

# **Safe Routes to School T(SRTS) County-Wide Task Force Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, June 26, 2024, 10-11 am

## **Task Force Members Present**

Brittany Powell, City of Eureka, Lisa Buglewicz Caltrans bicycle and pedestrian safety, Calvin Copeland, Humboldt County Public Health, Physical Activity, Denise Newmann, RCAA, Taylin Titus, NC schools insurance group, risk management, Humboldt and del Norte, Peach Green, Humboldt County Public Health, , Kelsy Martin, CRTP, Street Story, Vanessa Griffin, RCAA, Carol Vander Meer, RCAA Jesse Willor, City of Eureka City Engineer, Bay to Zoo project.

The Safe Routes to School Task force meets quarterly to share ideas, focus on events, help support each other's projects.

## **Agenda**

- Street story - Presentation
- Rio Dell Project update – Denise
- Loleta ATP application- update from Vanessa
- Participant updates

## **Street Story Presentation- Kelsy Martin**

Street story is a community engagement tool that allows residents, community groups and agencies to collect information about transportation crashes, near-misses, general hazards and safe locations to travel. To promote access to the tool, SafeTREC conducts technical assistance with communities and organizations on using Street Story. Street Story is free to use and publicly accessible.

- Online platform to share stories
- Data to use in reports, outreach materials, and project proposals
- Surveys allow members of the public to provide information about safety issues
- The info gathered via Street Story is a supplement, not a substitute for crash reporting data
- Complement to other data sources,
- CRTP has been using Street Story since 2019, use street story in advocating for local efforts
- SafeTREC has adapted the tool to be used for California Tribal Lands
- Keep it up to date- want to community to keep submitting reports.

## **How to make a report**

- Visit <https://streetstory.berkeley.edu/>
- You can drop a dot and report a specific spot or a section of street.
- Keep anonymous, do not mention specific names
- You can search for data for a particular area you are interested in. You can download it as text, image, excel,
- You can make a custom boundary- a useful tool when looking at specific areas, Kelsy can help

## How to use it in your community

- Needs assessment
- Evaluate how safety improvements have worked
- Tabling at community events and encouraging community members to make reports
- Do a bike/walk with students to observe safety concerns and then do a report together with them.

Street Story is funded by the Cal Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. For questions, contact: [kelsey@trnsportationpriorities.org](mailto:kelsey@trnsportationpriorities.org)

## Questions/Comments:

- Does keeping it anonymous apply to businesses? Okay to use a business name if it is useful info, just don't call out individuals.
- Tricky to get people to do it. It could be fun to use in a classroom setting as a project for students.
- Kelsey did a report on Street Story data for Humboldt County and could provide that to interested individuals

### **Rio Dell Eel River Trail Project Update- Denise**

In partnership with the City of Rio Dell, GHD, and RCAA, this Clean California grant will 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. RCAA is doing an education and outreach piece working with students from Eagle Prairie Elementary.

The trail connects Davis Street to Edwards Street and will have an ADA-accessible ramp. This trail connects communities and increases exercise opportunities for Eel River residents. The trail is close to Eagle Prairie and creates a loop to make the river more accessible.

Students learned about topics and presented at a "soft ribbon cutting"

- Students were interpreters at stations, and staff, parents, Friends of the Eel River, Watershed stewards, and Humboldt Trails Council participated. Each student presented an Eel River topic they have been studying: Riparian plants, Geology, Watersheds, Trail Stewards, Rail History, and Wildlife.

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.





### **ATP grant proposal for Loleta**

RCAA just submitted a grant that will help provide safe routes to schools connecting Bear River and Table Bluff to Loleta School and Loleta School down to Main Street. They will hear if they are successful by the end of the year.

### **Report out on upcoming events, needs, and projects:**

*Jesse Willor/Brittany Powell*— Moving forward with Bay to Zoo Trail, working with Mark Thomas Consulting for a robust outreach plan, GHD for designs, and environmental permitting. Working to get students to school safely. The trail crosses multiple residences, including St. Joseph Hospital. They are currently focused on getting the word out and ramping up outreach. Environmental NEPA process. Could present a future SRTS meeting.

*Carol*—RCAA is working on the South Arcata Multimodal Safety Improvement Plan (SAMSIP) and Vibrant Neighborhoods project with HCAOG and GHD. One of the tasks GHD is leading is determining the Level of Traffic Stress for cyclists and pedestrians.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, August, 21, 10-11 am,**