



Santa Rosa Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Task Force

Focus Area: East Santa Rosa Focus Area (City Council Districts 2 & 3)

Meeting Notes of Thursday, October 26, 2023

[You can view the video recording of this meeting by clicking this link](#)

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
Alexander Ocegüera	Active Transportation Planner	City of Santa Rosa
Laurel Chambers	Healthy Eating, Active Living Coordinator	Sonoma County Department of Health Services; Public Health Division
Amy Jones	Superintendent	Rincon Valley Union School District
Simone Reed	Assistant to the Superintendent	Rincon Valley Union School District
Annette Ceballos	District Office Clerk	Rincon Valley Union School District
Lori O'Connor	Director of Student Services	Rincon Valley Union School District
Mike Moniot	Director of Maintenance	Rincon Valley Union School District
Jacob Lopez	Director of Education and Information Technology	Rincon Valley Union School District
Summer Gloeckner	Sergeant, Traffic Division	Santa Rosa Police Dept
Patricia Turner	Director of Risk Management	Santa Rosa City School District
Amy Hale	Yulupa Principal	Representing Bennett Valley Union School District

Additional Attendees: Alexa Forrester (Montgomery High/Spring Lake MS Parent, Bikeable Santa Rosa); Chris Guenther (Montgomery High/Spring Lake MS Parent, Bikeable Santa Rosa)

Additional Attendees via Teleconference: Chris Alexander; Indy Monday (Brook Hill Elementary Principal); Mike Cook; Meg Canalida (Village Elem Parent); Tom Hammond (Village Elem Parent); Brendan Connors (Village Elem Parent); Elizabeth Crane (Sequoia Elem Parent)

Notes on Agenda Items:

1. Introductions & public comments for items not on agenda*

(This item begins at [2:22](#) on the video recording)

- a. Christina thanked everyone for their patience and apologized that there was a mix up with the Zoom link that she sent out. She and Jacob got the

new RVUSD Zoom link sent out to all of the Task Force members and attendees.

- b. Christina welcomed everyone saying that this Task Force is a group made up of representatives from the School Districts, the City of Santa Rosa, the SRTS program, parents and members of the public. It is a forum where we can meet and share concerns about SRTS issues that impact students travelling to/from school and to share information about what we are all doing with our programs that would facilitate collaboration between the different agencies to facilitate improvements and change and more collaboration.
- c. Christina called for any public comments that are not on the agenda.
 - i. Alexa Forrester in the spirit of sharing information wanted to share a quote from Conor Semlar, one of the authors of Research Report 1036, from the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (report is available for download here: <https://www.kittelson.com/news-and-events/parking-or-pedaling-new-tool-helps-communities-weigh-tradeoffs-on-their-streets/>)

“The framework is meant to support cities and towns and states as they are thinking through changes to streets...We are starting with the idea that safety is actually more important than these other goals (like traffic throughput and level of service). And we’re not just the ones saying this. Every state DOT says that safety is their number one priority. Federal Highway has the safe systems approach. The engineering code of ethics says it, too. Safety is actually a higher priority, and every engineer will say it and then turn around and make decisions that place other things at a higher priority than safety...So we want one of two things to happen: Either you make safety your top priority and make the choice to design your street that puts safety first, or admit that you are saying that parking is more important than safety or traffic capacity is more important than safety. We don’t think it is appropriate for cities and towns any longer to say that safety is their top priority out of one side of their mouth and then make choices that (contradict that...)”
 - ii. After reading the quote, Alexa stated that she has seen this in action during her advocacy work over the last two years: I have seen traffic engineers repeatedly say, “We’d like to put a crosswalk there or a traffic light, but we can’t slow down traffic” and I’m asking for an honest accounting of what the city is prioritizing as it designs the streets. I brought these to share for anyone who wants to see this collaborative tool—it’s a tool for inviting traffic engineers into the conversation about how to make our streets safe for all users, it’s not us vs. them or cars vs. people but realizes we’re all a part of the community and we all benefit from getting safely to where we want to go. Alexa passed around the quote and link to the report.
- d. Everyone introduced themselves (please see above for attendees)

