



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION



Petaluma Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Task Force

Meeting Announcement:

Date/Time: Thursday, March 21, 2024, 4:00pm-5:30pm

Location: Petaluma Community Center
320 N McDowell Blvd, Petaluma, CA 94954

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. Attendees

- i. Bjorn Gripenburg, Active Transportation, Public Works, City of Petaluma
- ii. Christina Panzia, Director, SRTS/SCTA SRTS program
- iii. Bruce Hagan, Safe Streets Petaluma
- iv. Richard De Leon, Petaluma Blue Zones Project
- v. Mike Gardner, Superintendent, Waugh School District
- vi. Ken Eichstaedt, Traffic Engineer, Public Works, City of Petaluma
- vii. Walt Spiller, Traffic Sergeant, Petaluma Police Dept
- viii. Molly Nagel, Community Schools/Wellness Coordinator, Petaluma City Schools
- ix. Mady Cloud, PCS Trustee
- x. John Shribbs, Vice Mayor, City of Petaluma
- xi. Kevin McDonnell, Mayor, City of Petaluma
- xii. Kent Curthers, Public Works, City of Petaluma
- xiii. Deb Fox, Co-Founder, Operations and Collaborations, Cool Petaluma
- xiv. Jared Hall, Transit Director, City of Petaluma
- xv. Rachel Beer - Parks and Recreation, City of Petaluma
- xvi. Michelle Gochberg, Co-Superintendent, Old Adobe Union School District
- xvii. Amy Wise, parent, PTA board, Loma Vista Elementary
- xviii. Amber Steinberg, parent, Loma Vista Elementary
- xix. Jordan German, parent, Loma Vista Elementary
- xx. David Lindecke, parent, Loma Vista Elementary
- xxi. Anna Simon, parent, Loma Vista Elementary
- xxii. Ana Embree, parent, Miwok Elementary
- xxiii. Charlene Marie, neighbor, Grant Elementary

xxiv. Dan Lyke, neighbor, Grant Elementary

2. Partner Announcements

- a. Safe Routes to School Program update & Organizing for Bike to School Day – May 8, 2024!
 - [SRTS Goals PPT](#) was shared. It is what is used to enroll school partners. It is designed to define what is active transportation - walking, biking, scooting, anything human-powered and the importance of biking for the health of students and the planet.
 - Cool Petaluma is helping schools set up routes and bike trains with the support of their program volunteers (Block Leaders). Deb Fox gave a quick presentation on the pilot on Pi Day with Live Oak Charter School. [Pi Day Walk & Roll to School link](#). If your school wants support in setting up routes with additional riders, email deb.fox@coolpetaluma.org
- b. City of Petaluma (public works, transit, police)
 - Transit Update:
 - Route 11 running more on Butter & Eggs
 - Bike valet on B Street
 - Transit App Royale is now free – Transit App is the premier real-time transit app for schedule info and trip planning
 - Fare Free – Details of the program name and branding are being finalized and will be released soon – the program launches in July 2024
 - Microtransit – Program details, service zone and branding are being finalized and will be released soon – the program launches in July 2024
 - SMART Train – will have a partial route closure for the line north of Petaluma on March 23-24 and April 13-14 to make improvements to the corridor in advance of construction starting on the Petaluma North rail station
<https://www.sonomamarintrain.org/construction-updates>
 - Butter & Eggs Days – on Saturday, April 20th – Petaluma Transit will be operating free with added service on route 11 (Washington Blvd). A Petaluma Transit bus and City of Petaluma float will be participating in the parade
 - Youth and seniors for SMART
 - Police Update- focusing on DUI efforts and getting ready for Butter & Eggs

3. Site Assessments & Travel Plans

- a. Loma Vista Immersion Academy: Post site assessment report & school/community feedback
 - [Staff PPT](#)
 - Focused on Maria frontage
 - Loading zone used as parking
 - Crossing guard is a priority. Staffed.

