

TA

CORRESPONDENCE

as of 9-27-2019

From: John Ford
To: [Board \(@smcta.com\)](mailto:Board@smcta.com)
Cc: cacsecretary_f@smcta.com
Subject: Letter in Support of Countywide TDM Funding in Measure W
Date: Friday, September 27, 2019 11:03:33 AM
Attachments: [SMCTA Measure W Project Letter.pdf](#)

Attached please find a letter addressed to the San Mateo County Transportation Authority's board of directors expressing Commute.org's support for the staff recommendation to include Countywide TDM as a project subcategory in Measure W.

Thank you.

John Ford

Executive Director

V: 650-588-8170 ext. 105 | E: john@commute.org

Working Together to Improve Our San Mateo County Commute

September 26, 2019

Board of Directors
San Mateo County Transportation Authority
1250 San Carlos Avenue
San Carlos, CA 94070

Dear Board of Directors:

On behalf of Commute.org, I write to express our support for the staff recommendations on the project selection processes that are included in the most recent Transportation Authority's Strategic Plan 2020-2024 Update materials.

As you know, Measure A includes a project category known as Alternative Congestion Relief which receives one percent of the measure's funding. Measure W does not have an equivalent project category, but as a result of a very collaborative process staff is recommending that Countywide TDM projects should be eligible for funding as a subcategory of the Countywide Highway Congestion program category.

We believe that this is a critically important enhancement to the strategic plan that will help ensure that all of the core principles established in Measure W are addressed.

We truly appreciate the support you provide to our agency and look forward to the proposed plan being adopted.

Sincerely,



John Ford
Executive Director

CC: San Mateo County Transportation Authority Citizens Advisory Committee

From: Theresa Vallez-Kelly
To: [cacsecretary \[@smcta.com\]](mailto:cacsecretary [@smcta.com]); [Board \(@smcta.com\)](mailto:Board (@smcta.com))
Cc: Slavit, Joel
Subject: One More Letter - Thank you from Safe Routes to School
Date: Friday, September 27, 2019 1:27:39 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[WoodrowWilson TA CAC.pdf](#)

Hello again,

Another letter from Safe Routes to School is attached.

Theresa

Theresa Vallez-Kelly, MPH
Coordinator, Safe Routes to School and TUPE
Student Services Division
San Mateo County Office of Education
(650) 598-2179
tvkelly@smcoe.org





JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dear San Mateo County Transportation Authority Board and Citizens Advisory Committee,

Safe Routes to School has completely revolutionized our school.

Two years ago, we were approached to apply for a Safe Routes to School grant because of the high number of biking and pedestrian accidents surrounding our school. We had no idea what to expect so figured we'd try it! Since then, our campus has been completely transformed.

We now have a Safety Patrol who greets families every day as they come to school. They cross families as they walk across the street. During Student Council elections, students ran for every office in our school and cited their leadership from the Safety Patrol as a reason to continue serving our community. Last year, after a walk audit, parents advocated for the City to increase the timing of the stop light and they did.

Because of our partnership we participated in a Bike Rodeo and many kids learned to ride bikes for the first time.

We are a safer and happier community because of the opportunity to partner with Safe Routes to School.

Please let me know if you have any questions! We are grateful for the partnership and guidance of Safe Routes to School and are happy to hear that the Transportation Authority has added a separate category for Safe Routes in the strategic plan!

Thanks,

Sara Rich
Principal
Woodrow Wilson Elementary, Daly City

From: Theresa Vallez-Kelly
To: [Board \(@smcta.com\)](mailto:Board (@smcta.com))
Cc: [Slavit, Joel](#)
Subject: Thank You from Safe Routes to School!
Date: Friday, September 27, 2019 12:04:23 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[SMCOE_TA.pdf](#)
[SCSD_TA.pdf](#)
[BrisbaneSD_TA_CAC.pdf](#)
[CUSD_TA_CAC.pdf](#)
[BurlingameSD_TA_CAC.pdf](#)
[GeorgeWashington_TA_CAC.pdf](#)

Dear Transportation Authority Board,

Several letters of support are attached offering gratitude for the inclusion of Safe Routes to School in the Transportation Authority Strategic Plan. This news has created a lot of excitement in school districts across the county!