2. Safe Routes to School Program Report (*Christina Panza*)

(This item begins at [9:25](#) on the video recording)
(PowerPoint slides and corresponding handouts included in notes packet)

- a. We are in East Santa Rosa so there is a focus on the schools in this area and their participation with the SRTS program but we will also go into all of Santa Rosa for a few slides. (Slide 1)
- b. In 2023-24, the sites that have enrolled in our comprehensive SRTS program in the East SR focus area are (Slide 2):
 - i. Rincon Valley School District —Austin Creek (new school this year), Binkley, Madrone, Manzanita, Sequoia, Spring Lake Middle, Village, Whited
 - ii. SR City School District—SR French American Charter
 - iii. Bennett Valley School District—Strawberry
- c. Schools do have to opt in to be in the program every year. When they opt in, we provide services and collect information from them.
- d. Every school every year they are enrolled receives a snapshot that shows what their engagement in the program was. Christina passed out example snapshots and also gave a packet of their schools' snapshots to each District rep along with some other data for their schools. (Slide 3)
- e. The snapshots show a number of things:
 - i. how long the school has participated in the program
 - ii. who the principal was that year or is now and who the champions are (champions are the folks that are holding the program at the school, could be a principal or parent or teacher)
 - iii. the data collected at that school, the % of active and green trips and the number of parents who responded to the parent survey last spring
 - iv. participation rates for the two events we track each year, Int'l W/R to School Day and Bike to School Day
 - v. three categories for encouragement, education and community engagement with all the possible activities listed and then bolded if that school is engaged in it, there are varying levels of engagement for each of the enrolled schools, but most do quite a lot
 - vi. GIS student address map data that shows a picture of the map and the %s of how many students live within $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1 and 2 mile radius of the school
 - vii. There is data from the bike rodeo or bike repairs or a Family Bike Workshop (low-cost helmets, bikes fixed and how many kids learned to ride)
 - viii. Christina passed out examples of our 2022-23 snapshots to district reps and for anyone who wants to see them. We do these every year for our enrolled schools.
- f. We are in the midst of collecting data for 2023-24. Data shown on screen is from Austin Creek, a new school in the program. We collected the student travel tally data, which is how students are travelling to/from school in different modes, and the GIS map, this is a preview of what we will have for each of our enrolled schools later in the fall. At Austin Creek,

we have 21% of kids living within a ¼ mile and 50% living within a ½ mile radius of the school and about 24-26% are walking and about 2% are biking, so a lot of people living within that ¼ mile radius are walking and biking and not so many who are living in the ½ mile, mile and 2 mile radius from school. There are probably lots of reasons for that, we can look at parent survey responses, the GIS map, where they are coming from and make some guesses about why they may not be walking and biking. When we look at the data from Int'l Walk and Roll to School Day, we see that as the potential, when conditions are perfect, and everyone can walk or bike easily, the infrastructure is good, and parents and kids are motivated. (Slide 4)

- g. Christina passed out to each of the district representatives responses from the parents survey last spring. We got quite a lot of parent survey responses from East Santa Rosa schools. Christina has shared this data with the City of SR so that they can utilize it as they are planning Active Transportation and other projects. The City is periodically collecting data, right now they are working on the Active Transportation plan and there may be a survey coming out soon. There is generally only a small percentage of people who respond to the surveys and so it is very helpful when schools share this information out so that parents can have their voices heard and we can collect that information. There will be other opportunities for parents to share their concerns, including at this Task Force meeting. (Slide 5)
- h. Christina moved on to the Walking Audit Site Assessments (Slide 6) (This item begins at [13:40](#) on the video recording)

 - i. At the very first Task Force meeting back in August, there was a request from a parent at Sequoia to do a Site Assessment, a Walking Audit to talk about the barriers at that site. Amy joined us and the parent from Sequoia and Alexander and an engineer from the City and the principal of the school. We walked around the school and talked about the concerns that the parents and the school staff had. We talked about potential short term and long term solutions, and Christina developed a report documenting the concerns that was shared with the school district and the City.
 - ii. We had to come up with a process and future plan for continuing with the Walking Audits as there is quite a high demand for them. At the last meeting, Patty brought up 8 SR City schools that are interested as well as Roseland, so Christina and Alexander and Torina, from the City, came up with a process to schedule and prioritize these site assessments in a way that makes sense for our capacity and to honor the requests from schools.
 - iii. At the September meeting, there was another request from Wright Charter School to schedule an assessment. That's been scheduled for Nov 8th; we are bringing together parties from City, County, CHP and school staff and parents who were concerned to do a walk around and collect data.

