

Minutes from County Wide SR2S Task Force Meeting

June 6, 2018 10am – 11am

Task Force Members Present

- Emily Sinkhorn – Redwood Community Action Agency
- Jenny Weiss - Redwood Community Action Agency
- Melody Mallick – Humboldt County DHHS Public Health
- Areli Cupp - Humboldt County DHHS Public Health
- Mike Reardon – Humboldt County DHHS Public Health
- Jan Schmidt – McKinleyville Union School District
- Taylin Titus – North Coast Schools Insurance Group (via telephone)
- Tony Seghetti – Humboldt County Public Works
- Paul Craft – California Highway Patrol
- Chris Mikkelsen – Cutten Ridgewood School District Site Council
- Beth Johnson – Cutten Ridgewood School District Site Council
- Johnny Calkins – McKinleyville Resident

April Meeting Minutes: Minutes Approved.

McKinleyville Middle School Update:

At a meeting in May with Jan (MUSD), Tony (County Public Works), Jenny and Emily (RCAA), Julie (MMS), and Melody (Public Health), it was determined that the Active Transportation Program funding may not be the best fit to address safety concerns at McKinleyville Middle School. Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funding would likely be a better match.

The County has been looking at priority areas for infrastructure investments that will prevent accidents. Railroad and Central (at McKinleyville Middle School), and Bella Vista and Central are two of the areas being looked at. A report is being developed after which the County will apply for Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funding to implement safety features in the priority areas including McKinleyville Middle School. It is hoped the report will be finalized soon so the County can apply for the next round of HSIP with applications due at the end of August.

Short-term measures that could be taken by the school/district include:

- Remove large vegetation at corner of Railroad and Central on school property to improve visibility
- Relocate banners on fence further south to increase visibility
- Install a gate on south end of fence along Central to reduce congestion on the corner and accommodate students walking south

Arcata ATP Construction Timeline Update: Discussion postponed

Cutten Ridgewood School District:

Chris Mikkelsen and Beth Johnson are on the Cutten Ridgewood School District Site Council and discussed safety concerns at both Ridgewood and Cutten schools with the goal of preventing potential future collisions involving students. The schools encourage active transportation but need better safety measures

in place. Some needs are for the built environment while others involve educating and training parent and community motorists. Concerns at Cutten Elementary include:

- Drivers disregarding stop signs
- Inappropriate left turns into school grounds are dangerous and stop traffic
- High vehicle speeds on Walnut
- High volume of traffic
- Desire for additional crossing guards

A 2013 Walk Audit at Cutten Elementary recommended installing vegetation bulbouts on Walnut near Primrose, extended red/no parking curbs on Primrose, and the installation of a raised crosswalk in front of Cutten Elementary on Walnut. The school has an active engaged parent base that does fundraising and could potentially partner with the County on an RTAP application to install some improvements. The Freshwater community is also an example cited that has recently requested Speed Humps and circulated a petition to garner support. The County's Public Health Department developed a Crossing Guard training manual that will be passed along to the School District.

At Ridgewood:

- Vehicle traffic on Avalon backs up making it dangerous for pedestrians
- Lack of walking path on Walnut

Tony has met with Sue Ivy about safety concerns near Ridgewood Elementary and recommends redesign of the parking lot. An educational program involving parents could also help. Task Force has examples of strategies used by other schools that will be forwarded, including arrival and dismissal maps and procedures and transportation safety guidelines for parent handbooks.

School/District/Jurisdiction/Organization Report Out and Announcements:

Jan/MUSD: The District was recently alerted they will receive grant funding for Dows and Morris Elementary Schools to provide expanded learning opportunities for students afterschool. Currently, the afterschool programs are for a fee. This program will enable 84 students at each school to participate free of charge.

CHP/Paul: Agency has been understaffed but working to build up the number of officers on duty. They are spread thin throughout the County and to their best to accommodate requests to patrol at schools during arrival/dismissal. They have been participating in bike rodeos and have helmets available for distribution. They also participate in a monthly radio show on KINS to discuss safety.

Next Meeting Date: August 15, 2018 at 10 am. Location TBD