



Petaluma Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Task Force

Meeting Announcement:

Date/Time: Thursday May 15th, 2025 4:00pm-5:30pm

Location: Petaluma City Schools District Office
200 Douglas St.

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.

Notes on Agenda Items:

1. Introductions

- a. In attendance: Christina Panza (SRTS Director); Sarah Hadler (SRTS Program Manager); Mady Cloud (PCS Trustee); Jennifer Remmers-Wright (Blue Zones); Richard DeLeon (Blue Zones); Bjorn Gripenburg (Active Transportation Planner); Carly Spencer (Petaluma Transit); Ryan Williams (PCS Trustee); Dan Osterman (Pathways Coordinator, PCS)

2. Partner Announcements

- a. Safe Routes to School Program update (*Christina Panza*)
([powerpoint slides](#))
 1. We had our I “Heart” Walk and Roll art contest in Feb and we choose 15 winners from around the county and produced our June 2025-August 2026 Walk/Roll calendar. This picture is one of the winners that is featured in our calendar, Arden Hayes, 5th grader from Meadow (*Slide 1*).
 2. National Bike To School Day (BTSD) was last Wed. 5/7 (*Slide 2*).
 3. Here are the BTSD numbers from all the participating Petaluma Schools (*Slide 3*). We still need #s from River Montessori and Mary Collins at Cherry Valley (MCCV) is holding their event later in May. The avg increase in comparing bike #s pre and day of was 140%. The % increase and participation was down this year from last year and that is likely because of the fewer numbers of bike trains. We are not sure if McNear had a few bike trains; there was a Walking School Bus at Meadow; Spring Hill and Grant (led by Bruce) had bike trains and MCCV is having bike trains at their event. This shows that we really need someone in the community that is connected to the school that can organize and lead the bike trains; SRTS can support and help with fliers and communications.

4. There was a meeting at Valley Vista Public Waldorf School that was very transit and drop-off focused. The principal is interested in starting bike trains. Carly mentioned that there were a lot of families interested in their kids needing transportation from the SMART Train station to school.
5. It can be challenging to reach parents who might be interested in leading bike trains. PTA mtgs, where we give SRTS presentations, are often small and the parents who come tend to already be over committed. Christina shared the example at Santa Rosa French American Charter where a 6th gr teacher led a class project on establishing bike train routes and these bike trains took place on April Earth Day and on Bike To School Day. In the past, we've had schools, Sebastopol Charter and Evergreen, who had parents who really organized and led very successful weekly and monthly Walking School Buses.
6. SRTS Education in Petaluma in May and June (*Slide 4*): Learn to Ride class at Luchessi Park on 5/7 and again on 6/4; 4th grade bike rodeo at Loma Vista on 5/16 and at McDowell on 6/2; there is a Family Bike Workshop on 6/21 at Luchessi which is FREE and we'd love the City to help us promote it, schools will also send out the info (*Slide 5*).
7. These are our enrolled Petaluma school sites for 2025-26 (*Slide 6*)—all schools re-enrolled except Petaluma Jr High, but they will still do the tally data, provide student addresses and share our 10 bike modules during 7th grade PE class. At Kenilworth, teacher Casey Romano organized BTSD this year and she was excited about it and asked to receive the SRTS e-news.
8. Here is another art contest winner that will be featured in the Walk/Roll calendar—Eliana Caballero, 6th grader from Loma Vista (*Slide 7*).
9. We are working on our E-bike informational flier that will have new information for parents on making educated decisions on purchasing e-bikes for their kids. That should be forthcoming soon. We also have an E-bikes info page on our website (*Slide 8*). We are also working on an e-bike module for Middle School students and hopefully a PSA. A suggestion is for schools to put in place policies where e-bikes must be registered.
10. We also have a new page on our website with info on the Daylighting Law (*Slide 9*). An informational flier will also be forthcoming. The law states that cars must not park within 20 ft of an intersection on the approach side, whether the curb is painted red or not.
11. SRTS Walk Audits/Site Assessments from 2024-25 (*Slide 10*). All public schools in Petaluma have now been audited. The reports from Sonoma Mountain, Grant and Mary Collins at Cherry Valley will be finalized soon. Other sites to audit could be St Vincent's Elementary and High School, San Antonio High School (continuation school), and River

- Montessori. Note: there was someone from St. Vincent's Elem who came to the PBAC mtg and asked for an audit.
- b. City of Petaluma (public works, transit, police)—*no updates given*
 - c. Other Partners (Safe Streets Petaluma, Blue Zones, etc.)—*no updates given*

3. Site Assessment(s) – status of infrastructure improvements identified at SRTS site assessments (Bjorn Gripenburg)

(powerpoint slides)

- a. SRTS quick build projects 2024-25 (*Slides 1-8*)
- b. Table for the status of each school (*Slides 9-10*)