- Controlled chaos, but that is typical
- No curb ramps at Monroe, so will be added throughout the corridor
- Questions:
 - Q: Will the change in parking at the ballpark increase the parking?
 - A: It will add a few. The pavement in the parking lot will be redone in a few years, as well.
 - Q: Will it allow for parents to park and cross the street?
 - A: Yes, that is already done and will formalize it.
 - Q: What is the reason the drop off doesn't work at Luccassi?
 - A: It would be doubling back to get back to Rainer.
 - Q: What's the best use of space in front of the school? Should it be a loading zone?
 - A: It is easy to test and change the color of the curbs.
 - Q: Are there plans for traffic calming?
 - A: Narrowing the lanes and flashing lights at the crossings for speeding outliers
- Parent comments:
 - Eliminating the parking means that there are less places to park to walk kids in. Currently anyone parking at the bus stop is blocked in until the rush ends. If you are the first 4 cars, you can't open your door if you are in that parking lot and then have to wait until the rush to exit. She does walk, but when she has to drive she gets there early.
 - Please don't eliminate the parking. If everything is already filled, even parked tightly, and you don't get there early enough, there is nothing on the street all the way to Ely or you have to weave behind the school to get back over to Madison.
 - For loading in the morning: She lives on Joan and rarely drives, but has to go on Maria. Biking on Maria is impossible. Can go on Novak through the park, but crossing Madison is impossible due to lack of visibility. It is safer to go to the park, but crossing at Madison is nutty. Need a flashing beacon at Novak to get the park or parents that use the parking lot to get to school.
 - Staff noted this was very valuable feedback.
 - There is no stop sign or any way to slow cars down at Madison.
 - Staff gave an example of bulbout. It helped at Monroe last year, but missing curb cuts
 - Curbs will be painted red or at time it is repaved. Everything is painted red 20' from a crosswalk. That is citywide.
 - Key to bring kids and stroller on audits
 - To bike East Washington and Maria is impossible due to congestion and the condition of the roads. Novak Way is an alternate road.

- That Monroe entrance is for the lower grades who need to be walked to the classroom. The little kids have to walk the furthest so need to park to walk 3 kinder and 3 TK. There is a strong push to reopen the side entrance for that group.
- At Novak - is it possible to have a crosswalk? Parent drives for meals and wheels, so turning right on to East Madison the sight lines are really challenging. The red curbing is key. The kids are crossing from Loma Vista to go to the park. (by senior center)
- Trying to cross E. Washington on Maria heading towards the school. Is it possible to have a crossing guard there to have more families walk or bike because that intersection is totally hazardous. Lots of families walk from there. Between E. Washington and Madison, the dip needs to be repaired, because it isn't safe to bike in the street because of all the other people driving. The sidewalk needs to be fixed.
- Staff question to parents: Parking removal on Maria - would it be a concern if the other entrance was open?
 - Two different issues - morning and afternoon concerns are totally different.
 - The most stress-free days are the Walk & Roll are the best because there is less traffic.
 - Loma Vista is unique. There are only 2 parking spots, but its parent population shows up for parent nights and family nights. That's not common for most schools. Those 2 spots are needed for those events so there isn't spillage into the neighborhood. These events happen at least once a month.
 - PTA nights - there isn't any parking due to the baseball. Only from the crosswalk on and by the apartments
 - The drop-off by the cafeteria is not working.
- Speed reduction Action - within 500' to 20MPH due to new state law! Yay! All the signs will change around all the schools. But speed limit signs are only as effective as road conditions
- E Madison resident and parent - lots of cars due out all the events that use that crosswalk at the 4-way stop

ii. Additional staff comments:

- Loading zones in front of schools are only for school hours - 30 mins before and after pick up and school days only
- Q: Since no clear-cut answer, will I work with the district and the principal?
- A: Yes, working with both! Plenty of time to figure out the curb changes over the summer
- Q: Reach out to the community about the plans?
- A: Presentation, report and meeting notes will be posted on the website. Low hanging fruit is done when bandwidth and others depend on the scope.
- Loading zone will be implemented at the beginning of the school year.

- Most will be done with the Maria Drive project. Done by November. Construction during June will be bulk and bits and pieces will be done by November.
- Connector roadways done at schools is the focus!

4. Other SRTS issues, concerns & opportunities

- i. Miwok Parents:
 - Liked the bike train, but need bike advocates.
 - Baywood and St. Francis - no crossing guard since COVID. What can a parent do? The position has been advertised for? Who to talk to to help fill?
 - Connected with the District Superintendent! Yay! She noted the job is hard to fill.
- ii. Mayor McDonnell thanked the city for prioritizing streets in front of schools. To fix the risky stuff in front of schools.
- iii. Public comment emailed - Casa parent
- iv. Parents can attend a city council meeting to complain, so an important part of the process.

5. Other Business & Announcements

- i. [Blue Zones Project Petaluma Kick-off event](#), Sunday, April 14 · 12 - 3 pm PDT

6. Next Meeting & adjournment

The next meeting of the Petaluma Task Force is scheduled for Thursday, April 18th from 4:00-5:30pm at the Petaluma Community Center.

The April, May and June meetings will be held at the Community Center.

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