

Santa Rosa Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Task Force

Rincon Valley Union School District 1000 Yulupa Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95405 April 26th, 2023, 11:00am-12:00pm

<u>Members</u>

Christina Panza	Director, Safe Routes to Schools &	Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition
	Education	
Sarah Hadler	Safe Routes to School	Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition
	Education/Encouragement Program	
	Manager	
Alexander Oceguera	Active Transportation Planner	City of Santa Rosa
Laurel Chambers	Healthy Eating, Active Living	Sonoma County Department of Health
	Coordinator	Services; Public Health Division
Joshua Medeiros	Traffic Sergeant	Santa Rosa Police Department
Lexie Cala	Superintendent	Bennett Valley Union School District
Steve Charbonneau	Superintendent	Piner-Olivet Union School District
Michael Kellison	Superintendent	Bellevue Union School District
Lisa Saxon	Superintendent	Wright School District
Tracy Smith	Superintendent	Rincon Valley Union School District
Simone Reed	Executive Assistant to Superintendent	Rincon Valley Union School District
Erik Oden	Director, Maintenance and Operations	Santa Rosa City School District
Patricia Turner	Director of Risk Management	Santa Rosa City School District

Additional Task Force Members in contact but unable to attend: Anna Trunnell, Superintendent, Santa Rosa City School District; Laurie Biggers, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Roseland School District

Additional Attendees: None at this time: initial meeting of Task Force leadership only

Meeting Goals:

- Report on status Safe Routes to School Program and Projects in the City of Santa Rosa
- Enable district representatives to share issues & concerns re: Safe Routes to School
- Establish an agreed upon structure & schedule for ongoing a Santa Rosa SRTS Task Force

NOTES ON AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Outline goals/objectives for creation of ongoing SRTS Task Force (Christina)

- **a.** Christina (with the support of Tracy Smith) invited District Leadership to this first meeting, to share information about SRTS programs and projects in the city of Santa Rosa, and to determine the best path forward for an ongoing, collaborative Task Force.
- **b.** A SRTS Task force is a backbone of SRTS Programs in other counties (ex: Marin); purpose is to bring together various stakeholders for communication; task force is a vehicle for the greater community to identify/prioritize infrastructure projects (i.e. bike

lanes, sidewalks, crosswalks, etc) as well as programming (i.e. education, enforcement).

- **c.** Christina has been with the SRTS program for 15 years and it has become evident over time that we need this SRTS task force to engage various stakeholders (including parents), facilitate collaboration between schools, school districts, and the city, and better facilitate identification and prioritization of projects.
- **d.** Santa Rosa is challenging in terms of Task Force structure, because of its size and number of school districts, but Christina hopes we can structure a Task Force that will achieve the above goals.
- **e.** At the end of the meeting, Christina would like to discuss how we can best the Task Force to be useful and productive.

2. Update on school participation in SRTS (Christina):

(PowerPoint slides included in notes packet)

- **a.** Christina indicated that she will be sharing information about the County SRTS noninfrastructure (education/encouragement/evaluation) program and noted that "SRTS" as a whole also includes engineering and enforcement implemented by City Public Works and the Santa Rosa Police Department.
- **b.** Christina shared that the County SRTS program is funded through the One Bay Area Grant (OBAG), via the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTC), and is administered by the Sonoma County Transportation Authority, and implemented by the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition. OBAG funds are actually federal funds and originate with the Federal Transportation Bill.
- **c.** Christina mentioned that SRTS programs are effective and shared a slide re: the benefits of SRTS; a NY study found traffic safety is improved; more families being active, cleaner air, less crime, etc.
- d. Christina shared a slide showing Santa Rosa School participation in the SRTS Program. Currently, 19 schools in the city of Santa Rosa and 3 in unincorporated Santa Rosa participate. Schools need to apply each year b/w March and mid-May. Each school's program is customized based on our capacity and the school's needs.
- e. All schools agree to collect data, which is helpful for the program, the school and the city. Teachers take student arrival/departure tally data to provide a snapshot of how students get to and from school (see bar graph on slide). The SRTS program also collects student addresses (no names) from participating schools or districts to develop GIS student address maps that display the number/% of students who live within ¼, ½, 1 and 2 miles of the school. The tally and GIS map data help us determine potential for mode shift, viable meet up spots for Walking School Buses and/or Bike Trains, and provide insight into where infrastructure improvements might have the greatest impact. We would love to collect address data for all schools in Sonoma County to be able to provide each city with more comprehensive GIS maps. We have an MOU with the Santa Rosa City School District to provide addresses each year and would love to develop similar MOU's with every school district in Santa Rosa and the county.
- f. This Spring, we will be distributing a parent "Safe Streets for All" survey and will not be conducting student arrival/departure tallies. Responses to the parent survey will provide both the SRTS program and each jurisdiction with data about student/parent travel behavior, barriers to active transportation, and specific information about preferred routes and/or routes/areas that need improvement in the vicinity of schools. We would love District cooperation to share this survey to parents at schools that are not enrolled in the SRTS program.
- **g.** Christina shared several slides on program encouragement and education services Walk/Roll events & challenges, elementary education, middle school education, the