4. Future of SRTS Task Force: frequency, locations, topics (discussion)

- a. Christina said that these Task Force meetings for the past two years have been a great process to go through for the preparing for and sharing information on the walking audits, which all public schools in Petaluma have now had. Attendance has ebbed and flowed but mostly been less than what we had hoped for in terms of getting parents and principals to the table. It has taken quite a lot of work and effort to share and communicate info about these meetings with our contacts at schools, who we then ask to share with their school community. We really want these Task Forces to be a productive connection.
- b. We have had some great relationship building with community partners. Some of those partners continue to come to the meetings and some have gone.
- c. Mady asked if we could have some committee going forward to bring together school district staff and the city. The meetings with each school district and the city could be 1-2x per year.
- d. Bjorn said that attendance has varied depending on how principals/administrators are getting the word out to their community. Christina said that even when she knows they have done a great job of communication, there were times when attendance was still low.
- e. Bjorn wondered about switching to a pop-up style event in front of schools perhaps on mornings of Walk/Roll Days in order to continue gathering feedback from parents about making it safer/easier for people to walk/bike to school. Maybe these pop up events could happen in tandem with less frequent meetings; there should be a way going forward where we are still capturing feedback from school communities. The meetings are primarily for city staff to connect with school district staff.
- f. If Christina was able to coordinate meetings with the city, school staff around transportation, would there be value to having a set meeting? There are 3 school districts to interface with, maybe one mtg a year with each dist. Another option would be to get all 3 school district reps together with city planners, transit, police, City Council members, school board members and SRTS. Christina mentioned that in Santa Rosa this year, the Task Force met 3x—in the beginning, middle, and end of the year. We tried different times of day to see how that affected turnout. Perhaps we try a daytime mtg in Petaluma.
- g. Bjorn mentioned that principals and facilities personnel have a firm understanding of what is going on on-site, and the superintendent does not necessarily have that understanding.

- h. Jennifer asked if SRTS coalitions could be formed in each of the three districts and then those members could report to the Task Force. Christina asked who would form/run those coalitions.
- i. Dan said that this meeting should be a priority for principals and the districts could be better at getting the word out district-level; there is a potential to have ad-hoc mtgs during things like Coffee with the Principals in order to hear feedback and connect with parents.
- j. There are two important things that we want to continue—getting feedback from parents about what their concerns are and connecting city staff with school district staff and SRTS staff. It's critical to have the right people at the table in order to figure out what the issues are at the school sites.
- k. Christina said that when a school enrolls in the SRTS program, we meet with them 3x per year (beginning, middle and end). We also ask if we can present at a PTA/Staff/ELAC meeting. We also ask there are any family events that we can set up an outreach table. The best schools events are where people are milling about, like Family Game Nights or Movie Nights, Back to School Day is not so good because parents go straight to classrooms. We can try to focus on going to more of these events next year and inviting city/transit to come and table with us and do outreach. Bjorn said that if there is a particular school where it's a priority to get parent feedback from like if there are places near to the school where there is an upcoming pavement project, he could let us know so we could prioritize that.
- l. Carly goes to Orientation Days every year at the middle and high schools and gives info out about transit. She can let us know about those opportunities.
- m. Mady said that the Climate Action Resolution is about to be presented and asked if there is mention of SRTS in there? Dan will look back and see what is there, it would be good to have something about the "Official collaboration with SRTS and the City" and perhaps even make it mandatory for schools to enroll in the SRTS program. Christina said we likely have capacity to meet with every school in Petaluma once a year.
- n. An ad hoc meeting is not subject to public records. We could continue to call this meeting a SRTS Task Force. Having a meeting during the day and calendarizing it and making it mandatory for representatives from schools to attend and can report back, maybe it's the Facilities and Transportation person who attends and reports back, gets calendared. The Board directive is to do this through a resolution.
- o. Carly mentioned the Valley Vista Public Waldorf meeting and was surprised so many families were taking the train but she does not want the kids to have to transfer and would love to have more data that could support a more direct way for kids to get there. She does not recommend kids using LumaGo b/c it is not a guaranteed ride, they could get a "no seat available" and then be late or miss school.
- p. Bjorn suggested meeting in the beginning of the school year and then figuring out the next steps for another meeting or two from there. Mady said that maybe we could hold it here at the PCS district and ask Waugh and Adobe to come.
- q. The focus for the meeting would be the implementation of what we already have from all the walking audits (city) and any transit, police and SRTS info. It would be called the Mandatory SRTS Kickoff Informational mtg to

get representatives from public works, transit, police, SRTS and principals/superintendents together in one room. Sarah suggested meeting before the students come back so there will be the most school staff there who can possibly come. It would be good to look at the calendars for the three districts to see when principals are due back, likely the week of 7/27-8/1 and definitely the week of 8/4-8/8. School representatives can then take the transportation information back to their school sites. Mady will check in about the upcoming calendars and communicate with Christina about possible days/times for holding the required meeting.

- r. Ryan and Mady will also bring this idea up at the next PCS School Board meeting where the Climate Action resolution will be presented,

5. Other SRTS issues, concerns & opportunities--NA

6. Other Business & Announcements

The next meeting of the Petaluma Task Force is TBD

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