



**Vacaville Safe Routes to School
Community Task Force
Vacaville Public Works Department
June 7, 2019, 9:00am – 11:00am**

Members

Gwen Owens	Sr. Traffic Engineer, Public Works	City of Vacaville
Agnes Liu	Assoc. Civil Engineer, Public Works	City of Vacaville
Dorothy Kam	Asst. Engineer, Public Works	City of Vacaville
Darren Young	Officer	Vacaville Police Department
Sonia Lasyone	Chief Business Officer	Travis Unified School District
Neal Iverson	STA Bicycle Advisory Committee	Vacaville Representative
Wendy Loomas	Health Services Manager	Solano County Public Health
Lloyd Nadal	Program Services Division Manager	STA
Karin Bloesch	Senior SR2S Program Coordinator	STA
Betsy Beavers	SR2S Program Coordinator	STA

Additional Members in contact but unable to attend: Dan Banowetz (Vacaville Unified School District), Sgt. Nathan Benevides (Vacaville Police Dept.)

Additional Attendees

Josh Pilachowski	Project Consultant	DKS Associates
Mahdi Rouholamin	Project Consultant	DKS Associates
Anthony Adams	Project Manager	STA

Purpose:

The purpose of this Joint Vacaville TAC and SR2S Task Force Meeting is to focus on pedestrian safety concerns as they relate to schools, identify additional locations of concern for potential projects, discuss related SR2S activities among city/school staff and the community, and to identify next steps and/or solutions to address safe walking and biking among youth in Vacaville.

Minutes

<p>I. Introductions and Overview Ms. Gwen Owens welcomed the attendees and explained the purpose of the Vacaville Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC).</p>
<p>II. Overview of Pedestrian Safety Data Josh Pilachowski provided the following information on bike and pedestrian safety data for the City of Vacaville and Solano County.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Primary contributing factors for collisions and weighted severity score. Mid-block crashes are more severe in the City of Vacaville and pedestrian violations are the more common cause, ● Pedestrian crashes by age – Under age 18 make up 40% of pedestrian crashes,

- What's been done (2018 Travel Safety Plan, HSIP Applications, Safe Routes to School and the Active Transportation Plan - ATP), and
- The hot spot corridor (Pedestrian hot spots - large portion of Alamo Drive, part of Nut Tree Road, Peabody, Monte Vista. Hot spots were noticed more near schools. Bicycle hot spots – Peabody, Nut Tree, and small section of Alamo. Problem seems to be visibility of and awareness bicyclists)

Anthony Adams, provided an overview of the Solano Transportation Authority's Active Transportation Plan (ATP) and process for developing a list of projects countywide.

The purpose of the Plan is:

- To be proactive for solutions County-wide and in each of the seven cities
- They are working on a data-driven analysis and can give suggestions on safety ideas to adopt
- Existing sidewalks were mapped in Vacaville, and speed limits, sidewalk gaps, and average daily traffic volumes were included
- Generator/Attractor – Where are people coming from and where are they going (parks, school, transit, commercial centers)? What does the community want? What is the priority?
- They will develop a project list with data-driven objective project prioritization, and identify projects for future funding opportunities

Progress of the Plan to date:

- Best Practices and Literature Review
- Public Outreach for Solano County and all seven cities.
- Goals and Policies
- Existing Conditions Report
- Bike/Pedestrian Demand Analysis
- Safety Analysis
- Network Gap Analysis
- Attractor/Generator Analysis (overview of specific locations where residents want to go-parks, schools, transit, shopping and locations of where they are coming from)

A list of projects was provided for the City to review for potential inclusion into the County-wide section of the plan by end of June.

III. Safe Routes to School Program

Mr. Lloyd Nadal, discussed the upcoming SR2S Micro-Grant Pilot Program. This grant will be available in the Fall and will be open for applications from the City, school district, schools, and community organizations (PTO/Community Groups/Non-Profits). To date there is \$40,000 available in funding county-wide for improvements. The program is intended to be on-going and SR2S will continue to look for additional funding. These grants are for smaller projects (bike racks, safety vests, rapid flashing beacons).