Sincerely,

Theresa Vallez-Kelly

Theresa Vallez-Kelly, MPH
Coordinator, Safe Routes to School and TUPE
Student Services Division
San Mateo County Office of Education
(650) 598-2179
tvkelly@smcoe.org





Excellence and Equity in Education

Nancy Magee • County Superintendent of Schools

September 27, 2019

San Mateo County Transportation Authority
1250 San Carlos Ave.
San Carlos, CA 94070-1306

Dear San Mateo County Transportation Authority Board,

On behalf of San Mateo County Safe Routes to School, I would like to thank you for creating a separate category for Safe Routes to School in the 2020-2024 San Mateo County Transportation Authority Strategic Plan.

As you know, driving children to school by private vehicle and idling in the school vicinity contribute to traffic congestion and air pollution near schools, which can have adverse effects on student health as well as the local environment. Whereas, walking or biking to school can have a positive mental and physical impact on children and youth and help them arrive at school ready to learn.

San Mateo County Safe Routes to School works closely with school districts around the county to create safer campuses and educate children and their parents on the benefits of and options for traveling to school safely through active transportation. Funding from the Transportation Authority will help bolster these efforts and give schools the opportunity to address small capital infrastructure issues. For example, adding bike, scooter, and skateboard racks on campuses can increase ridership among students who live a mile or less from campus, as evidenced by many schools throughout the county.

The Safe Routes to School program continues to help transform schools. For example, the addition of school safety patrols at schools throughout the county has helped make drop-off/pick-up zones much safer for pedestrians and those students who arrive by car. Safe Routes to School has also funded pedestrian flag programs near San Carlos schools, which help make pedestrians more visible as they cross busy intersections. Additionally, Safe Routes to School helps build relationships, including one between Woodrow Wilson Elementary School and the City of Daly City that led to a crosswalk upgrade on Santa Barbara Avenue and additional time for pedestrians to cross John Daly Boulevard.

Thank you again for supporting San Mateo County Safe Routes to School in realizing our shared vision of a greener, healthier community and promoting greater self-reliance among San Mateo County children who are now able to walk and bike safely to school.

Sincerely,

Nancy Magee
San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools



SAN CARLOS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Michelle Harmeier, Ed. D., Superintendent
Hans Barber, Assistant Superintendent
Mila Milligan, Chief Business Official

1200 Industrial Road, Unit 9
San Carlos, CA 94070
Voice: (650) 508-7333
Fax: (650) 508-7340
www.scsdk8.org

September 25, 2019

Dear San Mateo County Transportation Authority Board,

I'm writing to ask that you approve the strategic plan that includes a separate category for funding Safe Routes to School programs.

For the past eight years, I've served as San Carlos School District's Safe Routes to School Coordinator and I've witnessed first-hand the tremendous impact small capital infrastructure projects and Safe Routes programming can make in our community.

For example, adding bike racks to our Central Middle School, White Oaks Elementary, and Arroyo School campuses has increased bike and scooter ridership by over 400% in the past five years. We need even more small infrastructure to help us create the next wave of safe, active transportation that will target students who live a mile or more from school, as well as those who will be riding e-bikes and cargo bikes. All of these efforts will take even more cars off our busy streets, thereby reducing greenhouse emissions, improving air quality, and improving our health and wellbeing.

One other example of small infrastructure that makes a big difference is the Pedestrian Flag installations we created at 10 intersections throughout our community to make pedestrians more visible. The cost of supplying the materials for those programs still falls on school districts, and in this era of declining school funding, schools are really struggling to make important programs like this possible.

The most important part of our SRTS program is the educational lessons we provide. Right now we are limited in how we can support students and teachers since assemblies and specialists cost so much. We estimate that our needs currently surpass our budget by at least \$42,000 each year.

