



Santa Rosa Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Task Force

Focus Area: South/West Santa Rosa (City Council Districts 1 & 7)

Meeting Notes of Wednesday, March 6, 2024

[You can view the 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
Summer Gloeckner	Sergeant, Traffic Division	Santa Rosa Police Dept
Michael Kellison	Superintendent	Bellevue Union School District
Patricia Turner	Director of Risk Management	Santa Rosa City School District

Additional Attendees via Teleconference: Dana Turrey (SCTA); Jessica Peterson (Safety Coordinator, Roseland School District); Amanda Bouillercce (Customer Service and Grants Program Manager, Sonoma County Public Infrastructure); Jean Walker (Principal, Meadow View Elementary); Nina Craig (Principal, Bellevue Elementary); Margaret Jacobson (Principal, Taylor Mountain Elementary)

Notes on Agenda items:

1. Introductions

(this item begins at [0:00](#) on the video recording)

- a. Christina welcomed everyone and introduced the members in attendance (see above); all members attending via teleconference introduced themselves. Christina said that she was glad to see the principals from the Bellevue Union School District as there will be items to discuss that impact that school district.

2. Partner Updates

- a. **Safe Routes to School Program (Christina Panza)**

(this item begins at [1:55](#) on the video recording)

(Powerpoint slides included in notes packet)

- i. Meadowview is the only school in the Bellevue Union School District that is enrolled in the SRTS non-infrastructure program but all schools in Santa Rosa are part of the SRTS program because we are looking to assess all the schools in Santa Rosa for barriers to walking and biking and that is what this Task Force is all about. Christina will be sharing what's going on this month, Feb/March in the SRTS World (*Slide 1*)
- ii. Christina recently attended a webinar on facilitating Walking Audits which is something we've been doing all over Santa Rosa and Petaluma to assess sites for walk and bikeability and what are the barriers to walking/biking. (*this item begins at [3:05](#) on the video recording; Slide 2*)
 - 1. Christina wanted to share an image from the webinar that is relevant to the Task Force. It's about the 3 Ps for Change, and is why this Task Force exists and why we are working so closely with the City now. SRTS is a program that is about encouraging more families to walk/bike and that type of change is not achievable just through programs like Walk/Roll. The training facilitator talked about how some things are easier to implement and some are more difficult but have greater impact. So at the top you see Programs, like Walk/Roll and Education programs, these are easier to implement and have impact but to get more families to easily walk and bike we also need change in infrastructure, Physical Projects, and we need supporting Policies—these can be city-wide or state-wide, like Complete Streets, or District policies about school siting, policies that allow students to transfer from school to school. All of these can impact how many students are walking/biking. These can be part of our conversation in the Task Force as we assess schools and think about what we can do as a city to impact change and make it easier for families to walk/bike.
- iii. This is where we are with Walk Audit/Site Assessments (*this item begins at [5:20](#) on the video recording; Slide 3*). At the last meeting, we talked about how the Walk Audit/Site Assessment Priority List process was created by the city using data from speeds, average daily traffic, number of major streets that one might cross, if streets crossed are part of the High Injury Network, and based off the % of students that receive free/reduced lunch. The city looked at all of the schools in Santa Rosa and prioritized them for Walking Audits. The list was shared at the last meeting and Christina printed them and handed them out and they will be included in the handouts for this meeting.
 - 1. Since we made the list, we've started with the first two schools. The schools that were previously assessed, Sequoia (Sept), Wright Charter (Nov), Austin Creek (Dec),

Lincoln (Jan), Brook Hill (Feb) were pre-dated and will go to the end of the list. We've scheduled a Walking Audit at Helen Lehman, for 3/11, and we did a Walking Audit at JX Wilson on 2/26. In April, we'll be at Kawana Springs in April and at Monroe in May. One thing to talk about today is if we want to add in another school before the end of the school year and whether it would be beneficial to audit Elsie Allen or another site in the area of the grant that Amanda is working on. In school year 24-25, we hope to get to a minimum of 9 schools that we schedule walking audits with—working with the City planners, Police Dept, school staff/representatives, community members, etc.

