

Spare the Air Youth Program

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

DATE: Tuesday, October 24, 2017
TIME: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
LOCATION: The Bay Area Metro Center, 375 Beale Street, Suite 800, San Francisco
Tamalpias Room, Room #7102, 7th Floor

WEBEX MEETING:

Link: <https://bamc.webex.com/bamc/j.php?MTID=m375a836ef678f92dc189feb864756d07>

CALL-IN: +1-415-655-0002: Access code: 922 505 849

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions (10 minutes)
2. Funding/Policy Updates (30 minutes)
 - a. Update on Spare the Air Youth and Active Transportation Program
- Ursula Vogler, *MTC*
 - i. MTC has chosen Alta Planning + Design to support and implement the Spare the Air Youth (STAY) program for the next five-year period, ending October 31, 2022.

- Karl Anderson, *MTC*
 - ii. Senate Bill (SB) directs \$100 million annually from the Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Account to the ATP beginning in the 2017-18 fiscal year.
 - iii. Statewide Update: The state-wide competitive program recommended funding 3 existing programs and funding 5 new projects. These include a project on Geneva Ave with SFMTA, a SRTS project in Sunnyvale, improvements to the Doolittle Drive Trail in Oakland, and Sacramento Street bike improvements in Berkeley.
 - iii. Regional Update: Received 38 applications to cycle 3.5. Commission approved augmentation program that funds 16.1 million. Projects include SRTS program in Napa County, Vision Zero intersection improvement with SFMTA, 101 Overcrossing in San Carlos, McCoy Creek Trail project in Suisun City, and the I-80 Gilman Overcrossing Project.

b. Update on National Policy

- Marty Martinez, *Safe Routes to School National Partnership*

- i. Marty explained that the SRTS Partnership is disappointed that there was potential to have more money from Cap and Trade into ATP, but the state decided to only put SB1 funds, so the funding amounts to only \$100 million, not \$200 million.
- ii. Marty also alerted the group to AB390 that just passed, amending the traffic law so pedestrians can enter an intersection even when the countdown has started. Also a bill in California was passed to change start times of schools so that it cannot be before 8:30am.
- iii. The House has voted to include the Woodall Amendment as part of the 2018 budget. This amendment removes protections to MPOs when federal transportation money to states are cut.

2. 2018 Youth for the Environment and Sustainability (YES) Conference (10 minutes)

– Kristina Chu & Raquel Trinidad, *Air District*

- a. Kristina and Raquel introduced the 2018 conference on October 24, 2018 and implored TAC members to help support in spreading the word. They showed the conference materials and explained how they want to make the conference more accessible by having it at BART-friendly location at Laney College. In addition they are going to offer shuttle services to BART in areas of the region without easy access to BART and are exploring \$5 BART tickets.
- b. Kristina said that posters and t-shirts have been ordered and could be distributed to interested TAC members to help promote the conference to students. There is a goal for 1,000 students to participate, double of last year. There is a Student Advisory Committee that has been integral to planning the conference – including a program committee and social media committee.
- c. Raquel explained that they are ramping up outreach to youth commissions to encourage students to attend and present.
- d. Tina offered to bring a staff member with a bike blender to be present at the conference.
- e. Raquel and Kristina explained that all attendees (both youth and adult) have to upload a waiver for participation in the conference. They are hoping it will be more streamlined based on using FormPlus.
- f. Tommy asked if the forms could be signed digitally. Kristina explained that they had tried to allow for electronic signatures or a check box, but that their legal team is requiring a “wet signature.”
- g. Gwen asked if they could move the date that proposals are due from January 3, 2018 (when students are on break) to a week later on January 10, 2018. Raquel and Kristina agreed to move the deadline.
- h. Matt indicated that he liked the “ready to go” Facebook Posts that were distributed last year and asked if they could be provided this year.

3. Discussion: Middle School SRTS Programs (60 minutes)

– Gwen Froh, *Marin County Safe Routes to School*

- a. Gwen presented on the “Teens Go Green” program which is the middle school version of SRTS. They decided on that name because they found that older students associated SRTS with younger students only. Since when they began their program, they have had an increase of 2 to 8 middle schools participating, and an increase in 9 percent of active trips.
- b. Gwen presented that the program uses “Report Cards” to score schools on their program, ranking administration, encouragement activities, and infrastructure.
- c. Gwen explained that they approach engagement to youth using the following principles: volunteer recruitment (teachers, students), they host just one event, and then they empower student leaders. She gave examples of the Green Sneaker Challenge, the 50% challenge pledge at Miller Creek Middle School, and the no idling campaign.
- d. A TAC member asked how many staff people they have running this program. Lou answered there was one staff person at 20 hours.
- e. A TAC member asked who the main audience is for the report card. Lou responded that the report card is mainly for the principal and the participating teachers.

