



METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION



Cool  
Petaluma  
2030



## Petaluma Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Task Force

### Meeting Minutes:

**Date/Time:** Thursday May 16th, 2024, 4:00pm-5:30pm

**Location:** Miwok Valley Charter School, Multi-Purpose Room (MPR) 1010 Albin Way, Petaluma 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. Introductions

1. Bjorn Gripenburg, Active Transportation, Public Works, City of Petaluma
2. Christina Panzia, Director, SRTS/SCTA SRTS program
3. Jared Hall, Transit Director, City of Petaluma
4. Rebecca Shippert- parent, PTSA, Miwok Elementary
5. Melissa Poole - parent, SRTS coordinator, Grant Elementary
6. Traffic Officer, Petaluma Police Dept (missed name)
7. Ana Embree, parent, Miwok Elementary
8. Dave (missed last name), parent, Miwok Elementary
9. Jennifer Remmers Wright, Petaluma Blue Zones Project
10. Bruce Hagan, Safe Streets Petaluma, Grant grandparent
11. Karen Nau, Councilwoman, City of Petaluma
12. Mady Cloud, PCS Trustee
13. Pete Gang, Safe Streets Petaluma
14. Deb Fox, Cool Petaluma
15. Julio Villalobos, Ed.D., principal, Miwok Elementary
16. Kat Reisinger, Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation, City of Petaluma

#### 2. Partner Announcements

##### a. [Safe Routes to School Program update](#): Enrollment for 24-25

- The goal is to fit Biking or Walking into Daily Routines. 40% of all trips are under 2 miles! And then we can work together to address the streets to make that possible
- Miwok – [Shared map](#) where we geocoded all the families to see where they are living in relation to the school (GIS mapping)

- Travel mode tallies are key visuals!
    - Morning and afternoon
    - Concerns about safety at walking audit
    - Look at all the Ps to make travel more appealing and safer
      - Programs to encourage to walk and bike
      - Projects - infrastructure changes
      - Policies - neighborhood schools and bike racks, coordinated let out that encourage bikes/ walkers to release early
  - Activities in Petaluma May and June
    - **First Fridays at 5:** Meet at Walnut Park at 5:00 PM or at Luchessi Park's solar arrays at 5:15 PM. The rides end at The Block with an optional dinner. Routes change monthly. Check for updates [here](#).
    - **Second Saturdays:** Join Bike Petaluma for a ride starting at 10:00 AM. Routes are posted on Bike Petaluma's [website](#).
    - **4th of July Star, Stripes, Dogs & Bikes Parade:** Decorate your bike and join the parade from Prince Park to Luchessi Park. The parade leaves at 10:30 AM, so be sure to arrive by 10:15 AM with your helmet.
  - May Bike to School counts: 1500 bikes at 56 schools countywide! 68 road to Cherry Valley! Highest in the county! Meadow didn't have a bike train, but had full racks! Miwok had some!
  - AAA Student Safety Patrols: Utilizes students to help move cars along at drop off. Santa Rosa student nominated out of the whole state, one of 10!!! This is a key element for safety during drop off and key to have a student in the role!
  - [Family Bike Workshop on June 22nd](#) for parents and kids to do together. Show how to ride on the road, how to deal with busier roads. Up to 30 families, can do up to 40
- b. City of Petaluma (public works, transit, police)
- Transit -
    - Planfest on May 11 was a great event with a good turnout. It was an event that was part of larger city plan general update. Went to various boards and commissions. Look at the 14 different topics like housing, transportation, parks, etc. to give input on the General Plan update.
    - Fare Free is launching on July 1st and Microtransit launching in mid-July
    - Open call for applicants to boards and commissions through June 6th - transit, PBAC in particular. Great way to get involved. New one: PSAC Public Safety
  - Public Works:
    - This coming Monday City Council will be reviewing draft budget operation and capital budget.
    - May 29th at 6 pm in city hall is the second community workshop on 101 Crossings workshop. The city is looking for opportunities and constraints at each location to get people across 101 safety.
    - Neighborhood meeting for Caulfield Bridge
    - City of Petaluma contacts and resources:
      - Transportation Planning & Engineering: [safestreeets@cityofpetaluma.org](mailto:safestreeets@cityofpetaluma.org)
      - Petaluma Transit: [transit@cityofpetaluma.org](mailto:transit@cityofpetaluma.org) / 707-778-4460 / [transit.cityofpetaluma.net](http://transit.cityofpetaluma.net)
      - City Bike Map: [cityofpetaluma.org/bikemap](http://cityofpetaluma.org/bikemap)
      - Report an Issue (Hazards & Quick Fixes): [cityofpetaluma.org/issues](http://cityofpetaluma.org/issues)
      - Safe Streets Nomination Program (Traffic Calming & Safety Improvements): [cityofpetaluma.org/ssnp](http://cityofpetaluma.org/ssnp)
      - Slow the Fast Down Campaign: [cityofpetaluma.org/slowthefastdown](http://cityofpetaluma.org/slowthefastdown)