- iv. Education activities in March (*this item begins at [9:44](#) on the video recording; Slide 4*). We're doing Pedestrian Safety with 3rd graders at Meadow View; we've done 4th grade Bike Basics lessons at Madrone, Binkley, Austin Creek, RL Stevens and Cesar Challenge. We are doing on-bike lessons at Spring Lake Middle School and Kids Learn to Ride classes at Finley Park.
- v. The schools enrolled in our SRTS program have the option of doing a Walk/Roll Day every month and we also have a monthly challenge (*Slide 5*). The March Challenge is March of the Penguins Challenge where students can track the miles they walk/bike during month and they can track bird observations and book/documentaries about birds as well. Any school can use these materials to get students excited about walking and biking to school or in and around their neighborhoods.
- vi. Bike to School Day is on May 8th and schools do not have to be enrolled in the SRTS program to participate in the Bike to School Day event (*this item begins at [11:37](#) on the video recording; Slide 6*). This is a county wide event and registration is open until 4/10. We provide a list of the registered schools to law enforcement and to the media and we give all the participating schools posters/swag to help make it a fun day that highlights bicycling. It is a Bike To School Day but you can also encourage walking, scootering, skateboarding, etc.

b. **City of Santa Rosa Transportation & Public Works (Alexander Ocegvera)**

(*this item begins at [13:38](#) on the video recording*)

(*Powerpoint slides included in notes packet*)

- i. Alexander said he will be speaking on the Active Transportation/SRTS improvements update (*Slide 1*)
- ii. Reminder that when we are doing these Walking Audits to please note that all recommendations from walking audits are meant to capture **possible** solutions to issues or ideas raised during the

walk audit. Each of these recommendations are subject to additional design, analysis, outreach, funding, prioritization, and approval by the City and or Santa Rosa City/Schools prior to implementation (*Slide 2*).

- iii. Intersection Improvements (*this item begins at [14:43](#) on the video recording; Slide 3*)—highlight things that are in the works and give updates.
 1. Sebastopol Road and West Avenue (*Slide 4*)—this concern was raised at a previous Task Force meeting. Kids going from Roseland Elementary to Boys and Girls Club were crossing the street not at the crosswalk and we wanted to make the crossing more accessible for kids to cross the street. Part of the development conditions was to implement the crosswalk there but the City decided to start work on this project internally and collect the fees from developments later. You can see in the picture the spot for a pole to go in, the crossing needs a pedestrian activated light so you know when to cross the street—this project is in the works. Obviously, rain is hindering a lot of the projects we have in the works but this one is moving forward.
 2. Hearn Ave and Burbank Ave signalized intersection (*Slide 5*)—this was also brought up in a previous Task Force meeting. Preliminary construction is scheduled from Oct 2024-March 2025. Large windows due to the project being in the early stages of acquiring easements, which is the land around to install signal properly. Hopefully, construction starts in 2024.
 3. Another item that came from a Walking Audit at Wright Charter School is to install a crosswalk across Finley Ave (*Slide 6*). The crosswalk is in city boundaries even though the school isn't, shows that it is really good to partner. This hasn't been installed yet because of the rains, thermoplastics needs certain temps and has to be dry enough. The supervisor in streets dept said it should be done on Friday 3/8. (*Update: this crosswalk is now fully installed*).
- iv. Reporting concerns (*this item begins at [18:19](#) on the video recording, Slide 7*)
 1. Another intersection improvement that came from these Task Force meetings is Bellevue and Santa Rosa Ave, adding a signalized intersection and we're putting money towards installing one in the future, this could take a couple of years before we bid it out and constructing it.
 2. There is a pilot project on Steele Lane which is a road diet in front of Steele Lane Elem. A road diet is taking out a travel lane in one or both directions to make crossing distances

shorter for pedestrians, which are mostly students, so there is less chance in being hit and for drivers running the crosswalk.