In short, extra funding from you will make it possible to properly educate our community and to equip them with the infrastructure needed to get them out of their cars and onto their feet and wheels. I appreciate your consideration of this strategic plan and hope you vote to support it.

Best Regards,

Mindy Hill
SCSD Wellness Director and Safe Routes to School Coordinator



September 27, 2019

Dear San Mateo County Transportation Authority Board
and San Mateo County Citizens Advisory Committee,

This letter of support and appreciation comes with a huge thank you to the Transportation Authority for including Safe Routes to School in your strategic plan!

We are a small school district in Brisbane in the northern part of San Mateo County neighboring San Francisco. Though we are minutes away from San Francisco, transportation to and from school comes with challenges. Our terrain is quite hilly in areas and many streets are narrow and winding. Additionally, one of our elementary schools is located in Daly City and students from Panorama Elementary School in Daly City come over and around part of San Bruno Mountain to attend Lipman Middle School in Brisbane along with students from Brisbane Elementary School. There is no high school in Brisbane. Students in our district feed into the Jefferson Union High School District and must find transportation to either Jefferson High School, Westmoor High School or Summit Shasta High School in Daly City, or Oceana High School and Terra Nova High School in Pacifica.

Along with the challenges mentioned above for students of all ages in our school district, or heading from our school district to area high schools, come solutions and things we can do to help address the problems. The funding our Safe Routes to School program receives can help to make sure we have adequate bike racks, help our students gain bike and safe pedestrian skills, and help to add signage and striping to aid with problem areas. School trippers and public buses help our students with a more desirable alternative to single family vehicles when the distance is too far for walking or does not allow for safe biking.

We appreciate and support the Transportation Authority including a set aside amount for Safe Routes to School programming to help us encourage and make walking, rolling, and taking the bus to school more accessible and a more likely choice for students and families. Just one example of a gain we have made is our now full bike racks and skateboard racks at our middle school. With extra funding we can continue to do more to address some of our community's concerns. This will also help us to continue to work towards larger percentages of our student populations doing their part to help reduce vehicle emissions, ease traffic congestion near our schools and around our neighborhoods, get some exercise, and start the day off *on the right foot* by walking (or skating, scooting, carpooling or taking the bus) to and from school!

Appreciatively,

Michelle Chan
Safe Routes to School Coordinator
Brisbane School District



CABRILLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

498 Kelly Avenue, Half Moon Bay, California 94019 • 650 712-7100 • Fax 650 726-0279 • www.cabrillo.k12.ca.us

SUPERINTENDENT

Sean McPhetridge, Ed.D.

GOVERNING BOARD

Mary Beth Alexander
Lizet Cortes
Kimberly Hines
Sophia Layne
Freya McCamant

September 26, 2019

Dear San Mateo County Transportation Authority Board and the San Mateo County Citizens Advisory Committee:

My name is Carlene Foldenauer. I have been the Safe Routes to School Coordinator for Cabrillo Unified School District for eight years. Over the years, Safe Routes to School has funded safety training and encouragement events for our schools, as well as small capital infrastructure improvements. Additionally, Safe Routes to School has provided funding for my position, as a part-time coordinator, enabling us to partner more often with the City of Half Moon Bay, Unincorporated San Mateo County and other organizations to provide bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements for our families. Together we have made significant changes that have improved safety for our students, including lighting along pathways, safer intersections and crosswalks, and much more.

Thank you for supporting Safe Routes to School and including us in your strategic plan. This additional funding, set aside by the Transportation Authority, will potentially help us continue the momentum at Cabrillo Unified, and help other schools get started with their Safe Routes to School programs. As more and more San Mateo County schools and districts are joining Safe Routes to School efforts, there is a greater need for increased funding.

In past years, funding has included small capital infrastructure, such as bike racks, permanent signs, lighting, and pavement markings. In the early years, we took advantage of this funding, but in recent years small capital infrastructure funds have not been available. I assume this is due to a decrease in available funds and an increase in the number of schools participating. The funding you're offering will help more San Mateo County schools join the movement, and will provide more funding for all of us to make small capital infrastructure improvements, including projects to improve safety on school grounds.