- Over 500 requests for Safe Streets nomination program
  - Q: How is the city prioritizing streets?
    - A: Because of the volume of requests, so trying to be objective. So collision history of ¼ mile of schools.
  - Q: Should questions or comments from parents be sent to SRTS or where should they be submitted?
    - A: Yes, submit to the nomination
- Bike rack requests are still being accepted for city streets and city property
  - Great locations near parks
  - To add a location: <https://cityofpetaluma.org/bike-parking/>
- c. Other Partners (Cool Petaluma, Petaluma People Center, etc)
  - Safe Streets Petaluma will be offering bike parking for [River Run on Saturday](#).
  - Cool Petaluma Resource Expo is next Tuesday, May 21st at the Farigrounds from 5 to 8pm

### 3. Walk & Roll Success, Bike Trains, & How to Build on the Momentum

- Same logistics for walking the school bus! Pick a spot, find support from other parents.
- Great to hear the feedback from the kids connecting to each other.
- Great for building community!
- This needs to be systemic - from schools, school boards, policies, city. To show people they can do it and it becomes systemic
- Policy could be to make an effort to connect parents together, schools can provide the bike racks, and human connections and create the routes
- One persona saw a parents driving alongside but didn't ride their bike.

### 4. Site Assessment(s)

- Miwok Valley Charter school: [Post site assessment report](#) & school/community feedback
  - Q: Can the gates be opened during entry/exit only?
    - A: The principal responded it is part of an the ongoing topic of conversation. Especially since the fence gets cut on a regular basis
      - It was noted that Grant has one like that, that is only open at certain times. Folks wait at the gate to have it opened during morning drop-off.
  - Audit notes:
    - Not many crosswalks in the vicinity
    - Worst performing drop-off so far of all the schools. Lots of inefficiencies that all stem from parents using the southern loading zone as a parking zone. It is also used a lot for aftercare to go get their kid. A lot of double parking was witnessed.
    - Lots of room for improvement
    - St. Francis Drive - Right in front of the school
      - When the street is paved, all crosswalks will be include accessible curb ramps at all intersections and crosswalks
      - The street crossing is 70' wide (2-3 times greater than it should be) It is a candidate for a roundabout, which should reduce conflict points, could be explored as part of St. Francis paving project.
        - Roundabouts can cause confusion but with pedestrian refuge in between to help pedestrians to help.
        - A parent noted it is a scary intersection.

- St Francis is a candidate for a neighborhood greenway. It would lower traffic by becoming a low speed street with trees! Garfield Drive is a current example by reducing the width of the edge lane.
- Baywood Drive
  - Could be a street to offer angled parking and flip parking and bike lanes, similar to Rainer.
  - Intersection improvements can made, but it's a collector street/major thoroughfare.
- Public comments
  - Potholes are so bad on St. Francis.
  - Blinking sign "on right" towards Caufield is currently not working
  - Report potholes and more at Engage Petaluma
    - [Android,Apple](#), or <https://cityofpetaluma.org/issues/>
- Q: Timeline for audit items?
  - Quick turnarounds for items like curbs/loading zone by next school year. Paving projects based on paving schedule.

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

- Q: How do we keep all this on track?
  - A: The council has to prioritize. Also needs to be brought to Boa of Education.

#### 7. Next Meeting & adjournment

**The next meeting of the Petaluma Task Force is scheduled for Thursday, June 20th from 4:00-5:30pm at Casa Grande High School (multi-purpose room)**

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