Bikemobile, community education, and other program services. She mentioned that it is always beneficial for school districts share info with their school communities when there is an SRTS initiative that can be accessed by any student or parent regardless of school engagement, such as one of our Challenges or Community workshops.

h. Christina finally shared a slide highlighting opportunity for school districts to engage with the SRTS program, emphasizing her hope that districts will continue to engage with an ongoing Task Force, encourage schools to enroll in the program, and help facilitate data collection in the form of addresses for GIS maps and sharing of parent surveys.

3. Active Transportation Plan infrastructure update (Alexander Oceguera/City of Santa Rosa)

(PowerPoint slides and corresponding handout included in notes packet)

- **a.** Alexander shared the goal that City of SR is looking to partner with Schools to better understand our transportation issues and what we can do together to help mitigate collisions in and around schools to promote active modes of transportation.
- **b.** Alexander shared and provided a handout of the list of upcoming projects to install 9 Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB's) within the city to improve safety of crossings (see handout).
- **c.** He also shared the list of bicycle lanes to be built through 2023; 3.67 bicycle miles. (see handout)
- **d.** Next, Alexander shared that the city is currently undergoing an update to their Bike and Pedestrian Master plan. This process will include:
 - i. A focus on schools and Safe Routes to Schools (i.e., Task Force)
 - ii. Education
 - iii. Live demonstrations at schools—where the city will go out and build temporary projects to demonstrate what different infrastructure would look like and feel like (ex. separated bike lanes on Sebastopol Rd in front of Cesar Chavez Language Academy)
 - iv. School Data; from SRTS tallies, GIS maps, parent surveys
- e. Alexander shared that the county and city adopted a Vision Zero plan. The Goal is to reach zero traffic deaths/severe collisions by 2030; (see handout); the Vision Zero implementation plan is available <u>online HERE</u>.
- **f.** Alexander also shared that Equity Priority Communities (EPC) are a focus, and the city will engage and educate that community, find funding for projects to enhance bike/ped facilities in EPC areas, and make active modes of transportation accessible in those areas.
- **g.** Alexander emphasized that the city wants to partner and work together with school districts; we are all part of the same team.
- h. Tracy Smith mentioned that a safety meeting between the city and RVUSD was held in Rincon Valley district on March 15 because there had been several recent collisions involving youth in the district, and parents needed a place to share their concerns and get involved. Tracy expressed that this type of "touchpoint" meeting is very helpful and empowering for people to come together and voice their opinions and hear what is being done (she has seen the SRTS Task Force meetings function in a similar way in Marin County).

4. District/site SRTS concerns

a. Lisa Saxon shared that one of her sites, Wright Charter, is in unincorporated Santa Rosa and asked who she should reach out to start a conversation for a new crosswalk and RRFB at S. Wright Rd and Price Ave. Christina said she will connect Lisa with her contacts at county Transportation and Public Works. Christina said that the SRTS program is able to support schools in potentially getting pictures and counts of students walking/biking, if needed, to document a location of concern. Lisa also mentioned that she would really like school bus drivers to get educated about driving around students who are walking and biking.

