



# Petaluma Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Task Force

## Minutes

**Date/Time:** Thursday September 19th, 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. Introductions

- a. Bjorn Gripenburg, Active Transportation, Public Works, City of Petaluma
- b. Christina Panza, Director, SRTS/SCTA SRTS program
- c. Deb Fox, Climate Manager, City of Petaluma
- d. Jared Hall, Transit Manager, City of Petaluma
- e. Walt Spiller, Traffic Sergeant, City of Petaluma
- f. Jennifer Remmers-Wright, Blue Zones
- g. Justin Cutter, Parent at PPNS
- h. Nathan Spindel, Parent at Live Oak Charter
- i. Lee Hill, retired from PCS, note taker
- j. Robin Bisgaard, Parent at PPNS
- k. Dave Felix, Parent at McNear

#### 2. Partner Announcements

- a. **Safe Routes to School Program update:** 13 Schools participating this year so far. Some walk audits were done to look for barriers to safety. Some schools still need to be audited. There will be monthly themes to encourage walk/bike. Last school year 8,508 students were served county wide, 1675 served in Petaluma.
- b. **International Walk & Roll to School Day** – 10/9 There were 12 bike trains last year representing 6 schools.
- c. Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day – 11/14
- d. City of Petaluma (public works, transit, police)
  - i. Jared Hall (transit) says they will be looking at Bus Stop improvements. Free fares continuing. There is a new service called “Luma Go” and there is an app on the phone for it. The city has brought back some routes that cover eastside schools.
  - ii. Sgt Spiller, Petaluma PD. City is wrapping up a \$450K traffic Safety grant which made for a long year and a lot of extra work. Oct 1<sup>st</sup> starts a new grant (about half as much \$\$ as previous one). 70% will

be for anti DUI and general traffic safety including bikes. Another grant (\$200k) for a film project that will focus on drinking and driving. Its funding partially through the cannabis tax. It will include local TV commercials. Stay tuned more info coming. There were questions later addressed to Sgt Spiller regarding safety and legality of so called E-bikes that younger kids are riding, sometimes, 2 on a bike and often without helmets. Sgt. Spiller says they are really just electric motorcycles. There are regulations for e-bikes based on class (3 types). David mentioned that with proper training it could be positive for kids, giving them some sense of freedom. Sgt. Says the tech is faster than the regulations. More info on CHP website here: <https://www.chp.ca.gov/Programs-Services/Services-Information/Bike-and-Ped-Safety>

### 3. Site Assessment(s) Presentation

- a. **North Webster Audit (Petaluma Junior High, The Spring Hill School,**
  - i. Focus on N Webster. No crosswalks from N Webster to Howard St. on Bodega. No crosswalks at Western and Webster (?) Bantam Way is mostly car and bus traffic and fewer bikes. Bantam and Bodega have stop signs. Bodega needs traffic calming and bike/walk safety. Perhaps move up paving on Western. Or possibly do ramps/bulbouts/etc.
- b. **Valley Vista Elem:** Post site assessment report & school/community feedback: Review loading zones on N Webster, maybe use parking on church side of N Webster. Stop sign compliance at Valley Vista and Town View is not good.
- c. **McNear Elementary:** Post site assessment & school/community feedback: Perhaps an all way stop at I st. and Grant Ave. Busy and not many crosswalks. G St. Bulb outs and/or other speed reductions. Bjorn says re-striping is due on Sunnyslope in 2025. Flashing lights need replacement or repair. Potential for another crosswalk in front of McNear. Sgt Spillar says there is new state law (413) that requires a 20 foot red curb at crosswalks.
- d. **Petaluma Parent Nursery School:** Two parents from PPNS are concerned about an “uncontrolled crosswalk” at San Carlos and Madison St. They mentioned some “scary” and “startling” experiences with cars there. Christina said it’s in the report to work on. Perhaps early 2025. Parents really want something sooner. Bjorn will add to the list and parents can check back through the Safe Streets email.

### 4. Other SRTS issues, concerns & opportunities

- a. Bjorn mentioned that there was a Lynch Creek cleanup last weekend. Over 60 people doing maintenance and making it feel safer.

### 5. Next Meeting & adjournment

***The next meeting of the Petaluma Task Force is scheduled for Thursday, November 21st from 4:00-5:30pm at the Petaluma Community Center***