– Carrie Harvilla, *Alameda County Safe Routes to School*

- a. Carrie presented on the main themes she has discovered in working with middle school students in SRTS programs for Alameda County. Overall, she recommended letting students take the lead in organizing events (PTAs are less involved in middle school). She said to consider students that are not traditional leaders such as ones in an art class or band class. She gave example of band who opted to play near school entrance to encourage students to walk to school.
- b. Carrie noted you must play on what is uniquely relevant at a school – what will make our events successful? In addition, consider that at this age, students are looking to form their identity, and that appealing to “young environmentalist” may be a good messaging technique.
- c. Also, tap into technology; students can make instructional video about golden sneaker contest and they love being able to use their phones in class.
- d. Carrie emphasized looking at sense of identity, and explained how she created a 5-class oral history where the student had to interview someone older than them about how they got around. For those that are interested, Carrie can share her lesson plan for that.
- e. Emphasize freedom and ownership with students, and that active modes allow you to get to school with your friends, without any parents around.
- f. One TAC member asked how Transform connects with students. Carrie responded that for each school, they have a designated teacher champion, and a group of students who are dedicated. She says they look for people who volunteer to work on this, not those that are assigned – they will be more motivated to put in the time.
- g. Hannah asked how many staff members work on this program. Carrie answered that for Alameda County SRTS program, there are 4 fulltime staff, and each have about 50 schools each.

- Matt Dove, *YBike*
 - a. Matt Dove works at the YBike program out of the Presidio YMCA. Matt told a story about leading a bike maintenance shop/program at Everett. Mike said this program evolved and become more successful as he realized students needed to take ownership over the class.
 - b. Currently, he coordinates a YBike’s program that takes over schools’ PE class for 2 weeks to have students do bicycle skill development. He says that he’s been able to tweak the curriculum so there is more movement and less talking by the instructor, and that this is more successful.
 - c. Matt told another story about an instructor who was excited about bike polo, and taught it to a group of PE teachers. It’s been an impactful way to teach biking skills through a tangential activity. Matt handed out a Bike Polo curriculum guide that was created by his staff. It’s been more difficult to scale this up to more schools as it takes a lot of staff capacity – so instead Ybike has started a wiki site and is leading professional development with interested teachers.

- Cherie Walkowiak, *Palo Alto Safe Routes to School*
 - a. Cherie introduced SRTS in Palo Alto – and noted that in middles schools, 59% of students are biking and walking and 78% are using an alternative mode share. These are equivalent to Amsterdam numbers.
 - b. Cherie notes that the success of bike riding in middle school is about laying the groundwork in elementary school. Bike Rodeos, for example, are important to teach young kids bicycle skills, and assure parents that students know how to ride safely.
 - c. For the 6th grade back to school orientation, the City provides: route finding, helmet fitting, the Bike Mobile, and bike licensing. Hannah will send out [a link to the video of an invested teacher](#). In 8th grade, Palo Alto schools have a “Getting to High School Event” in which there is a bicycle presentation, and tabling about route planning, VTA/shuttles, and safety.
 - d. The City is also working to improve bicycle infrastructure around middles schools, such as with the Jordan Middle School protected bikeway, and the Terman Middle School bike box.

4. Information Sharing (10 minutes)

- a. Tina Panza from Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition announced [the Coalitions’ upcoming October 28 fundraiser](#) – for which proceeds will go to Santa Rosa Cycling Club and the SRTS program that were both affected by the North Bay fires. The event is 8pm in Downtown Santa Rose, and Hannah will send out info to the TAC.
- b. Hannah announced that the next meeting will be in January, and the theme will likely be Vision Zero. Please reach out to her if you have recommendations on speakers.
- c. Kristina announced that [BAAQMD “teacher grants” \(Community Grants Program\)](#) just opened – and it incentivized them applying hands-on air quality science with their students. Hannah will send this information to the entire TAC.
- d. The TAC decided they want to include Grant Updates at the beginning of each TAC meeting.