- b. Steve Charbonneau expressed that schools in Piner Olivet School District have not participated in SRTS programming because ~20 years ago, the county issued a study essentially stating that students should not bicycle to the Jack London Elementary School Campus.
- c. Michael Kellison, Bellevue superintendent, asked what the channels are for advocacy for infrastructure projects that the community feels strongly about (parents with petitions)? This has been a stumbling block for him. He shared that on Santa Rosa Ave, near Smart and Final, there is major construction of new apartment buildings, and there is no safe place to cross. He indicated that even with a RRFB, he cannot in good faith encourage students to walk to school and cross Santa Rosa Ave. Alexander said that Michael can reach out directly to himself or Rob Sprinkle at City of SR when/if he has a concern or project he would like to advocate for. Alexander also mentioned that the city is in the process of converting some pedestrian flashers in Santa Rosa to a HAWK Beacon signal, like the one on Mendocino Ave, by the Junior College.
- d. Alexander mentioned that implementation of infrastructure projects is mostly dependent on grant funding. Projects can also be funded when an area of concern comes up and is already encompassed by an area that already has funding (also called slurry projects). Alexander indicated that it seems like there may be increasing opportunities via the state of California to fund Active Transportation projects. Projects do need to be identified, prioritized and included in a plan, so when funding does become available, they have a better chance of being funded and built.
- e. Lisa Saxon shared that it seems like infrastructure projects take a while to happen but when someone gets injured, things can happen really quickly. Alexander said that he is hoping that going forward, there is more funding and accountability for getting projects completed.
- f. Laurel Chambers shared that only a tiny percentage (4%?) of the transportation budget (in California?) is earmarked for Active Transportation projects (vs. highways, etc). Basically, active transportation projects are woefully underfunded. However, she also believes things are changing from multiple angles, as housing and climate concerns are coming to the forefront. Federal Grant programs such as the new Safe Streets for All Program could be helpful as the county and city continue to work toward obtaining funding for local projects. Having better data helps to advocate for projects and shines a light onto areas where there have been close calls/hazardous areas.
- g. Alexander mentioned a new California law that was recently passed AB43 which could make it easier to lower speed limits. The city has been looking at areas where speed limits can potentially be reduced, beginning with the downtown corridor. This new process may enable cities to lower speed limits without undergoing traffic and engineering surveys. Information about this process is still developing.
- h. Tracy Smith asked if there could be a consideration of active transportation in the new Bellevue apartment construction plan.
- i. Michael Kellison asked Josh Medeiros from SRPD, about the homeless encampments that pop up on sidewalks, which force students/parents to walk on the street to avoid them. Josh said that although it is against the law to impede sidewalks, there are other laws that state that unhoused people cannot be moved until they are provided services through Catholic Charities, which becomes a multi-day process.

Josh recommended that Michael notify the SRPD so the SRPD can be aware of the situation. Josh said the more calls that are made, the better.

j. Lexie Cala shared that she would love to see a coordinated effort around crossing guards and thinks there is a shared opportunity there. She believes parents would be more apt to allow especially younger students to walk to school if more crossing guards were present. Christina mentioned that in Marin County, crossing guards (at least some) are funded through a county transportation tax. However, in Sonoma County, we have not funded crossing guards through our transportation tax, but perhaps opportunities could continue to be discussed/brainstormed in this forum.

5. Schedule & location(s) for future meeting(s)

(Proposal included in notes handout)