- a. If the Steele Lane project goes well, there is the potential idea to do a road diet on Bellevue as well. If we see success, we can use the models around other schools; we want to slow speeds by engineering controls, road diets. Hopefully, the volumes in queuing won't create too much of an impact for anybody; we're concerned about all road users, all modes of travel.
3. Reporting concerns can be a useful tool for principals, parents, superintendents or anyone to give feedback and let the City know of issues/concerns. Street Story is for reporting near misses and potential collisions, things that don't necessarily get recorded if there is no documented collision.
 - a. The City has this great website called My Santa Rosa (*this item begins at [21:07](#) on the video recording; Slide 8*). You can report almost any kind of concern on this website. It is a great tool to contact Santa Rosa City staff to report problems and access city services. You can submit a service request, even attach a photo. Alexander navigated through website to show how to use. You can report Global Issues (graffiti, vandalism, homelessness, urban camping); Facilities, Parking issues, Parks, Streets and ADA, Recreation, Traffic Engineering and Electrical. Most of the things around walking/biking to school concerns would be under "Streets and ADA". If you click on it, it gives you an overview of potential concerns i.e. storm drain, street pedestrian issues, street marking (like crosswalks). If you go back, the other useful place to report issues is Traffic Engineering and Electrical, like a signal or RRFB not working, you can report those issues here. You can always send concerns to Alexander and Christina, but this is an amazing tool to report concerns and get them handled. Crews get service request and repair it within a week unless there is some reason they have to order a part or something.
 - b. Street Story (*this item begins at [26:23](#) on the video recording; Slide 9*) is created through Berkeley and it is a tool to report an incident that happened like a near miss on bike or walking, stuff that usually doesn't get reported to police. This is a way to capture some of that data and use it in our planning processes. Maybe there's something that continually happens at

a certain intersection, like pedestrians are getting hit and we can put in an LPI (leading pedestrian interval). We will monitor the site regularly to see where potential issues are. Alexander showed what the steps are on the website to report what happened: Put in the city and select a point in the city, zoom in and lay a dot somewhere, use the side bar on the right to document what happened, what time of day/night, who was involved, anyone injured, etc. Suggestion to share with parents in your district or school. The more people that know about it, the more input we get.

- c. Christina asked if people are sharing about a hazard, should they do it through My Santa Rosa versus Street Story. Alexander said that yes, Street Story is for near misses/unreported crashes. This is another outlet to report things that we otherwise wouldn't know about and we get a true picture of what is happening and where the most dangerous areas are.
- v. Active Transportation Plan (*this item begins at [30:26](#) on the video recording; Slide 10*). This helps us to see where the gaps are, helps us with planning and getting grant funding. Visit our website: [Active Transportation Plan | Santa Rosa, CA \(srcity.org\)](#) to get more information on what the plan is all about, potential outreach, starting in April/May. You can give input, this map is showing what a resource that will be on website looks like—you can pick a destination and use it as a tool to show where you walk/bike to, what the barriers are to walking/biking, missing/damaged sidewalks or trails/bike facilities. We are hoping to have a workshop in South Santa Rosa somewhere and we are looking for someone to host that and partner with.
- vi. Question from Amanda, with the crowd sourced data on the Berkely website (Street Story), does that show up on the TIMS (Transportation Injury Mapping System) data? Alexander said he doesn't know, the site is funded through the Office of Traffic Safety, but he can do some research and get back to Amanda. Amanda said that for a lot of grants, they have to show crash/accident data to justify the cost for a given improvement so that accident data is tied to what is reported to police. This is an important and valuable tool that can allow folks in an area to identify a dangerous area/intersection that haven't resulted in a major injury yet, but doesn't mean it isn't dangerous. This will give us more information when working to get funding. We need people to use it.
- vii. Laurel said SCTA is working to integrate the Street Story data with our Vision Zero data dashboard.

c. Santa Rosa Police Department (Summer Gloeckner)

(this item begins at [35:13](#) on the video recording)

