

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

Wednesday, November 20, 2024, 10-11 am

Task Force Members Present

In attendance: Vanessa RCAA, Lisa Buglewicz, Coach Brenda Juarez, Loleta School Kyle Finger, Caltrans, Calvin Public Schools, Oona Smith HCAOG, Tiffany Maher, principal at Morriss Elementary Schools, Nicole Chappelle, Humboldt County public health, Alysia RCAA, Carol

Presentation: Murals on the Peninsula & Bike Tour

Alysia shared photos from Mural Tour, Part of the Clean California Peninsula Beautification Grant. The Peninsula Beautification project focused on increasing a sense of safety, reducing litter, and beautifying the peninsula. Part of the improvements included murals. There are 23 murals across the Samoa Peninsula from Manila to Fairhaven. In October, RCAA led a community bike tour to visit some of them. The group started at Manila Park, continued to Redwood Coast Montessori, crossed New Navy Base Road to Samoa, visited the five murals at the Peninsula School, and ended at the park inside the housing complex at the end of Samoa. You can arrange with the school to see murals and take your own mural bike tour. You can find a map of all mural locations here: [Story Map Peninsula Beautification.](#)

Calvin commented that the mural at the park really uplifted the area.

Oona: There are more opportunities to bring art to safe routes. It is being recognized as an important tool.

Report Out

Oona-**Vibrant Neighborhoods- Planning Grant**- doing a safe route to school demonstration, a self-assessment pilot, and pop-up. They are doing it at Fuente Nueva. January 21st and 22 are planning a walk audit as part of the Vibrant Neighborhoods. This will be the first visit of the consultants, including Dan Burden and Josh Meyer. February/March, there will be a workshop for the community regarding developing 30% design and self-assessment. Victor Dober is also the consultant. They were asked how much of streetscape design could be done without an engineer. They think 80% of the design can be done by trained community members.

Carol and Vanessa provided an update about the **South Arcata Multimodal Safety Improvement Plan (SAMSIP)**. The project is looking at Samoa Blvd from V to the 255, 101 interchange and south G street. RCAA has been doing community engagement, including surveys, community meetings, and public walks. Vanessa Shared that they have been having a hard time engaging schools in the project area. That said, the Project manager from GHD, has been pleased with the community response and enthusiastic participation.

Rio Dell- Clean California grant, build a trail to connect Davis Street and Edwards. RCAA is working with the City to hire an artist to do an art wall bench. The students are going to create

tiles to go with the art wall. Will announce the winning artist later this week. The trail will be complete in June 2025.

Oona- **SRTS Conference**- Attended the National Safe Routes to School conference in Colorado Springs. She saw a permanent bike rodeo course with permanent painting and barriers. They have a trail network that goes right by a school but is more focused on mountain bike riding. This gave Oona ideas about engaging high schools with mountain biking and active transportation. She also wondered how these entities get their full-time SRTS managers. Oona is trying to figure out how we can fund this in California. The movement has built itself in the last 10 years, but the funding has not kept pace. So much money goes to roads—lots of young people making this their career. Virtual reality is being used as well (while trying to keep people from getting nauseous). The health aspect is coming into the discussion. How to people engaged in apartments, elderly. Federal funding has been allocated for Mission Zero, but who knows how federal funding will be affected by the new administration.

Vanessa: The **Loleta ATP** grant was denied, even though the grant was scored highly, funds were cut. Vanessa was working to submit a new grant **Sustainable Communities** and possibly Safe Streets for All.

Carol brought up the idea of whether or not this group should think about how to advocate for some of the **county's road funds for safe trails for transportation**. Possibly a topic to explore in at a future meeting.

Next Meetings: February 12, from 10 to 11. In 2025, we will continue with our regular SRTS meeting schedule—the third Wednesday of every other month. In February, we will meet on the second Wednesday to avoid the President's week break for schools. **Please let Alysia know if you have a topic to be explored.**

- Dan and Josh could present in February after their walk audit.

Bren is stepping down from the Chamber. She expressed a need to have additions support, possibly from RCAA, to help move the Great Redwood Trail plans forward and ensure the community is in support. She does not have the capacity to be the lead on this. Include info@visitloleta.com for communication, but cc her at the school.