



**Suisun City Safe Routes to School
Community Task Force
Suisun City Council Chamber
February 27, 2020, 1:00-2:30 pm**

Members

Wanda Williams	Mayor Pro Tem	City of Suisun City
Matt Medill	Public Works Director	City of Suisun City
Nick Lozano	Engineer	City of Suisun City
Dan Healy	Commander	Suisun City Police Dept.
Don Hafich	School Safety Traffic Officer	Suisun City Police Dept.
Steve Olry	PAC Representative	Suisun City Representative
Lloyd Nadal	Program Services Division Manager	STA
Karin Bloesch	Senior SR2S Program Coordinator	STA
Sue Violette	SR2S Program Coordinator	STA

Additional Members in contact but unable to attend: Shantel Livingston (Solano Public Health), Kim Van Gundy and Rachel Dula (Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District), Lawrence Gee (STA Bicycle Advisory Committee)

Additional Attendees

Tracy Lewis	Vice Principal	Dan O Root Health and Wellness Academy
David Knott	Community Liaison	Crystal Middle School
Ann Marie Neubert	Principal	Suisun Elementary
Gerry Raycraft	Community Member	Fairfield/Suisun City
Erika McLitus	Project Assistant	STA
Corester McLemore	SR2S Program Coordinator	STA

Meeting Goals

1. Seek input from the Community Task Force in order to set priorities for future infrastructure projects to include in the Safe Routes to School Plan Update.
2. Provide an update on current program initiatives and projects in the city of Suisun City.

Minutes

I. Introductions and Overview

Meeting attendees introduced themselves and Lloyd Nadal, STA Program Services Division Manager, provided a brief overview of the Safe Routes to School Program and the most recent efforts to address Pedestrian Safety. He also explained how the Community Task Force can work together to accomplish the goals of the program and help identify and prioritize projects around schools that help students who walk and bike to school by making it safer to do so.

Sue Violette, SR2S Program Coordinator provided a handout illustrating participation by Suisun City schools for the last school year. Karin Bloesch, Sr. Program Coordinator gave a brief overview of completed SR2S Projects in Suisun City, including the Grizzly Island Trail, Driftwood Drive widening, and previous Dan O Root Crosswalk improvements. Ms. Bloesch mentioned staff's recent outreach to the school administrators prior to the Community Task Force meeting, in an effort to gather

feedback on the Active Transportation Plan (ATP) project list and to identify additional locations for potential projects not identified in the ATP plan efforts.

II. Updates

Commander Dan Healy provided an update on the staffing vacancies with the Suisun City Police Department, and how the SR2S Education and Enforcement Grant has helped provide coverage for the schools in Suisun City during the staffing shortage, and how the SR2S Enforcement Grant has benefitted the police department and the Suisun City schools. School Safety Traffic Officer (SSTO) Don Hafich provided a quick update on what issues he addresses at the school sites, ranging from traffic safety education to parking violations. Mr. Hafich also mentioned that he has seen a positive impact with the pedestrian crossing signs provided by the SR2S Program at Dan O Root and Suisun Elementary. His observation is that the signs have been effective in slowing cars down during the drop off and pick up times. Ms. Lewis (Dan O Root Health and Wellness Acad.) mentioned that she has also noticed a difference at her school since the signs were put into use.

Mr. Olry asked the group about the potential for pedestrian red lights at crossings by Suisun Elementary. Nick Lozano (Suisun City), explained that the city will be upgrading the current crosswalk on Pintail at Scoter Way to make the crosswalk more visible and increase safety for pedestrians crossing at that location. Improvements at this site will replace in ground blinking lights with the preferred Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB). Mr. Olry asked if the group is looking to identify improvements around the schools even if there is a crossing guard present. Ms. Bloesch mentioned that projects should be considered even if a crossing guard exists.

Nick Lozano mentioned the crossing at Harrier in front of Dan O Root HWA as a potential project that could include curb extensions, an ADA ramp and improvements to the existing crosswalk (RRFB). Ms. Lewis mentioned line of sight issues for cars entering and exiting their parking lot due to cars parking close to the driveways.

Mr. Lozano presented the group with the current funded projects for Suisun City for 2020-2021. There are 5 fully funded projects:

1. Student Loading Zone at Crescent Elementary (this was completed in January 2020)
2. McCoy Creek Trail Phase 2 project (\$4.137 M) from Pintail Drive to Blossom Ave. with design to begin in March and construction to begin 2021. There are several crossings for this project, the city is working to include raised crosswalks at Worley and Blossom Ave., The city may apply for McCoy Creek Phase 3 in the upcoming ATP Cycle 5.
3. Complete the updated crossing at Scoter and Pintail near Suisun Elementary to include Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB). Mayor Pro Tem Williams asked about ADA requirements for RRFB installation, Mr. Lozano explained that the standard ADA requirements will be met for the signal poles, this project will be completed in 2020.
4. Crystal Middle School will have updated high visibility crosswalk (RRFB) across Whispering Bay Lane, with a curb extension, and realignment of the current crosswalk based on student travel patterns.
5. Whispering Bay Lane fronting Crystal Middle School is set for repaving to coincide with the traffic calming project. An additional crosswalk and curb ramps will be installed along Whispering Bay Lane in Spring of 2021. Matt Medill also mentioned looking into potential road treatments to discourage drivers from going around cars queued up to enter the school parking lot.