- i. We have been very busy, our priority is traffic, we are looking at upstaffing the Traffic Division. We work through the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) grant to do traffic operations that focus on general traffic enforcement and cell phone enforcement.
- ii. We started a dashboard to collect complaints and officers can look them by where they happened and then update on how they've addressed those complaints.
- iii. We will roll out Traffic social media posts, call it Traffic Tuesdays, tha can discuss upcoming events like Walk/Roll Days and also a potential Q and A with officers to responding to questions about different laws, pedestrian safety, driving, etc.

d. Other partner(s)

- i. Laurel, Chair of Vision Zero Advisory Committee, (*this item begins at [37:09](#) on the video recording*) shared that SCTA was awarded a sizeable grant from Federal Safe Streets and Roads for All. This will come with improvements to the Data dashboard and integrating hospital data, as well as collecting the best info as possible around high injury networks/intersections are. We will also be able to make improvements in tracking our progress, seeing where improvements have happened in relation to High Injury Network and hopefully see a reduction in crashes.

3. Moorland Avenue/Bellevue Active Transportation Grant Application – update & community feedback (Amanda Bouillercce)

(this item begins at [38:25](#) on the video recording)

- a. Amanda shared about the CTC active transportation program grant for the Moorland/Bellevue area. She said that they scored pretty high on the last round, but not high enough, 85 out of 100, but for funding, you need to be in the 90s. They got recommendations for improving their score, one of which is that the data is outdated, a lot is from 2017. Amanda would like to revive some of that data gathering, a lot is still valuable but they want to recertify that the issues from 2017 are still issues today. As the end of the school year approaches, it can be more challenging to get information, and they are working within the confines of the deadlines for the grant. The call for projects is March 21-22 and the application deadline is in June. She wants to get all the info gathering done as early as possible, so they can get max participation.
- b. They are looking at potentially expanding the project footprint. We are looking at making this a County led but Santa Rosa City partnered project, so that Bellevue Ave can be included and show the impact to the high school in addition to the elementary school. It is not a lot more money to add this but it greatly increases the impact, and would help to make the application more competitive. We need to adjust the scope to reflect reality on the ground.

- c. Another criticism from the previous application was that the maps did not tell a clear enough story in identifying where the problem areas are for students. Amanda wants to freshen up data and have current info. Perhaps they will put out another survey to parents or a community meeting. She wondered and encouraged feedback on whether we need to do this or just recertify the data from 2017 and make sure they are on the right path.
- d. Christina asked for the scope of the project (*this item begins at [42:59](#) on the video recording*). Amanda shared the bare bones of the original scope, including filling in sidewalk gaps for students to go to Bellevue Elem. They also want to fill sidewalk gaps along Primrose. Amanda mentioned that the path between Oasis and Los Robles is complete and wants to make sure that is the case. They want to include a crossing over Bellevue for the High school students, and work with the City of Santa Rosa. There will be far more crash data on Bellevue Ave, which is a major thoroughfare, that helps to justify the need.
- e. Christina asked what data does Amanda need? She needs free/reduced lunch % from Bellevue Elementary; she'd like to explore sending out a parent survey in English and Spanish; she'd love letters of support from any and everyone, like SRTS, schools that will be involved, and any additional participants. She still needs to reach out to the high school to get info. She also has the Moorland Healthy Neighborhood Plan, that is dated, and she wonders if this info has been updated and if anyone has info about it.
 - i. Laurel said this plan was created by Kelly Elder, who used to be with the Dept of Health Services. She worked with the Neighborhood Advisory Team in Moorland. Laurel's grad school project was doing a survey with the group to support this plan. Her team was also involved in the 2017 survey. Laurel can connect with Amanda offline, she doesn't know if the Moorland Neighborhood Team is still active, but may be able to find out. Amanda wants to look at all the sources, identify where they came from and get new info and numbers.
 - ii. Michael Kellison can give background from the District perspective, and mentioned that Nina Craig, principal now and during 2017, can also provide info and be a support. A Trustee is actively involved in the Moorland community, Irene Rosario, and can be a good reference. Chris Coursey, Supervisor, is actively engaged in the Moorland Community. He can easily pull numbers for free-reduced lunch by school site.
- f. Amanda said that a component in the original application was an educational component to this project, doing Walking School Busses and having parent involvement—is that still feasible for us to do? Is there still public support for improving walking/biking? Nina responded that she was a part of things in 2017 and there was a lot of parent/community support. She said that it hasn't been talked about in so long, but she imagines the