- a. Christina shared a proposal for how to schedule and organize future Santa Rosa SRTS Task Force meetings (see attached proposal)
- b. She explained that she felt it would be beneficial to gather in an "all district/city" format three times per year – beginning next August. At all city meetings, Task Force members, including Christina, the city, law enforcement, and school districts, could share relevant information and connect with one another. This would be a public meeting that parents and elected officials or other stakeholders would be invited to as well.
- c. She also proposed dividing the city into three focus areas, organized by City Council District locations (and by school district to some extent), and having Focus area meetings twice a year. At those meetings, the emphasis would be on the city sharing information re: upcoming infrastructure plans or projects, and participants (district staff, school staff, or parents) identifying and prioritizing infrastructure concerns in those areas.
- d. Proposed schedule for Fall: August, All City Launch, September, Southwest Santa Rosa, October: East Santa Rosa, November: Central and Southwest Santa Rosa. In December (or January), another all-city gathering, then repeat focus area meetings again in Jan (or February)-March.
- e. Christina mentioned that the Mark West School District and Wright Charter School are in unincorporated Santa Rosa, and she proposed that unincorporated schools be covered through another forum, since projects for those schools would be under the jurisdiction of county public works and CHP/the sheriff, not the City of Santa Rosa/SRPD. However, Superintendents can certainly reach out to Christina or directly to County Public works staff if they have concerns about those sites.
- f. Christina requested district hosts for the Sept-November meetings. Michael Kellison/Bellevue District can host in Sept, Tracy Smith/RVUSD will host in Oct, and Santa Rosa City Schools can host in November.
- g. Christina will work on finding a location/host for the all-city meeting. Patty Turner mentioned that Santa Rosa City School Board meetings are held in the Santa Rosa City Council Chambers. This could be a possibility, but Christina will look into other options.
- h. Christina shared that she looked into several ways to break up the "focus areas" but these three areas felt like it was the most balanced with the least amount of "breaking up" of school districts.
- i. Patty Turner shared that sharing concerns about our particular school districts and specific areas next to our schools can be pretty effective if we attend the focus area mtgs.
- j. Christina said that continuous Task Forces can be a way to engage parents in sharing concerns, and to engage them in the Safe Routes to School program initiatives as a whole.

- k. Lexie Cala, Bennett Valley, mentioned that parents who attend could potentially be identified as SRTS advocates, and be a point person for issues at that school.
- Christina mentioned that she is working on creating a similar Task Force in the City of Petaluma, and that she has seen what Lexie mentioned in action. One of the parents who attended a working group meeting in Petaluma because of his interest in improving infrastructure is now organizing Bike Trains to his school in Petaluma.
- m. Christina clarified that her role will be to facilitate the Task Force, work with the city, Police Departments and SRPD to create each agenda, generate meeting notes, etc. She has gotten permission from the Sonoma County Transportation Authority to run this Task Force for at least the 2023-24 school year, and hopefully beyond that if it is a successful collaboration.
- n. Lisa Saxon said that inherent in the name of "Task Force", there is need for follow up and someone to be a liaison for ideas to go to projects. Christina said that she would take on that role and be the liaison to make sure there is follow through.
- o. Lexie Cala, Bennett Valley super, wondered if we could have someone from the Marin SRTS Task Forces attend a meeting to help guide us in the process.
- p. Christina mentioned that there could be funding and opportunities down the road for School Districts or other agencies to apply for funds through transportation funding sources, and she hopes that working together could help capitalize on these opportunities.
- q. The group as a whole indicated that they approved of Christina's proposed meeting structure/plan.
- r. Patty Turner offered to help Christina check in with the City Hall contacts about using it as a possible location for the August meeting.

Next Steps:

- Christina to provide Lisa Saxon with contacts for County Transportation & Public Works to follow up on stated concerns
- Christina/Steve to follow up with County re: Piner-Olivet Study
- Christina to follow up with District Superintendents re: sharing our SRTS parent survey
- Christina to follow up with District Superintendents re: sharing of student addresses for creation of GIS maps for all schools in Santa Rosa
- Christina to determine date/time/location for August "all city" meeting, Patty to check with district/city re: possibly hosting
- Christina to coordinate with Bellevue, Rincon Valley Union School District, and Santa Rosa City Schools re: dates & times for Sept-November meetings

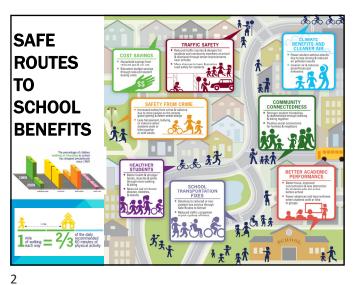
The Sonoma County Safe Routes to School Program is administered by the Sonoma County Transportation Authority and supported by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's One Bay Area Grant Program and the Measure M Transportation Tax



METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

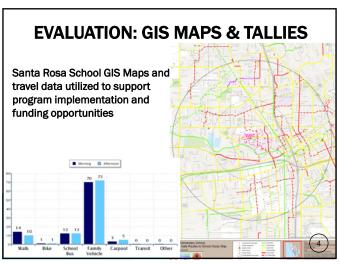






2023 ENROLLED, COMPREHENSIVE SITES

- Bellevue Union: n/a
- Bennett Valley Union: Strawberry Elementary
- Kenwood (unincorporated SR): n/a
- Rincon Valley Union: Binkley, Madrone, Manzanita, Sequoia, Spring Lake, Village, Whited
- Roseland: Sheppard Accelerated School
- Mark West Union (unincorporated SR): Mark West Elem, Mark West Charter
- Piner Olivet Union: n/a
- Santa Rosa City Elem/High: Cesar Chavez, Hidden Valley, Helen Lehman, Monroe, Proctor Terrace, Santa Rosa Charter School for the Arts, Santa Rosa French American Charter
- Wright District: JX Wilson, RL Stevens, Wright Charter



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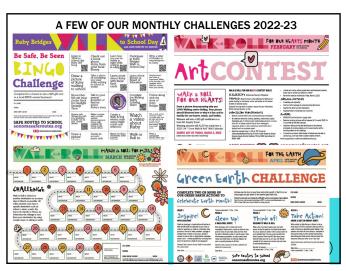






- Walk, Bike & Carpool to School Encouragement Support
 - Walk & Roll Events & Challenges
 Promotional Materials & incentives
- 4th Grade Bicycle "Rodeos"
- 2nd-5th Grade Classroom Bike/Ped Safety Lessons
- Middle School Bike Safety/Skill Lessons & Youth Engagement
- Community Education/Outreach/Facilitation
- Learn to Ride, Family Bike Workshops, Bike Camp & Rides, Bikemobile









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BAY AREA BIKEMOBILE PARTNERSHIP

- Binkley 9/14/22
- Strawberry 9/26/22
- Spring Lake 9/28/22
- RL Stevens 10/7/22
 Helen Lehman Elementary
- 10/25/22 • Santa Rosa Charter School
- Janua Rosa Unarter School for the Arts 11/17/22
 Wright Charter 2/20/23
- Santa Rosa Middle School – 11/30/22
- Mark West 2/1/23
 Monroe 3/29/23
- Proctor Terrace Elementary
 4/2/23





COMMUNITY/FAMILY EDUCATION

(14)

EDUCATIONAL PSA'S

YouTube: Sonoma County Safe Routes to School

- How to Lock Your Bike Properly
- Visibility While Riding a Bike
- Winter Weather Riding
- Parking & Walking to School
- Multi-Use Trail Etiquette
- How to Map Your Route to School using Google Maps
- 3 Feet: It's the Law



OPPORTUNITIES

- Safe Routes to School Task Force: Partner/Collaborate with City of Santa Rosa to identify and prioritize relevant projects and programs and identify funding opportunities
- Provide student addresses (no names) for GIS mapping (annually)
- Share SRTS Parent Survey

- Encourage School Principals, teachers, and or parents to Champion existing program
- Policies re: bicycle/pedestrian safety education or walk/bike encouragement
- Policies re: school siting, inter-district transfers

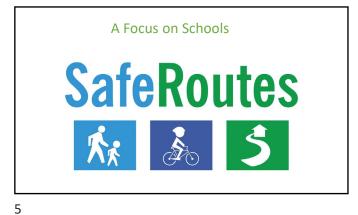


Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacon RRFB















Working Together to Build an Inclusive City

The City of Santa Rosa is looking to partner with Schools to better understand our transportation issues and what we can do together to help mitigate collisions in and around schools to promote Active modes of Transportation.

Projects

- Install 9 RRFB's Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon
 - District 1: Dutton Avenue/Funston Drive
 - District 2: Montgomery Drive/Franquette Avenue
 - District 3: Summerfield Road/Parktrail Drive
 - District 4: Mendocino Avenue/Howard Street
 - District 5: North Dutton Avenue/West Eighth Street
 - District 6: Cleveland Avenue/State Farm Drive
 - District 7: Sebastopol Road/Laurel Grove
 - District 2: Hoen Ave and Sierra Creek Ln
 - District 4: Steele and Meyers(or Service Ct)

Added Bicycle Lanes

3.67 bicycle miles

Bike Lanes to be Built out Year 2023

1. 4th St from E St to Hope St on the north side will be a class IV protected bike lane and Class II buffered bike lane on the southside.