- iv. Christina acknowledged that Patty brought a list of schools who were interested in scheduling Walking Audits as well. Going forward, Christina asks that these audits do need to be initiated by the principal and generally there's also a parent who wants to be there. We ask that the principal formerly requests an audit at their site by emailing Christina; the audits will be scheduled on a first come/first served request basis for now, knowing that there could be a lot of requests that come in at once and then they will have to be prioritized depending on the capacity of the City and SRTS and different factors like a school where a project might be happening soon. We may rotate among City Council Districts. We will generate a report for every audit and share with participants and the City. We are planning to create an internal tracking sheet of the concerns/projects that are identified, so that between the SRTS program and the City, we can stay on top of what has been identified, so that later on down the line, we'll have that information. In terms of our capacity, we're still working that out. We may be able to do one a month, but we'll see how it goes. First step is for principal to email a request to Christina and we'll coordinate with the parties. Laurel (from Dept of Health) has expressed interest in leading Walking Audits, so this may help with capacity. We will always need a City Engineer and City Planner there so this may limit our capacity as well.
- v. Christina asked if there were any questions and she said that right now, there is no formal SRTS plan for SR—these reports are internal reports, but this doesn't mean that work can't be done. We will be tracking concerns and working on them as we can. It could be that all this work can roll into comprehensive SR SRTS plan in the future.
- vi. Alexa asked if there is a similar process for biking audits? Christina said that right now walking audits are what we can do now, capacity wise. If there are requests for bike audits, we could consider it; Alexander is interested in doing bike audits. Alexa mentioned a Village parent comment that there is not a good way to get a bike on to the campus. Christina said that these kinds of things can be talked about at a Walking Audit, we can look at where the bike racks are and how bikes access a campus. There are some really great bike audit checklists, like one from AARP. These can all certainly be talked about at a walking audit.
- i. SRTS Education Services in Santa Rosa from Aug-Oct 2023 (*Slide 7*) (*This item begins at [20:03](#) on the video recording*)
Christina wants everyone to know what is going on city-wide with education. The spreadsheet shows where we've been from Aug-Oct.
 - i. Since Oct, we've done two 2nd grade pedestrian safety lessons with Whited, Monroe, Helen Lehman, Village and Binkley. We do an in-

class lesson and then we go on a neighborhood safety walk where the students get to cross the street.

- ii. For 4th grade, we do two bike basic lessons where students learn the basics of biking, like helmet fitting and riding on the right side of the road. We've done these lessons at Village, JX Wilson, Manzanita, Helen Lehman, Monroe and Whited.
 - iii. We've done 4th grade bike rodeos, where they're on bike and getting helmets, getting their bikes repaired, at Village, Mark West, JX Wilson, Manzanita, Helen Lehman and Whited. In general, the schools who have gotten the bike basics lessons get a bike rodeo, but not always as our bike rodeos are limited.
 - iv. We've done the 5th grade mapping and communications lessons at JX Wilson, Wright Charter, Helen Lehman, Monroe and Village.
 - v. For Middle School and Learn to Ride and Family Bike Rides, we've done community Learn to Ride lessons on 8/23, 9/20 and 10/4 in SR with SR Parks and Rec. We did a Wright District Family Ride on 9/23 and we did 2 periods of Street Skills Middle School education with the 6th grades at SR Charter Arts.
 - vi. The Wright Dist Family Ride can happen in other districts as well if there's interest. Bikeable SR has some great family rides as well. It's great to share and communicate these wonderful opportunities for families to get on bike.
- j. Int'l Walk and Roll to School Day is our launch encouragement event of the year (*Slide 8*). We held it on Wed Oct. 4. 21 schools in Santa Rosa participated and over 30% of students enrolled walked or rolled to school that day. It was a good turn-out, more than double the number of students who typically walk or roll.
- k. We are in the midst of our October Walk and Roll to Anywhere Challenge (*Slide 9*). Any school, teacher or parent can encourage their student to track if they walked, scootered, skated or biked to school or anywhere during the month of October and they can turn the sheet into their school and then the school can turn those tracking sheets in to us and they will be entered into a county-wide drawing.
- l. Our November Walk and Roll event is Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day, which takes place on Tue. 11/14 or another day that the school chooses (*Slide 10*). Registration takes place with AAA as they are the national sponsor; they send registered schools a swag kit with stuff to give away on the day and to honor Ruby Bridges and to highlight equity and diversity. There are still plenty of kits left, so if there is a school in your district that you'd like to see participate, they can still register and participate and receive a swag kit. A lot of schools in Santa Rosa are registered: Biella, Binkley, Cesar Chavez, Helen Lehman, Hidden Valley, Jack London, JX Wilson, Manzanita, Monroe, Proctor Terrace, RL Stevens, SR Charter Arts, SR French American Charter, Schaefer, Sequoia, Spring Lake, Strawberry, Steele Lane and Village.