desire is still there. Amanda asked if they should host a conversation to revitalize the project? She wants it to be a community driven project, and the needs may have changed in the last 5 years. Nina said yes, let's go for it and get community input. Amanda said they have until June. There was a walk-through with representatives from CTC and they were excited about getting this project and the participation with the City of Santa Rosa will really increase the impact of the project. Nina said she'd like to help and is already thinking about different Family Nights where they can get input.

- g.** Christina said that SRTS creates student address GIS maps for Bellevue Elem and Elsie Allen that might help to demonstrate the need for the path. Christina said that Meadow View Elem is also off of Bellevue Ave, at the end on Dutton Meadow, which is also in the City. The parents at Meadow View mentioned a lot of issues on Dutton Meadow with students walking to school. She suggested looking at the Meadow View student address GIS map as well and to see if parents want to respond to the parent survey.
- h.** Amanda said that this grant is not exclusively for students but active transportation for the whole community, like getting to markets, connecting to bus routes, and access for seniors. They want to show the need for the entire community and the school is a great way to demonstrate that but it is not exclusive. Amanda will reach out to principals, superintendent directly.
- i.** Laurel mentioned reaching out to Burbank Housing.
- j.** Dana mentioned that she is managing the Active Transportation Plan Update for the unincorporated county as well as the county-wide one. They haven't nailed down outreach dates/locations for the spring yet but they are doing outreach in the spring and can connect with Amanda about ways to help in getting the survey out.
- k.** Alexander had a question for Nina that came from talking to Dept Director of Traffic Engineering, he wondered if the creek path behind the school is used. Is actually putting sidewalk on Primrose the best solution? Or are there other areas that need more improvement? Nina said that the majority of students come from Moorland, so they don't use the creek behind the school, so sidewalks on Primrose would be most beneficial. She said there are hardly any houses on the other side of Primrose where the creek is, only one or two kids have used it in the past and they do have a gate in the back to access the campus. Nina said that students come from Bellevue, Moorland, Todd, Stony Pt and the rural outskirts.
- l.** Amanda thanked everyone for their help.

4. District/site/parent SRTS issues, concerns & opportunities

(this item begins at [1:01:14](#) on the video recording)

- a.** Jean Walker thanked Christina for coming to Coffee with the Principal, the parents felt heard in expressing that they want more crosswalks on Dutton Meadow and in front of Meadow View. Christina said that Torina Wilson from the City of Santa Rosa also had joined that meeting. Christina offered

to come to any PTA mtgs or Coffees with the Principals to share info, get data, and inform parents about these opportunities.

5. Other Business & Announcements—*n/a*

6. Scheduling Next Meeting(s) & Adjournment (*this item begins at [1:02:56](#) on the video recording*)

- a. Christina said that the next SRTS Task Force meeting is in East Santa Rosa on Thursday, April 25th from 4-5:30pm at the Rincon Valley Union School District. They are thinking about what makes the most sense for the future Task Force meetings. We've made a lot of effort to have parents show up at these meetings that hasn't been so successful. We will continue with the focus areas for April and May meetings, but in the future, we'd love feedback from all of you as to what is valuable and most productive for these meetings, and how we should structure them in the future. Maybe we'll do 2-4 meetings a year and not have focus areas. Please feel free to come to a focus area meeting even if you are not in that focus area. The meeting notes will be sent out to you in the next couple of weeks and they will also be posted on the SRTS website on the Task Force page for Santa Rosa.

The next meeting of the Santa Rosa Safe Routes to School Task Force is scheduled for Thursday, April 25th from 4:00pm-5:30pm at the Rincon Valley Union School District.

**District site issues, concerns & opportunities may also be emailed pre- or post-meeting to Christina Panza, SRTS Director & Task Force Facilitator at christina@bikesonoma.org*