

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

Wednesday, June 28, 2023, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Task Force Members Present

- Alysia Bixler, RCAA
- Melody Mallick, Public Health
- Scott Mauroff, Eureka City Schools
- Tiffany Mayer, Morris Elementary
- Lisa Hockaday, Caltrans

Report Out

- Check out April's meeting minutes to review Humboldt County Public Health 3- year work plan; they are actively seeking feedback. Melody has been coordinating with HCAOG to align their efforts. HCAOG is seeking a Sustainable Communities Grant, which includes a feasibility study to fund a regional Safe Routes coordinator. They are also working on a federally funded vision zero grant. Humboldt County and HCAOG are looking for ways to support each other to achieve their goals.
- HCAOG has not yet been awarded the sustainability grant. RCAA has funding to continue facilitating the SRTS task force meetings through December 2023, with the possibility of extending the ATP grant for an additional six months. Beyond that, it is unclear how the SRTS meetings will be funded. Hopefully, we can get an extension until June 2024, and HCAOG successfully receives funding for the feasibility study that will support the Safe Routes Coordinator position. Melody will look into how the 3-year work plan can support future SRTS meetings.

Cal Trans Pop-Up

- The Cal Trans Broadway pop-up took place during Bike Month in May. This included a delineator to protect a class 4 bike lane from the road, a temporary curve extension to extend the sidewalk, a closed acceleration and deceleration lane to create the class 4 bike lane, and a closed road median. Did anyone ride it? Does anyone from the task force have any feedback?
- Lisa rode her bike on it and liked having some protection from the cars. She hopes it becomes permanent so that bikes can ride smoothly and uninterrupted while cars are held up by traffic. It's much safer and prevents bikers from riding on the sidewalk and not riding in traffic. Lisa is a confident rider who generally rides in traffic but feels uncomfortable doing so in this area. She would love to see a class 4 bikeway on both sides of the road all the way down Broadway with nice transitions in and out of the road.

- The pop-up response survey was successful. Caltrans was hoping for 1,500 responses, and they received 1,501. The results are being analyzed and will be presented when done.

Bike Month

- The vice principal at Eureka High School received 20 bike donations with helmets to the school.
- RCAA tabled at the Kinetic Sculpture race and Bike Month Humboldt Celebration and Expo at Jefferson Community Center Park sharing information about the Great Redwood Trail. The Great Redwood Trail is a 320-mile rail-to-trail project that will connect San Francisco to Humboldt Bay. The service area is the former North Coast Railroad Authority rail corridor in Mendocino, Trinity, and Humboldt Counties and has been transferred to Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit. Most of the trail will be a class 3 bike road, while portions will be for backpacking. The GRT is in its master planning phase and is actively seeking feedback and suggestions for how this project should take shape. The Humboldt Bay Trail connecting Eureka and Arcata is part of the GRT.
- RCAA will plan pedestrian and bike safety/ education at Morris Elementary this Fall as a part of the McKinleyville ATP grant. Alysia could not coordinate programming at Morris this Spring because she was focused on the High School but is looking to the Fall. In May, RCAA filmed bike and driver safety videos with McKinleyville High School Students in May that will be completed this Fall. Themes include safe routes to bike around McKinleyville to get to school, changing a flat tire, checking your bike before you go, and safe driving tips, including school zones. The videos could be shared with Morris Elementary, the Middle School, and McKinleyville Community Watch so they could have a broader scope than just the High School. Morris was busy this Spring with various activities, May is busy and full time. Tiffany is looking forward to the Fall. It would be great to focus on 3rd and 4th graders. Alysia will follow up in August.
- Eureka High School has a bike club, and Scott can get them more involved with programs around bike safety.

Action Items

- Please reach out to Alysia with future discussion topics or presentation ideas
- Next meeting: **August 30th 10-11am**