- m. The Ruby Bridges Bingo Challenge takes place in November (*Slide 11*). For each square you can learn something about Civil Rights icon Ruby Bridges, or about being safe and seen while walking/biking to school. There is curriculum available on our website, there is a Day of Dialogue guide for teachers. We hope schools celebrate Walk/Roll and also take the opportunity to educate about being visible and safe as well as learning about Ruby Bridges, diversity and equity. There is a website we created that is linked to our website that has a lot of curriculum and resources on it.
- n. Our educational PSA for this month is “Be Bright, Be Seen, Be Visible”. If you can share it out, that would be wonderful. If the Police Department can share it out, that would be great. (*Slide 12*)
- o. Another thing to know about are the Santa Rosa Community Improvement Grants (*Slide 13*) (*This item begins at [26:14](#) on the video recording*) that are happening now and cycling quarterly. This is different from the last round that we communicated about. The application is available now and due January 2nd. The types of projects could be physical construction or improvements, things like murals or benches or public art, park improvements, or repairs, community clean ups, tree planting, graffiti removal, creek clean ups, school service projects, signage, neighborhood gardens, anything that creates or enhances a sense of community in or among individuals in a regional area within a group that shares a common interest. The grants are for up to \$2500 and this could be a great thing to do for supporting a SRTS project at your school or something else that is of interest.
- p. The next Task Force meeting is on Dec. 1, at Santa Rosa City District office and there will be a Zoom option that will be worked out with the district beforehand. (*Slide 14*) (*This item begins at [27:33](#) on the zoom recording*). We hope to continue with the Task Force in Jan or early Feb. There have been requests for this meeting to be later in the day, at 4pm perhaps. Christina wonders if districts can support a 4pm mtg and this may depend on the date. If we continue with the similar scheduling, the next meeting would be Thu. 1/25, either at 10:30am or 4pm, We can host that all-city meeting at SCTA and then we can decide in Dec or Jan how we want to go forward with rotating districts who host. Christina will send emails to all her district contacts with these questions. Both Amy and Patty indicated that they are open to whatever and glad to host, and 4pm should work fine.

3. **City of Santa Rosa Active Transportation Update (Alexander Oceguera)**

(*This item begins at [4: 65](#) on the video recording*)

(*PowerPoint slides included in notes packet*)

- a. Alexander said that he is giving an active transportation update for what is going on in this district focus area of concern. (*Slide 1*)
- b. Some of the projects we have in this area are the Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) (*Slide 2*). These help to clue in drivers and

