

Vallejo Safe Routes to School Community Task Force Meeting Minutes March 25, 2019

Meeting Attendees			
Adams, Anthony	STA	Hernandez, Pablo	Participatory Budgeting - Public Safety
Becker, Peter	City of Vallejo	Kumar, Sam	City of Vallejo - Public Works
Beck, Kate	UCB SafeTREC	Mallari, Kristine	City of Vallejo - Public Works
Belef, David	STA BAC Representative	Nadal, Lloyd	STA/SR2S
Berger, Peter	Participatory Budgeting - Public Safety	Nichelini, Mike	Vallejo PD - Lieutenant
Bloesch, Karin	STA/SR2S	Peterson, Cory	STA
Boyce, Waylon	Vallejo PD	Pilachowski, Josh	DKS Associates
Cooper, Jill	UCB SafeTREC	Renshaw, Mandi	SolTrans
Demelo, Matt	OTS	Richerson, William	Participatory Budgeting - Public Safety
Dwyer, Kelly	District 2 Field Representative, Solano County	Romao, Mitch	VCUSD – Chief Operations Officer
Flores, Teresa	Vallejo PD	Sherlock, Rochelle	Potentiate, LLC
Gephart, Tiffany	STA/SR2S	Trimble, Kenny	Vallejo PD
Gossett, Cassie	VCUSD, Cooper Elementary Principal	Whitney, John	Vallejo PD - Captain
Green, Jennifer	StopHARD	Wilson, Brant	City of Vallejo - Public Works
Her, Bao	OTS	Wolf, Nancy	OTS

Welcome and Overview

Rochelle Sherlock welcomed the group and provided countywide and national statistics on pedestrian/vehicle fatalities. Solano County has a ranking of second worst in the state for pedestrian collisions for youth under 15 years of age, and ranks as the 12th worst for pedestrian collisions overall.

Mr. Nadal welcomed attendees and informed the participants that the goals of the meeting are to identify strategies to improve pedestrian safety and discuss what roles stakeholders can play to make the Vallejo community safer for pedestrians and children.

VCUSD District Update

Mitch Romao, VCUSD provided an update on the passing of a VCUSD \$194 Million School Bond. The first bond sale of \$39 million is tentatively scheduled for May 14th. Subsequent bond sales will occur every 2 years and projects will be fully funded in 8 years. The bond monies will be used for infrastructure and maintenance improvements per the facilities master plan, pending board approval April 10th. This bond provides funds for facilities upgrades, not programmatic or matching funds for off-site (street) improvements. Mr. Romao gave further updates on the following specific schools sites:

- Planned school merger of Elsa Widenmann and Solano Middle onto one campus. VCUSD will also be addressing the drop-off/pick-up procedures as soon as work is completed.
- Moving John Finney High School to old Vallejo Middle School Campus. There is a potential plan to increase bike facilities at this location for students.

- The district is undertaking the process to “Right-size” schools and scaling to current enrollment of 12k down from (22k).

Pedestrian Safety Data

Josh Pilachowski, DKS Associates presented pedestrian collision data for Vallejo. The data is broken down by location (intersection or mid-block roadway) and are ranked by the severity of crashes.

According to the data in Vallejo, pedestrian violations constitute the highest proportion of pedestrian fatalities. The second highest proportion of fatalities are pedestrian right-of-way offenses by drivers. In Vallejo, the most severe crashes seem to occur at stop signs and most severe/fatal crashes (nearly 40%) involve the 65+ demographic, with 25% of all pedestrian involved crashes being severe or fatal. Infrastructure improvements and education can be ways to improve this trend. Identified safety priority corridors in Vallejo are located along:

- Springs Road from Columbus to Amador Street (Vallejo Charter, Cave Elementary, Hogan Middle, and Franklin Middle are along this corridor)
- Tennessee Street from Lassen Street to Marin Street is also a priority area (Vallejo High School is along this corridor).
- Sonoma Boulevard/SR 29

Mr. Pilachowski also informed the group of the City of Vallejo's HSIP (Highway Safety Improvement Program) projects that have been awarded funds for pedestrian improvements at 11 locations across the city. The funds awarded total over \$1.5 million.

SR2S Projects and Program Update

Sam Kumar, Vallejo Public Works and Anthony Adams, STA updated the group on the Active Transportation Program (ATP) Cycle 2 projects for 2 schools in Vallejo

- Lincoln and Cooper Projects, construction will begin in June or July. These projects include infrastructure improvements of signs, striping, new sidewalks, curb bulb-outs, and new ADA accessible ramps.

Street Story Tool Demonstration

Kate Beck, SafeTREC demonstrated the Street Story tool that provides community members an opportunity to provide input on areas where they might have experienced a crash, were almost hit, feel safe or feel unsafe travelling through. The location and narrative data collected can potentially be used to identify project locations, not captured by law enforcement collision data. Attendees were given the opportunity to populate the tool, and look at the map showing their identified locations.

Discussion/Ideas

- Potential School Sites for project discussions:
 - Highland Elementary Safety and ADA accessibility
 - MIT and Caliber (not VCUSD school sites)
- Crosswalks are in need of repainting – many roads need resurfacing to hold the paint long term – there was a suggestion to install raised reflective dots instead of painting (not feasible – these do not hold up long term)
- Moreland/Redwood
 - Potential crosswalk/bike path
 - Potential Needs lighting, crossing
- Traffic Enforcement –
 - Traffic Unit has 2 officers and 1 sergeant

- Highland, Cooper, Wardlaw, Lincoln, Springstowne, Jesse Bethel (most common complaints to PD regarding drop-off and pick up)
- Drop off/Pickup procedures at schools
 - Develop parent information for traffic flow, and other areas to drop off students away from the school
- Trip reduction incentives
- Homeless Pedestrian fatalities
 - Sereno – Sonoma – Highway 37 - Broadway common hotspots
- Bethel – Concerns were brought up about the Soltrans drop-off for the school where students must cross a major road to get to school.
 - Mandi Renshaw, Soltrans informed the group they are aware of the concern about this stop. Soltrans is in the middle of local service changes which are moving forward with a bidirectional route that will serve Jesse Bethel and allow for students to catch the bus on the school side of the street.
- Outreach to parents for proper drop off and pick up and Safe Routes Messaging
- Utilize school weekly phone call, emails, text messages to provide information for “Not just what not to do”, give the parents information on what to do and safer alternatives
- Surveillance cameras
- Supervisor Monica Brown outreach (via newsletter) for Street Story input
- SR2S Specific/dedicated funding

Next Steps

- STA initiate follow-up CTF meeting
- Parent Education: VCUSD
- Page on website for schools on “how should parents behave” drop off/pick-up
- Flyers through schools
- Random school site enforcement
- Nextdoor has school specific groups for information and outreach
- Vallejo Police Department – work together to provide parent education (handout) for traffic laws
- School – support for site specific drop-off/pick-up, and park and walk location plans – SR2S can work with schools prior to project completion to develop these plans
- Project specific (Lincoln and Cooper) parent information sheets for school sites
 - Potentially parent volunteers for traffic flow after parent education