Mr. Lozano also presented additional identified projects that are currently unfunded. These projects will be included in the list of Safe Routes to School Projects.

1. The sidewalk gap along Marina Blvd. on the North side of SR12 to Buena Vista Ave. Ms. Williams asked about the safety of the Highway 12 crossing. The group discussed that pedestrians have 45 seconds to cross and that any improvements would be a Caltrans project. Ms. Williams mentioned that this sidewalk gap has existed and been a concern for many years, asking how long the project will remain unfunded. Erika McLitus, Project Assistant (STA) mentioned that STA applied for funding and was previously unsuccessful. The group decided that this project should be a high priority.
2. Dan O Root HWA, for the crossing at Harrier Drive. Mr. Lozano mentioned the possibility that the City might apply for TFCA funding to provide the same treatments as the Crystal Middle School Project.
3. Suisun Elementary on Golden Eye Way, the project includes an upgraded crossing at Shoveller with bulb outs.

Mr. Medill also mentioned additional Suisun City projects slated for 2020; resurfacing Village Drive where the city will be incorporating complete streets treatments along the way and include upgraded crossings. He mentioned that there might be an opportunity to improve some areas of Lawler Ranch during a slurry seal project in addition to improvements along Main Street, with potential upgraded crossings based on City Council approval. A stop sign warrant analysis will also take place at Main Street and Solano Street.

III. **Active Transportation Plan Process**

Erika McLitus, Project Assistant (STA) presented background information on project funding and the importance of community outreach and data for plan development. In 2017, the STA began the process of developing a Countywide Active Transportation Plan (ATP) to identify improvements for pedestrian and biking network. This countywide plan helps to identify projects that will provide connectivity to help residents get between cities. The local chapters of the Plan can help cities identify projects that help their residents move throughout the city on sidewalks, trails, bikeways, etc. The effort taken by the ATP will help this group identify projects for the Safe Routes to School Plan, including using community and school input for the project identification. Ms. McLitus also provided suggestions for additional types of projects that a Safe Routes Plan can identify (bike lockers, bike racks, etc.). Mr. Nadal explained that the Solano SR2S program has been successful with the prior plans completing 29 projects, and that the SR2S Plan update will help secure funding for future projects. Mr. Nadal also encouraged the group to work to prioritize the current list from the ATP and identify additional projects for the SR2S Plan. He opened the discussion for the group to begin looking at the list from the ATP and other priorities from school outreach completed by SR2S staff.

Dan O Root Health and Wellness Academy – Vice Principal Lewis brought up three locations of concern for Dan O Root HWA: the crossing at Walters and Bella Vista for students coming from the East side of Walters Road to the school. She mentioned that there are students that ride bikes to school using that route, and there isn't a bike lane, and improvements (bike lane, signal improvements if needed) would be helpful to make that a safer route for students travelling to the school from across Walters Road. She also mentioned, the lack of sight distance in front of the school on Harrier Drive for drivers to see the students crossing the school driveway entrance and exit due to parked cars in between these access points. Cmdr. Healy suggested removing parking in front of the school to eliminate this concern, the group also suggested encouraging parents and students to access the school from the park using the existing path that runs from Pintail to the school site. Ms. Lewis also mentioned the crosswalk at Harrier directly in front of the school, this crossing runs directly into the sidewalk on both sides of the street with no access ramps.

Mr. Olry asked about limiting parking at corners and at crossings around schools to help increase the line of sight for drivers to see students walking. Mr. Medill mentioned that the city could review the locations of concern, based on specifications for no parking curb painting. For Dan O Root HWA, the group discussed removing at least one parking “spot” (20 feet) on each side of the driveways in front of the school to address the concerns at this location. The group discussed making the changes for parking during the school’s upcoming Spring Break. This will be discussed with FSUSD facilities staff and Suisun City Staff.

Crescent Elementary – Sue Violette provided the group the feedback gathered around areas of concern provided to SR2S staff by Principal Jodie Phan. Ms. Phan’s main areas of concern are students crossing SR12, she mentioned a Ped Bridge across SR12 would be ideal. Another area of concern is the Grizzly Island Trail, she mentioned that her students and families are using it less because they are concerned about the presence of homeless along the trail and their concerns for safety of students and families. Citing a lack of reliable transportation for families and a lack of public transit access near the school for families coming from Downtown Suisun, Ms. Phan is seeing a problem with school attendance, this was also mentioned by Crystal Middle Principal Jay Dowd. Ms. Phan reported that the school doesn’t have a transit stop nearby and suggested a “school tripper” type route or an installation of a bus stop along Anderson Dr. near the recently approved housing development and current eateries and businesses. Ms. Bloesch mentioned that she discussed these ideas and suggestions with STA staff that work with FAST, in order to research the possibility for transit support for students/families.