- pedestrians with the flashing lights, supposed to give awareness to the crosswalk and hopefully prevent potential collisions.
- i. There is an RRFB installed at Sierra Creek Lane/Hoen Ave and we added curb ramps as well. This was installed late in the past summer.
 - ii. Winter locations for RRFBs are at Montgomery/Franquette and at Summerfield Rd/Parktrail Dr.
- c. Bike Lane Improvements that will be coming up in the near future (*Slide 3*):
- i. Class II bike lanes (normal one-stripe bike lane) on Montgomery Dr from Santa Rosa Creek to Hahman Dr. There are more than these two projects going on city-wide but focus on these because they are in this council district area. There were some contractor delays, so we had to winterize these projects and we're trying to get the contractor to move forward. We hope to get both of these projects done in late spring/next summer.
 - ii. Class IIB bike lanes which are buffered bike lanes with extra striped areas that give bikes more room and also help shorten a crossing distance for pedestrians. There's plenty of benefits for these. They also help to slow down speeds and they are a road diet. This will be on Sonoma Ave from E Street to Bobelaine, in front of SR French American Charter.
- d. Working on the Active Transportation Plan (ATP) (*Slide 4*) which will help us to identify safe routes to school potentially, our active transportation network, connect this network and create a mobility network for all ages and abilities (kids, older adults, drivers, everybody, try to help promote slowing speeds and identify how to connect the network in a feasible way that is beneficial to everyone.
- i. Currently working on visioning and goals. To be a part of the process, look for the Bike and Ped advisory board mtgs that are posted on the City Website. You can help identify areas where we might put in a bike lane or a buffered bike lane or a Class IV protected bike lane, like on Armory Drive, where there are vertical barriers between vehicles and cyclists. These meetings are hybrid, both on-line and in-person.
 - ii. We have an Active Transportation webpage where there are updates as well.
 - iii. Christina said that we can send our school contacts info on how to engage with the ATP, like sharing the website and survey, and schools can share with their community. People can come to this meeting and share concerns and we can record those and include them.
- e. Caltrans District 4 Bike Plan Update (*Slide 5*)
<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/cf99ad51e5404c548b2cdbc635a44f5c/>

- i. As a good portion of this City Council district is surrounded by Hwy 12, the Caltrans District 4 Bike plan update is underway and this is a chance for community to take survey and suggest improvements and give input for the areas around Farmer's Lane and/or Hwy 12, there's at least one school on Hwy 12 past Mission. You can go to the link or do a search for the survey. There is a map where you can put a waymark and add your comments/suggestions, for example, if there is a connection missing like getting across Farmer's Lane or Sonoma Ave
 - ii. Alexa thanked Alexander for the good work and asked is the whole stretch of Hwy 12 all state controlled? Alexander said the only thing the City helps coordinate is signal timing/signal heads on Hwy 12. Alexa said she had read comments from parents in those areas saying there are not complete sidewalks, and Alexander said those requests would have to go to Caltrans.
 - iii. Christina reiterated that schools sharing these survey opportunities is very helpful for making changes. If a whole bunch of parents/people fill out the survey and provide input, Caltrans will notice that. Please get the word out.
- f. Alexander mentioned that these SRTS Task Force meetings are very fruitful. In the last meeting, someone mentioned that many students from Roseland Elem cross Sebastopol Rd. to the new Boys and Girls Club and because of that conversation, the crossing will be reorganized and implemented so that there will be a west-side crossing. In-house crew is working towards setting up a plan to install this crossing. Alexander encourages everyone to continue sharing their thoughts and ideas as the City does not know everything and the community is eyes and ears for everything that is going on.

4. Santa Rosa Police Department Enforcement Update (*Sergeant Summer Gloeckner*)

(This item begins at [63:56](#) on the video recording)

- a. Summer said that Walk/Roll Days are always fun and a big success, love being out there with the kids. The PD is always happy to participate in events like that.
- b. PD gets a lot of complaints about enforcement when school is in session. There are 5 motor officers and 4 accident investigators, the accident investigators work mostly in the evenings as they focus on collisions and DUIs. With the 5 motors for a city of our size, we are stretched thin, but we are committed to hotspots, those places where we get a lot of complaints, and Rincon Valley is at the top of the list. The 5 motors try to do extra enforcement at those areas for 2 days/week in the mornings during drop-off. This doesn't always work out as planned but we are out there trying to do what we can with limited resources. For a specific complaint, you can contact Summer or Josh.

