

Minutes from Eureka SRTS Task Force Meeting
February 15, 2017, 11 am – noon
Community Wellness Center, 908 7th Street Eureka

Task Force Members Present

Jenny Weiss - Redwood Community Action Agency
Emily Sinkhorn - Redwood Community Action Agency
Melanie Williams – Bikes There
Mellody Mallick – Humboldt County DHHS Public Health
Scott Ellsmore – City of Eureka
Angela Shull – Lafayette Elementary School
Beth Holcomb – Alice Birney Elementary School
Alexis Kelso – Caltrans Local Assistance
Taylin Titus – North Coast Schools Insurance Group

January Meeting Minutes: Approved

Report Out/Announcements

- BikesTheres/Melanie Williams: Bike Clubs are starting soon. Alice Birney's program runs 2/28 through 5/16. Lafayette's program begins 3/13.
- Construction will begin on Lafayette School's new parking lot this spring so that it will be completed by the end of summer in time for school to start again in the fall. The 'horseshoe' in the center will be the designated bus zone with some new parking spots installed in the existing grassy area next to it. A separate loading/unloading area for vehicles will be within the horseshoe and the existing gravel lot will be paved. They will be shifting the exit closer to Coast Guard Street. Construction is likely to cause a lot of frustration and will complicate bus arrival and dismissal as well as disrupt pick up and drop off of students. They will likely have to temporarily change the student drop off location as well as the bus loading and unloading zone, potentially to the blacktop near Lincoln Street. Lafayette has the highest number of students who ride the bus at 90. This does not include the students that are transported to and from other schools from Lafayette. Angela will be meeting with those in charge of the project to learn about the timeline so that she can plan and communicate with parents to make the transition easier. Construction on Park Street through the County's Active Transportation Program (ATP) grant will begin in the summer. The ATP project will construct sidewalks on both sides of Park Street, raised crosswalks, bulbouts, and necking in of the Park and Myrtle and the 18th and Myrtle intersections to shorten the crossing distance for pedestrians walking on Myrtle. The two projects are expected to improve circulation and safety but will need to work together throughout the project timeline. It was suggested that we work with the County to notify neighbors by sending letters asking them to avoid Park Street during the construction period. Funding for the new parking lot came from Measure S for school improvements.
- Construction on Alice Birney's new parking lot is expected to begin in May. There won't be as much of a disruption to the surrounding neighborhood but is also likely to cause some temporary confusion and frustration. Beth will be asking TK-K parents to drop off and pick up their children outside the gate on South Street to reduce congestion. Melanie has offered to train the students beforehand and show them how and to where they will be walking to the new (temporary) pick up and drop off location.
- Melanie announced the Bike Clubs are starting up again afterschool at Lafayette and Alice Birney. They will last approximately 10 weeks.

- The City of Eureka received three Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) grants for a total of \$900,000 to improve pedestrian crossings. They will be making Americans with Disabilities (ADA) and pedestrian crossing improvements at 40 locations throughout the City such as adding ADA curb ramps and installing rapid flashing beacons near parks and at other high pedestrian crossing areas throughout Eureka. The push button activated flashing beacon at the S Street crosswalk near Zane Middle School will be receiving curb cuts at both ends of the crosswalk. It was suggested that the City include the Alice Birney neighborhood, particularly Utah Street, for making some ADA improvements where curbs have high steps down to the street.

The City of Eureka is also preparing to begin a Caltrans Sustainable Communities Grant project working with RCAA to look at multi-modal improvements on H & I Streets in Eureka. Currently, H & I Streets have 3 lanes of traffic and it is difficult for pedestrians and bicyclists to navigate. This project should begin in the next couple of months.

- The Redwood Mobility Education Program (RMEP) Poster Contest is still underway and entries will be accepted until March 3rd at 5pm.
- RMEP's Photo Voice project at Zane Middle School was a great success. Leadership student posters are on display at the County Library through February. City Council member Arroyo discussed the posters during her staff report at a recent Council meeting. The students and Leadership teacher Hillary Manion were then featured on Channel 3 news.
- Through RMEP a toolkit for afterschool providers is being finalized. The elementary principals agree that streamlining the curriculum and materials would be best for the final toolkit. That way, afterschool providers could tailor lessons depending on staffing, weather and other considerations. Supplemental materials, such as the plastic practice road, will be made available to borrow either through the HCOE or Public Health Department.

AB 321 Update (Effort to Reduce Speed Limits in Eureka School Zones)

The City of Eureka has been looking into how they can implement the Safer School Zone Act which would reduce school zone speed limits to 15 mph at qualifying schools, and extend school zones from 500 to 1000 feet. They have mapped out zones and done necessary speed studies to determine if current speeds are low enough to further reduce speeds near schools. There are concerns about the Eureka Police Department's ability to enforce the new speed limits. Task Force members discussed other jurisdictions that have implemented AB321 without traffic patrols and have not seen any issues. It is assumed that if speeds are reduced, half the population might do the right thing and drive the speed limit, therefore setting the pace for cars behind them. RCAA is willing to attend the next Transportation Safety Committee meeting in Eureka in March to discuss further.

Announcements: Eureka City School (ECS) District is considering restricting Inter-District Transfers. Eureka parents have previously had a choice of where to send their kids to school even if outside their local school boundary. They just had to request an inter-district transfer and if there was room at the school, it was granted. The open enrollment agreement was made between all 32 Humboldt County Schools nearly five years ago and that agreement is soon set to expire. A new agreement must be made Countywide. Some schools have not been following proper protocol and filling out paperwork that tracks where students are transferring to. This has made it hard for ECS schools to determine Average Daily Attendance, how to staff their schools, evaluate needs, and create attendance boundaries. There will be discussion on the topic at the ECS Board Meeting on Thursday, February 16th at 7pm.

Next Meeting Date:

March 15, 2017

11 am – noon

Community Wellness Center

908 7th Street, Eureka