Mayor Pro Tem Williams, asked if a shuttle or school tripper service would be free or pay service. Mr. Nadal stated that they would be pay passes, but that there are youth fares, and flexible programs to reduce costs for students. Mr. Nadal also mentioned that FAST will be reviewing their local routes for service updates to address lower performing routes. Any changes for service would be brought before the city councils. He mentioned that Benicia is using a LYFT program to provide Dial-a-ride service. He also mentioned that several transit operators and other area cities are subsidizing transit for students, and this might be something that can be investigated and work to have discussions to research any potential changes.

Mr. Lozano brought up the roundabout on the school property for pick-up and drop-off, he mentioned that he has seen cars lining up to enter the roundabout. These are blocking traffic and cars are driving around on the wrong side of the road to get past. Mr. Lozano suggested considering a no parking zone for 8 parking spots along that curb, to free up space for the queue of cars and keep traffic flowing past the school. The no parking would be in effect during the drop-off and pick-up times. Ms. Bloesch also reported that Principal Phan will be having more staff support before and after school to assist with drop off and pick up in the roundabout.

Suisun Elementary – Principal Ann Marie Neubert, mentioned that the new paddle crossing sign provided by SR2S is helping in their crosswalk by encouraging drivers to pay closer attention when driving by the school. She brought up a potential project for the area directly in front of the school where there is current parking for pick up of students. Eliminating that parking is not advisable since there is a limited amount of parking around the school. She suggested putting a half fence along that area to eliminate students walking directly across the school parking lot to get to the parked cars. A midline fence would direct the students around to more preferred crossings and along the sidewalk. She informed the group that she only has 1 staff person to monitor that release area, and one crossing guard. Ms. Bloesch mentioned that this improvement would be discussed with FSUD Facilities to assess the feasibility of a fence for that location. Mr. Lozano also mentioned the HSIP crossing improvement at Scoter and Pintail that includes an RRFB (Rectangular Rapid

Flashing Beacon) and explained again the unfunded project for an improved crossing at Golden Eye and Shoveller. Mr. Medill suggested developing a plan for painted crossing improvements at several school locations with advance “sharks teeth,” and install crosswalk signage that is installed into the crosswalk. Mr. Olry mentioned that he would like to see the Suisun Elementary improvements/projects prioritized by the group.

Crystal Middle School – Ms. Bloesch referred to the previous discussion about transit needs and that Crystal Middle School Principal Jay Dowd is tracking where his absent students are coming from, and has identified clusters of students that are habitually absent from Downtown Suisun and across SR12 near the Sunset and Pintail area. Ms. Bloesch mentioned that the City is already addressing some of Mr. Dowd’s additional concerns with current and planned projects around the school, with the addition of a crossing on Whispering Bay Way, and sidewalk improvements. Ms. Violette mentioned that Mr. Dowd also expressed the concern that his parents have for students utilizing the pedestrian overcrossing by the train depot. They are concerned that students may have a fascination with railroad tracks that can be dangerous. Ms. Bloesch reported that she informed Mr. Dowd that STA has staff at the station, providing some additional eyes for safety. Mr. David Knott from Crystal MS, said that many students are coming from Fairview/Crystal area and that safe travel for those students is a concern for the school. The group discussed the need for safer crossing from the other side of the railroad tracks getting to and from Armijo and Suisun City and that historically this has been a concern, and students cross the tracks near Railroad Avenue instead of using the Pedestrian Bridge.

IV. Next Steps

Mr. Nadal asked the group what they would like to continue with this process. The group suggested updating the list of identified projects from the ATP list and the additional identified projects from the school discussions. Ms. McLitus mentioned the opportunities for funding for smaller to larger projects. On direction from the group, SR2S staff will update the list and based on feedback from the meeting, prioritize as high and low priority. The list will be sent to the city for review and then the general group for feedback and approval to be included in the SR2S Plan. Mr. Medill mentioned that he has discretion when doing regular maintenance projects, and a comprehensive list will be helpful for him to get school related projects prioritized.

Mr. Raycraft mentioned that his Rotary club is looking for small projects to help support schools and students. Ms. Violette mentioned that many schools have requested bike locks for students and that could be something that Rotary clubs could provide and could increase the number of students biking to school if they could secure their bikes. They will work together to identify other ways to help the students.

- SR2S staff will compile the updated list to include the additional projects discussed
- SR2S staff to send the updated list to the group for feedback, and if further discussion is needed, schedule a follow up meeting
- SR2S staff will reach out to FSUSD Facilities for projects at Dan O Root HWA and Suisun Elementary
- Mr. Medill suggested that the group meet twice per year, SR2S staff will work to schedule a second meeting later in the year (September/October)