2. 4th St from Hope St to Bryden Ln will be Class II buffered bike lane

3. Montgomery Dr will be class II bike lane from Hahman Dr west to the bridge past Sotoyome St

4. Mendocino Ave will be class II buffered bike lane from 4th St to 10th St

- 5. Mendocino Ave will be class II bike lane from 10th St to 265' north of College Ave
- 6. Healdsburg Ave will be class II buffered bike lane from 10th St to 8th St.
- 7. 7th St will have class II bike lane from B St to Mendocino Ave

8. 6th St will have class IV separated bike lane on the south side from Morgan St to A St. and will be class II bike lane on the north side.

9. 1St St will be class II buffered bike lane from B St west to the parking lot driveway for the Mall

10. 1st St will be class II bike lane on the north side from the driveway for the mall west to A St and class III on the south side

11. 1st St will be class II buffered bike lane on the south side from B St to Santa Rosa Ave and will not have bike lane on the north side.

12. A St will be class II buffered bike lane from 1st St to Sonoma Ave.

13. Santa Rosa Ave will be Class IV protected bike lane on the west side from 1st St to Sonoma Ave.

14. Armory Dr will be Class IV protected bike lane on the east side from Elliot Ave to Ridgway.

15. Santa Rosa Avenue from Sonoma Ave to Hwy 12

Bicycle and Pedestrian Master plan update

A focus on schools and Safe Routes to school

- Safe Routes task force
- Education
- Live demonstrations at schools
- Data

Vision Zero

- 1. Create Safe Speeds
- 2. Eliminate Impaired Driving
- 3. Create a Culture of Safety
- 4. Build Safe Streets for All
- 5. Make Vehicles Safer and Reduce Private Vehicle Use
- 6. Improve Data for Effective Decision Making

Equity Priority Communities

- Engage and educate the community
- Find funding for projects to enhance Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities in EPC areas
- Making Active modes of Transportation accessible

PROPOSED SRTS TASK FORCE MEETING SCHEDULE

(discussion item)

April 2023: School District Leadership Meeting launch

August 2023: ALL CITY/DISTRICT MEETING

<u>September 2023</u>: Focus Area: South/West Santa Rosa - City Council Districts 1 & 7 plus one school in district 2

- **5 schools in Roseland School District** (Roseland, Sheppard, RUP, RAMS, Roseland Creek)
- 3 schools in Bellevue School District (Meadowview, Taylor Mountain, Kawana Elem)
- 2 schools in Wright School District (JX Wilson, RL Stevens)
- 3 schools in Santa Rosa City School District (Cesar Chavez Language Academy, Elsie Allen, & Biella)

October 2023: Focus Area: East Santa Rosa - City Council Districts 2 & 3

- 8 schools in Rincon Valley School District (Spring Lake, Village, Manzanita, Binkley, Madrone, Whited, Sequoia, Austin Creek)
- 7 schools in Santa Rosa City School District (Slater, Brook Hill, French Charter, Montgomery, Maria Carillo, Rincon Valley Middle, SR Accelerated Charter,
- 2 schools in Bennett Valley School District (Strawberry, Yulupa)

November 2023: Focus Area Central/Northwest City Council Districts, 4, 5 & 6

- 5 schools in Piner Olivet School District (Jack London, POCS, Schaefer, Northwest Prep, Olivet)
- **13 Schools in Santa Rosa City School District** (Comstock, Kid Street Charter, Helen Lehman, Lincoln, Luther Burbank, Piner High School, Monroe Elem, Hidden Valley, Steele Lane, Proctor Terrace, SR Charter Arts, Santa Rosa High School, Ridgeway)

Unincorporated Santa Rosa Schools (inclusion TBD)

4 schools in Mark West Elementary School district (Mark West Elem, MW Charter, Riebli, San Miguel)- unincorporated SR
1 school in Bellevue School District (Bellevue) – unincorporated SR
1 school in Wright School District (Wright Charter) – unincorporated SR

January 2023 – ALL CITY/DISTRICT MEETING

February 2024 – Focus Area: City Council Districts 1 & 7

March 2024 – Focus Area: City Districts 2 & 3

April 2024 – Focus Area City Districts 4, 5 & 6, Unincorporated Santa Rosa

May 2024 - ALL CITY/DISTRICT MEETING

June-July (break or repeat focus areas)