- c. PD has created an in-house dashboard for neighborhood/traffic complaints for officers to be more organized to address these complaints. These complaints can be input and sent to officer who works that area, have them document it and what they did to address it. We'll have a more consistent response.
- d. Summer is available for any questions and concerns. She will find the answer if she doesn't have it herself. She said that the Chief's priority is traffic with our city size expanding and the number of schools.
- e. Christina asked when we schedule Walking Audits, we schedule them during school drop-off/pickup times and we would love to have an officer at these. We invited an officer to the Sequoia walking audit but they were unable to show up.
 - i. Summer said they would be glad to help at these and to contact herself and Officer Josh Mederios and they could help coordinate an officer being there. It's great to get advance notice. Christina said that there are often enforcement concerns raised at these audits.
- f. Alexa thanked for the update and asked about the rights that people on bikes have to a clear bike lane. There are often delivery vans and trash cans in the bike lanes and it is a safety concern for parents when our kids are biking and come across obstacles in the bike lane. Are delivery vans allowed to block bike lanes?
 - i. Summer responded that she's not sure if parking in bike lane for short times is illegal or not, it may be a loading zone type situation, stopping for a short time when they're dropping things off). There is no communication from PD to people whose cans are in the bike lane. Summer suggested teaching kids to obey the rules of traffic and follow same rules as vehicles. PD would not site a bicyclist moving over to avoid a trash can. Alexa said that if trash cans were regularly placed in car lane, they may be sited. She suggested that complaints about trash/garbage cans in bike lanes could be a complaint to Recology for those people who consistently put their cans in the bike lane.
 - ii. Christina suggested that the Bike Coalition could communicate with Recology about siting people for putting cans in bike lane. She also suggested that the PD share out the Bike Coalition's new PSA on not blocking the bike lane. Here is the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QP6FAYw2jd8>
Summer said that they have a new Police Information Officer, Heidi Steffens, and she can put that kind of information out. Christina suggested maybe other City agencies can share as well.

5. District/site SRTS issues, concerns & opportunities

(This item begins at [73:23](#) on the video recording)

- a. Patty Turner said that she has nothing specific, and will let principals know about the new process for walking audits.

- b. Amy Jones said that she appreciates this Task Force ([51:44](#)). Our schools like to walk/bike/scooter and skate to school and she appreciated the Sequoia Walking Audit. She also appreciates the SRPD who really showed up for our Walk/Roll to School Days, there were officers taking pictures with kids. Thank you for the snapshots and Amy sees that one of their schools has not opted in and hopes they will. There is a new crossing guard at the middle school. She appreciates City of SR changing lights for crosswalks that are flashing. She sees the improvements going on that makes things safer. Her biggest apprehension is the new development that is slated to open next school year, near Sequoia, there should be 90 new students coming in through high school. She'll work with the housing development and the City on how students are travelling to school and crossing the street. Also, the school district has growing enrollment which increases the numbers walking and also traffic. She wants to keep the partnership going for the safety of all the students.
- c. Lori O'Conner added that they have a student who has had a lot of school avoidance this year and the Walk/Roll Day inspired her to come to school. She said she'd love to see Walk/Roll once a week and Christina said that there are schools that do weekly Walk/Roll days and that can definitely happen if there's desire at school sites. There have been studies that show that attendance goes up on Walk/Roll days with Walking School Buses and other organized events. Amy said that she and Lori are adding this information to their Leadership meetings, the process for Walking Audits, the grant info, etc.
- d. Patty asked if the notes and presentation for this meeting will be available. Christina said that all of the links to the presentations and handouts as well as the meeting notes will be sent out and posted on the sonomasaferroutes website.
- e. Christina read an email comment from Sabrina Bellinger, a parent at Austin Creek ([78:42](#)): *We need additional ramps for people with strollers or bicycles to enter Austin Creek. Currently if you want to enter the school from the northwest side, there are no ramps or open gates for bicycles. Many students are coming from that direction and have to cross the drop off traffic at the top of the stairs (or worse go down the drop off entrance on the street). There is no path for strollers and bikes coming in from the field side of the school. This is where we have sidewalks and bike paths and then no entrance to the school that accommodates wheels. Thank you.*
 - i. Amy thanked Sabrina and said she hadn't heard of this and it is good to get these things directly so that they can do something about it to make it safer and the Director of Maintenance is here as well. Both Christina and Amy reiterated that parents are welcome to bring these things to the Task Force but they can also go directly to their principal or superintendent.
- f. Elizabeth Crane ([79:67](#)) thanked Christina and SRTS Task Force for organizing the Sequoia Walk Audit. She is interested in seeing the internal