Cabrillo Unified School District is grateful for the Safe Routes to School grant that we have received over the years, and for the additional funding you are providing. We look forward to enabling more students to safely walk and "roll" to school in the years to come!

Sincerely,

Carlene Foldenauer



September 26, 2019

To: The San Mateo County Transportation Authority Board and the San Mateo County Citizens Advisory Committee.

The Burlingame School District has been a recipient of the Safe Routes to School funding program for many years. It was through this support that we were able to expand the impact of encouraging students, families, and staff to choose alternative transportation for their commute to and from school. We have increased pedestrian safety, provided educational walking and biking opportunities, improved our bike facilities, and even implemented a bike repair program that provides free repair services and bikes to our community. Our partnership with the Safe Routes program has been instrumental in addressing school traffic congestion and we are hopeful recipients of future funding and programing opportunities.

Due to the success that the Safe Routes program has had within our county school districts, funding for individual programs has had to balance program growth with the competitive challenge of more participating districts. With a successful Safe Routes program often comes a momentum for further growth, and thus a need for additional funding opportunities. For example, our success with encouraging biking has resulted in a need to provide greater bike facility capacity. To such ends we whole-heartedly support any opportunity to increase current funding, or establish new funding sources so that we, and all the other school districts, can continue to grow our programs.

We at the Burlingame School would like to thank the San Mateo County Transportation Authority for considering our county's schools in their strategic plan proposal. Through such funding opportunities we can continue to provide pedestrian safety improvements; alternative transportation education for our students, families, and staff; and address the need to grow our program with greater infrastructure and educational opportunities.

Sincerely,

Dr. Maggie MacIsaac
BSD Superintendent

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Kay Coskey

Davina Drabkin

Mark G. Intrieri

Elizabeth Kendall

Florence Wong

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

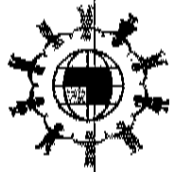
Maggie MacIsaac, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Marla Silversmith
Assistant Superintendent,
Educational Services

Gaby Hellier
Assistant Superintendent,
Business Services/CBO

1825 Trousdale Drive
Burlingame, Ca 94010
(650) 259-3800

<http://www.burlingameschools.org>



JEFFERSON

Elementary School District

Governing Board
Shakeel Ali
Marie Brizuela
Clayton Koo
Manufou Liaiga-Anoa'i
Maybelle Manio

George Washington Elementary School
251 Whittier St., Daly City, CA 94014
Rochelle Pimentel-Yuen
Principal

Superintendent
Bernardo Vidales

September 20, 2019

To: The San Mateo County Transit Authority,

On behalf of the teachers, students, staff members, families and community of George Washington Elementary School, I want to thank you for your commitment to the safety and environmental awareness in the form of grant funds accessible to not only our school, but to the schools in the Jefferson Elementary School District.

Last school year (2018-2019) was our school's first year participating in Safe Routes to School, in addition to being given a generous amount for the Safe Routes to School grant that we applied for. With these funds, we were able to celebrate two "Walk and Roll to School" days, in which teachers and our local Daly City police officers came together to pass out healthy breakfast treats and prizes for students and families to celebrate and encourage walking and biking to school. In addition, the Bay Area Children's Theater came to our school for two amazing performances for our K-5 and SDC classes, putting on an engaging and informative show about the importance of: (1) walking and biking safely in pedestrian intersections, and on the streets throughout the students' neighborhoods, (2) making a plan to travel in groups, discussing a route, and being safe by sticking together, and (3) taking care of our environment by having less cars on the road. Both teachers and students enjoyed these assemblies!

This school year (2019-2020), we are committed to continue this work, to engage parents and staff members, and invite outside organizations, on how to make learning how to be safe and healthy accessible for all students.

With gratitude,

Marian Piansay

Martin Luther King Jr. Education Center

101 Lincoln Avenue • Daly City, CA 94015 • 650-991-1000 phone • 650-992-2265 fax • <http://www.jed.k12.ca.us>