

Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) County-Wide Task Force Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 17, 2024, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Task Force Members Present

- Alysia Bixler, RCAA
- Vanessa Griffin, RCAA
- Denise Newman, RCAA
- Oona Smith, HACOG
- Kyle Finger, Caltrans
- Taylin Titus, Humboldt County
- Mark Schaffner, SRTS enthusiast
- Klark Swan, Humboldt County
- Kelsey, CRTP
- Lisa Buglewicz, Caltrans
- Kiya Villarreal, North coast Coop

Project Update: Eel River Trail & Outreach to Rio Dell School with Clean CA & RCAA- Denise & Alysia

- Clean California grant in partnership with the City of Rio Dell, GHD & RCAA to develop a multi-use trail, $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile along the river in Rio Dell near Eagle Prairie Elementary. This grant is currently funding SRTS Task Force meetings.
- Infrastructure & non-infrastructure grant. Infrastructure will install the multi-use trail with two trailheads, parking enhancements & signage.
- RCAA is doing the non-infrastructure piece: outreach & education.
- The city of Rio Dell is excited! First, a dedicated multi-use trail coming to their community.
- Trail connects Davis Street to Edwards Street. This trail connects communities and increased exercise opportunities for residents along the Eel River
- Grant was delayed due to the earthquake-lost a year and a half, received a 6-month extension, will run through December 2024
- RCAA is working with two classrooms at Eagle Prairie School- 4th & 5th graders who are learning to become the liaison trail steward ambassadors & learning natural and cultural aspects along the river.
- In May, student groups will present to the City council, school staff, and parents about what they have been learning: will provide updates & pictures at the next SRTS meeting
- A community art installation will be completed in Fall 2024. 50-foot art wall, student-designed tiles or paint-by-numbers mural
- The trail will be complete in October 2024, and construction will begin in June 2024.
- Trail opening/ celebration: 2025, organized by the City of Rio Dell, after grant term ends
- Interested in behind-the-scenes trail planning documents? Check out [the Rio Dell Eel River Bike Trail page here!](#)

- Oona- The last shot of the city website with the bike trail- is this already built, and is your project a connectivity plan to connect to this existing trail? No, the website shows the trail plan. It's currently just river bar and construction will begin soon.
- Oona- Will spread the word. Folks who pay attention to us will be excited to hear about this. Would love to stay in contact around project management- HCAOG has a grant starting after your grant ends, working with city of Arcata on a SRTS project with Fuente Nueva- would love to incorporate environmental education with the students, public participation and community art: painting the street scape to slow down traffic. RCAA has muralist contacts if needed!
- Denise- absolutely, this is such a feel-good project would love to do more projects like this
- Oona-Lets stay in touch: HCAOG would love to coordinate with RCAA a celebration for the Bay Trail & Eel River Trail- will be done around the same time.

Project Update: Loleta ATP

- RCAA is applying for an Active Transportation Program grant to plan safety improvements for Loleta. Will focus on safe routes to the grammar school, including improving the crosswalk and speeding as well as improving connectivity throughout Loleta. Will plan for ways to improve connectivity to Bear River and Table Bluff.
- Two walkability assessments have been done, one in January and one in April. They were well attended by community members, chamber leaders, and school staff. April's meeting was funded through a complete streets safety assessment Bren Juarez won through a grant. Safe trek folks from Berkeley walked us through the town. Hank Seaman, Supervisors Rex & Natalie, owner of the Creamery building- shared their vision of the town. Cal Berkely will have an official recommendation, based on community input, for the grant before June.
- Grant proposal due June 17.
- What was the Creamery owner's vision?
 - The couple are moving through permits for partial demolition and want to preserve some spaces. They want to see a better way to integrate into town. It will be a years-long process. She is aware of the sentimental value the creamery represents to the county and wants to preserve it as much as she can, but the earthquakes have done much damage.
- Owner of Jersey Scoops was there and discussed what the Great Redwood Trail moving through the center of town would mean- lots of potential for Loleta, but everything is in the planning stage
- RCAA moved away from the Quick Build grant option to improve the crosswalk because it required 100% design plans & there are no resources for this. RCAA is focused on the ATP planning grant
- Goals: calming traffic, creating safer spaces for students to walk to school, improving walkability in Loleta
- Connectivity will be focused on Park Street- better opportunity & tenable for improvements

- Rex has proposed installing solar-powered speed indicators on either side of the crosswalk. The main speeding issue happens outside of school hours. The school would like to open the playground to the community outside school hours, but it would like to see safety improvements addressing speeding first. Rex believes the speed indicators could help with this issue.
- Would the rancheria support any kind of funding?
 - They were approached about financing insurance for the park. They will be a part of this conversation
- Reach out to RCAA if you have more questions!

Report Out

- **Bike Month:** May is Bike Month. The City of Arcata will have a kid's bike rodeo on May 19th, 10-11 on the plaza. Lots of fun things going on. May 18 Bike Fair at Jefferson Community Center
- **Community Workshop to improve K & 11th Streets** : May 2nd at Redwood Coast Montessori in Arcata: 5:30-7:30 pm
- **HCAOG: Caltrans sustainable transportation planning grant.** Will start collecting data soon to evaluate level of traffic stress. Will assess all communities all communities around Wigi, the greater Humboldt Bay area. We will assess how comfortable it is for pedestrians and cyclists. Lowest stress: people of all ages and abilities feel comfortable; High stress: only the most confident and daring cyclists feel comfortable: biking on 101 shoulders. We will figure out the best places to promote infill, such as higher-density commercial areas, schools, and health services, to align where we can create bikeable communities. Oona will keep everyone informed of this process.

Next Meeting: June 26th, 10-11 am