings were (2nd/4th weeks), so 3rd week of the month. Marin does

quarterly after 20 years of the Task Force, but monthly was decided to help get momentum, build community, and to get a work plan started. The 3rd Tuesday of the month didn't conflict with other city meetings, but it fell on the Thanksgiving and the week off in February for all districts.

- b. **Time of day – 4 to 5:30:** Daytime eliminates most evening conflicts but was noted that it could be harder for parents to participate. 4 pm could interfere with sports, 5 with dinner, etc. so ideally go with times that work with the task force. 4 pm – allows for high school students to attend or parents could still have kids in day care and the task force is still in the workday. 4 pm Thursdays do not conflict with city meetings.
- c. **Location:** It will go between east and west side and between districts. Christina will work on schedule between the School Districts. (PCS in October; Old Adobe in Nov; Waugh in Dec.)*
 - i. Could be ranked by: enrollment, collision history, eventually all schools. Districts first? District reps will identify schools
 - ii. Idea from Matthew: go school to school to see it and walk it.
 - iii. In person or hybrid? In person was unanimously decided by the group and hybrid requires extra equipment needs that may not be available at every location.
 - iv. Translation may be needed and provided by the school districts.

***Note: Post meeting it was determined that rotating to Waugh & Old Adobe would not be possible due to space & technology constraints. Decision made to rotate between City Hall and Community Center for FY 2023-24, but to separately schedule school visits to see sites, walk them, observe barriers, etc.*

- d. **Invitees:** Schools should invite their whole community (parents). These are not brown act notifications meetings. These are public meetings with the agenda posted on SRTS website.

- 5. **Update on school participation in SRTS** - Schools have to enroll in the program to participate and receive services. Great if district encourages involvement. Current list:
 - i. PCS – list what schools currently enrolled – Grant, Cherry Valley, McDowell, McKinley/PCACS, McNear, Penngrove, PJHS, Valley Vista
 - ii. Old Adobe – Loma Vista, Miwok
 - iii. Waugh – Corona Creek, Meadow
 - iv. Private – the Spring Hill
- b. Every participating school will have an GIS Maps evaluation of where kids coming from/travel data helps in prioritizing projects. Report cards/snapshots for every school that participates in the program (What engaged in, data, etc.)
- c. Walk Roll Challenge – Oct 4
- d. [Petaluma SRTS Task Force Page](#) on Sonomasaferroutes.org—link to [school participation matrix](#)

6. City update on plants and projects

- a. Active Transportation Plan – the ATP vision for walking biking scootering, car free for city with specific infrastructure improvements, dangerous infrastructure, bike

routes, etc. Public engagement this fall. Incorporates previous feedback from past studies.

- b. Community wide traffic calming campaign “Slow the Fast Down” – great to collaborate on curbing speeding, dangerous driving. Leverage school communities as part of the campaign.
- c. Mountain View street making as part of Walk and Roll to School Day. Share these types of things here.
- d. Safe Streets Nomination program – anyone can request traffic calming on the streets. Collects speed data, etc.
- e. Transit – free fares for June 2025 for students. Transit has been attending back to school and orientations to share that information.
- f. Upcoming paving projects: City met with schools directly impacted Maria and Howard. 20% of peak hour traffic is school related.

7. District/site SRTS concerns roundtable

- a. **PCS, Matthew:** Drop off and pick up is such a nightmare, not just McKinley. What can we do encourage to walk/ride bike? Piloting walking school bus – Wed walk and roll to school using elder in the community with PPSC. Encourage more, when it is safe, which is Key! What are we doing to make sure we have safe streets and access to school? It has been really helpful working with police department (and city engineers). Need to train parents about red zones and having enforcement. At some schools are trying new/input and feedback. McDowell is changing the drop off. Would be good to have more eyes. Are they creating more barriers. Etc.
 - i. SRTS, Christina: In the past, it helped to develop a travel plan for each school; collaboration b/w city and SRTS; Walking Audits at schools—put together a list of concerns, short term and long term solution—shared with the City and then have that document. The issue is how to prioritize schools and make a plan for which schools (start with the 13 SRTS schools)
 - 1. Walking audits – explanation. Includes school parents, concerns/barriers. What are the priorities? One audit a month possible and plan for how that would work. Start with the current SRTS schools.
 - ii. City, Peggy: Opportunity based on SRTS travel plans with list of concerns.
 - iii. City, Bjorn: Huge list of projects in the plan, tag the projects close to each school and then have a table with the list
 - iv. Police Dept, Chief Ken Savano - In 1996 working on SRTS plan? Identifies each plan and then identified safest route for each school. Engineering reports. Have for Casa, PHS, a few website elementary schools. Done by SCTA consultant. 2005 and 2015 report SRTS useable, as well. These were cross checked and included in the ATP plan update. Good starting point. Great resources for gathering data. Likely a lot of challenges are the same, while looking at the sites, some of the routes are not the safest but they were the ones that students used; City went to all of the sites and looked at all of the routes

1. City, Gina Benedetti: they are valuable reports and the data is important.
 2. City, Bjorn: They have been doing those cross checks to make sure that those listed improvements/routes are making it into the updated plan
- v. SCTA, Adam: SCTA is putting maps into general plan update. Good for identifying where are the gaps. Some currently go over the 101.
 - vi. SRTS, Christina: Goal is to decide what to create for each school. ATP plan tags each project within a ¼ mile. Good place to start to identify the need. A lot to work out in terms of deliverables—included in ATP but make each school a document that they can hold
- b. **Waugh: Mike:** Biking and pedestrian safety around Corona Creek elementary. (near Kenilworth) over 1000 kids every day. Lots of congestion so families hesitant to walk or ride. Multiuse path from Kenilworth to Corona Creek would be ideal. Currently it is an unprotected bike lane.
 - c. **Old Adobe: Lisa/Michelle.** possibility of City to improve bike paths and creating safe space for kids to walk and bike to school; not safe because so many parents drive—it's a cyclical problem
 - i. Christina asking Bjorn how to address specific issues at specific sites; maps to clearly see what the proposed improvements are and then show what is happening around each school—maps should be ready for public review and feedback in the next couple of weeks—send out through schools