



# TOWN OF FAIRFAX

## STAFF REPORT

### April 6, 2016

**TO:** Mayor and Town Council

**FROM:** Garrett Toy, Town Manager *GT*

**SUBJECT:** Adopt a Resolution in Support of Safe Routes to Schools

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#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Adopt the Resolution

#### **DISCUSSION**

The Safe Routes to Schools program of Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) has requested the Town adopt a resolution supporting the policies, goals, and programs of Safe Routes to Schools, which began at Manor School here in Fairfax. Mayor Goddard, Vice Mayor Reed, and staff met with the Safe Routes to Schools Programs Coordinator to discuss the resolution. Our understanding is that the resolution will become a model resolution for other communities to adopt.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

None

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

Resolution 16-\_\_

RESOLUTION 16-\_\_

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFAX  
IN SUPPORT OF SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS

**WHEREAS**, Manor Elementary School in Fairfax is the birthplace of the Safe Routes to Schools program; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Fairfax has identified our community as a bike and pedestrian-oriented town; and,

**WHEREAS**, traffic speed and safety is of primary concern to the Town of Fairfax and to the parents of children attending school in Fairfax; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Fairfax has experienced a number of pedestrian and bicycle related accidents; and,

**WHEREAS**, 20 to 30 percent of morning traffic is related to school travel, and school traffic has become so severe as to pose a danger to students and to other drivers on the road; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Fairfax recognizes that bicycling and walking are important means of transportation, provide the health benefits of exercise, and that personal fitness for children has moved to the top of the national health agenda as articulated by the Center for Disease Control; and,

**WHEREAS** the Town of Fairfax embraces bicycling and walking as a means for relieving traffic, improving health, promoting quality of life, supporting local business and sustaining the environment; and,

**WHEREAS** the Town of Fairfax recognizes that improved sidewalks, bike paths, street crossings and traffic calming have improved the safety for children walking and bicycling to school; and,

**WHEREAS** there is strong support in Fairfax and at all levels of Marin County government and administration for improved bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure; and,

**WHEREAS**, 34% of Marin County children ages 2-17 are overweight, at risk/or are obese, largely caused by poor nutrition and lack of regular physical activity; and,

**WHEREAS**, walking and biking to school provides children with an opportunity to learn healthy habits at an early age and to get their minimum amount of physical activity through active living; and,

**WHEREAS**, the California Department of Education has found that children who score well on physical fitness tests also score well on academic tests,

**ATTACHMENT** 1

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the Town Council of The Town of Fairfax supports the policies, goals and programs of Safe Routes to Schools generally, the objectives, actions, and policies of which are incorporated herein and attached hereto as Exhibit A.

The forgoing Resolution was duly passed and adopted at a special meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax held in said Town on the 6th day of April 2016 by the following vote, to wit:

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSENT:  
ABSTAIN:

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Renée Goddard, Mayor

Attest:

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Michele Gardner, Town Clerk

## Exhibit A

### ***School access and student transportation objectives:***

- Support the Transportation Authority of Marin's (TAM) Safe Routes to Schools (SR2S) efforts to promote walking and biking as a mode of transportation to and from school to enhance the physical and social health of the community
- Provide for the safe access and use of the city's pedestrian and bicycle facilities for users of all ages and abilities
- Assist local schools in providing efficient and safe student access and transportation to school facilities within the community
- Participate in the Ross Valley Safe Routes to Schools Task Force to promote student use of biking and walking to school through the development and improvement of pedestrian and bicycle facilities throughout the community
- Identify steps to reduce speed near schools, both through education programs, speed reduction, and through design changes

### ***Policies***

- Include Safe Routes to Schools in the Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan
- Prioritize bicycle/pedestrian projects in Capital Improvement Plan
- Request the Police Department to continue its on-going efforts of providing extra patrols during the morning commute and dismissal times for schools.
- Implement Traffic Calming measures as appropriate
- Implement GP policy C5.3 to facilitate children traveling to school

### ***Implementation actions of Safe Routes:***

- Work with volunteer team leaders to identify remote drop off locations
- Periodically update the list of crucial intersections and provide to the Transportation Authority of Marin to ensure the provision of crossing guards
- Pursue funding actions to fill the gaps in existing sidewalk systems along routes to schools.
- Continue the development and expansion of multipurpose pathway systems near schools and along school route corridors, such as Fairfax's Bike Spine
- Assess, monitor, and maintain pedestrian facilities and operations to ensure safe access and use as part of the BPAC.
- Review proposed subdivisions and other development proposals for potential pedestrian easements or other means of providing more direct pedestrian routes between residential developments and school facilities
- Seek funding to establish traffic calming programs near schools and along the routes to schools
- Seek funding to identify and improve steps lanes and paths throughout the Town.
- Encourage other physical improvements near schools and along routes to schools including but not limited to: street markings, signage, new and improved sidewalks and pathways, refuge medians, curb extensions, adjustments to traffic signals, and other safety measures.