tracking document to see what happens with all the suggestions that came through in the walk audit. She did see that the curbs were painted red by the Merit crosswalk and another crosswalk so views were not blocked by cars. Elizabeth is still very concerned about Calistoga Rd which will be repaved in the future so this is limiting what can be done. There are still cars stopping in crosswalk, turning right through the crosswalk, could the lower hanging fruit projects be done or when could those be done? She is curious with timing to prioritize safety, similar to what Alexa said. She's seen that the City sees Calistoga Rd as a major thoroughfare from SR to Calistoga and City seems to be reluctant to lower speed and traffic for fear traffic would go through neighborhoods and other streets. The people who live on Calistoga Rd want it to be safe. She asked what is the process to decide what type of bike lanes go on Calistoga Rd when it does get repaved, she'd like to see Class IV level bike lanes that visually slow down traffic through that area. She would like to know any updates on timelines for these projects, knows it's dependent on timing. She said a lot of SRTS info does come from Sequoia Elem to parents, like this Task Force meeting, but some other resources aren't shared like the October Challenge and November Challenge. She likes the idea of taking pictures of people coming to school walking/rolling in their winter gear and posting those would be cool and inspiring. She's hopeful that changes will be made to make Calistoga Rd safer and that the safety piece is a focus, not just the through traffic speed.

- i. Alexander responded that there is no update on Calistoga Rd, but he can give an update when he checks in with Mike, the traffic engineer and his progress on certain things but Calistoga Rd is years out. But if we add things like this to our ATP, putting in Class IVs, this will give more of an emphasis to get things going as developments happen. We've had internal conversations about putting in more Class IVs but they are dependent on funding. We need the input in our ATP.
 - ii. Christina said to acknowledge that continuing to have this forum where we have opportunities to share feedback. There will be a survey for the ATP and a map. We want schools to hear about it and share with their parents. When it is time to do the repaving on Calistoga Rd, we want the support and voices from the parents who live there for the Class IV bike lanes or even Class II, so that if people who are scared about traffic slowing down are not the loudest voices.
- g. Alexa ([32654](#)) is concerned about the housing development going in and she's excited about it as it is much needed but she hasn't heard of any increased bus coverage or bike lanes going in and there will be a lot more traffic on the roads around there, on 12, on Melita, on Montgomery and this could be a danger for kids walking/biking to school. She suggests working with City Bus as new developments going in. Alexa brought up the idea of raised bike lanes imagining them at Village, they are basically

expanded sidewalks out into where the parked cars are now and the sidewalk would be split between walking and biking, and parked cars would be on the other side, this is not taking up more space, just shifting the way space is used. As things stand now, she does not let her kid ride in the bike lane during drop-off and pick up time with all the people and cars crossing and the car doors opening and closing. This is a potential solution for principals to advocate for in front of their schools.

- i. Christina asked would something like this be a City project or school district project? Alexander said that it depends and would think it would have to be a partnership b/w City and schools. The schools could give up some land to make a bigger sidewalk potentially or if the curb was extended going out, this would probably be a lot more money, and there would be more engineering considerations like drainage. It's a great idea and would have to involve a lot of coordinating and planning.
 - ii. Patty said that she is concerned that kids walking to be picked up could be hit by a bicyclist. She doesn't want to see creating one problem by solving another.
 - iii. Chris Guenther said it's a fair concern and that bicyclists deal with this travelling in bike lanes.
 - iv. Alexa said that she's seen these at work in Boston. Christina said that this would be a good idea for a future meeting to present about things like these and other traffic calming measures. This could be a forum for educating all of us on what kind of potential solutions are possible.
- h. Brendan Connors asked about changing meeting time for future meetings. Christina said that the Dec mtg is set for 10:30am, but we were talking about moving the time forward for the 2024 meetings; Amy/Patty are both open to 4pm mtg on Jan. 25th, but Christina needs to check in with other district. Brendan votes for 4pm as his wife teaches at Montgomery and she is a bike commuter would love to be more involved with this. Christina said that we will work on finding out if 4pm works for other school districts.
- i. Tom Hammond ([33446](#)) reiterated that more education on what calms traffic would be super helpful. He also suggested that a simple way to get data is to count the number of bikes in the bike rack each morning, usually there are somewhere b/w 5-20; this would be way to get census data for a couple of weeks or a month. He said that more publicity for these Task Force meetings would be helpful.
- i. Christina said that the process for publicizing these meetings is we create a notice in Eng and Esp and we send these to our school principals and champions and ask them to share in the best way they can, Parent Square or newsletters. We also post on our website, but it is a bit hidden. We are dependent on our school partners to share info and please let Christina know if there are other people at the schools that it would be good to share with, like PTA reps, etc. as schools have a lot to juggle with communications.