Karin Bloesch, STA/SR2S discussed the MUTCD-approved "Ped in a Bag" signs (Portable double-sided Ped Signage) available. This is an option for schools to place and pick-up before/after school start/end times when a crossing guard is present. These signs have been approved for use on Vacaville roads for crossing safety. Sonia Lasyone (Travis USD) is interested in the signs for use at Foxboro and Cambridge. Ms. Bloesch will email the information to Ms. Lasyone and Dan Banowetz (VUSD) Facilities, Maintenance and Operations. Mr. Iverson mentioned that Sierra Vista K-8 might be a good candidate for a sign. Mr. Nadal mentioned that the Program had OTS funds available to purchase these signs.

During this conversation Ms. Loomas, Solano Public Health, added the other benefits to people walking and biking, i.e. exercise, and told us that Solano County has one of the highest obesity rates in the state.

Ms. Owens, City of Vacaville, asked the group for locations of where there are issues with walking or biking. Once issues are identified, City staff would evaluate potential solutions and report back to the group. The purpose is to develop a list of projects that are available for future ATP funding and for inclusion in a Safe Routes to School Plan or Project List.

Ms. Lasyone and the group discussed Foxboro Elementary School for a potential sidewalk widening on Youngsdale Drive to address all the individuals walking. There was additional discussion regarding a turn out for drop off. Ms. Lasyone will confirm and report details of the potential widening at a later date, she also said that enrollment is expected to grow at Foxboro and Cambridge.

Four new classroom spaces will be created at Cambridge, then 4-6 more, and two will be created Foxboro. There will also be an increase in Special Ed services, which require smaller class sizes and more space. TUSD is the last school district in the County that is still providing transportation to high school students. Half of their schools are on one block, so congestion can be a problem. District transportation helps avoid traffic problems.

Mr. Iverson suggested that an evaluation for an alternative drop off location for Sierra Vista Elementary School would help the schools' congestion problem. There are many factors that make this school an ideal candidate:

- There is one road that serves the school,
- It is next to a park,
- There is a walking path,
- There is significant parent participation, and
- The school is a K-8

Lloyd suggested to work with City and School District to select one school in Vacaville for alternative drop off location as a County-wide pilot program in the effort to address the traffic congestion to all the schools throughout the County. The group discussed the potential for Foxboro Elementary as a good site for a pilot program that addresses traffic congestion and flow, including alternate drop-off locations for students. The SR2S program staff will contact school staff and discuss potential pilot ideas.

IV. Vacaville Police Department Update

Officer Darren Young, City of Vacaville Police Department updated the group on the following:

- Bicycle and pedestrian collisions
The general finding is that most are the fault of bicyclist or pedestrian. He provided a few examples:
 - Bicycles ride the wrong direction and on sidewalks the wrong way
 - Pedestrians crossing mid-block without a crosswalk even when a crosswalk is 40' away
- Crossing guards need to let more cars through, especially at Cooper, to ease congestion.
- The Police Department has improved staffing levels in the traffic unit and the Community Service Officers (CSO) have been taking more collision reports, this frees up motorcycle officers for additional enforcement.

Based upon the discussion there appears to be a benefit for having more education. The Police Department doesn't have a specific safety program, but will go to schools if requested.

Any other locations of concern should be forwarded to Ms. Owens for City evaluation and review. The City will email Dan Banowetz for his areas of concerns to be evaluated.

V. Next Steps

- The TAC committee will continue to meet and discuss potential SR2S projects as the countywide ATP Project List is finalized
- Ms. Bloesch will reach out to Ms. Lasyone (TUSD) and Dan Banowetz (VUSD) regarding the Pedestrian Crossing Signs available for school crosswalks
- Ms. Bloesch will reach out to the City and Districts when the SR2S Micro-Grant Program is open for applications