- ii. Alexa said that Bikeable Santa Rosa has been advertising these meetings on their Facebook site and newsletter. She suggested going to the website to sign up for the newsletter: www.bikeablesantarosa.org and or look for them on Facebook.
 - iii. Christina can ask PD and City to publicize and share these meeting notices as well.
- j. Laurel Chambers said that DHS is excited to be part of the upcoming Walk Audit at Wright Charter and help out. The program that she represents is the CalFresh Healthy Living program and there may be other support we can provide to eligible low income schools. She also represents the Vision Zero coalition as well.
- k. Meg Canalida (~~3-38-69~~) moved to SR in 2020, and has been here 3 years. Since I've moved here, I was in a collision on Cleveland Ave by the Family Resource Center. She sees the same problem at exit and entrance of Village, where you can only turn left on Yulupa. She almost hit a pedestrian on the sidewalk. She'd love to be involved in the survey. There was a memo from Rebecca, office manager about drop-off and pick up and the process. She has social anxiety around dropping off and picking up her child as well as driving and as a parent of an only child in 2nd grade with more years ahead of us, she'd like to be involved in the community. We want our children to be able to be empowered and independent in walking/biking to school. There should be more direct visuals about where to drive so that pedestrians are not endangered.
 - i. Amy thanked Meg and said that she will meet with the Village principal and the director of maintenance to review the flow of traffic around the school. Alexander offered help from the City to look at the flow of traffic.
 - ii. Christina said we could perhaps do a Walking Audit at Village and Amy said that is on her list. Christina said in terms of attendees on a Walking Audit, the principal, the director of maintenance and a couple of involved parents but not opening it to the general public.

6. Other Business & Announcements

(This item begins at ~~3:43:33~~ on the video recording)

- a. Christina shared the SRTS Website to find the Task Force info and where to find challenges. On the home page at the top of the page, we have the current monthly theme and challenge, for our school reps/champs, we have all the resources for sharing the monthly challenge like fliers/Instagram ads/tally sheets, etc. We will put Ruby Bridges at the top in November but you can scroll down to find it for now. For the Task Force info, look under Events and News, there is a Task Force tab and under the Santa Rosa page, we have posted all of the info for each meeting: mtg notes, presentations, handouts, recordings, etc.
- b. Christina will be on vacation next week and will be back on Nov. 7th, so there will be a delay in the notes coming out, they should be out on Nov.

10th, and she will update the Website with info on how to request a Walking Audit

- 7. Next Meeting & Adjournment--*The next meeting of the Santa Rosa Safe Routes to School Task Force is scheduled for Friday December 1st, 10:30am, at the Santa Rosa City School District (211 Ridgeway Ave in the Board Room), with a focus on the Central and Northwest Santa Rosa area, but anyone is welcome. This will be a hybrid meeting with the zoom link forthcoming.***

**Public comment on items not on the agenda. Please limit comments to 2 minutes each. The Committee will hear public comments on non-agenda issues for up to 10 minutes, at which time they will hear scheduled agenda items. Any additional public comments will be heard at the conclusion of the items that are already on the agenda, if time permits. Comments may also be emailed pre- or post-meeting to Christina Panza, SRTS Director & Task Force Facilitator at christina@bikesonoma.org*