Spare the Air Youth Program
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

DATE: Tuesday, October 17, 2023
TIME: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
WEBINAR: Zoom

In Attendance

- Tommy Bensko, BikeMobile
- Marcella Aranda, MTC
- Hannah Day-Kapell, Alta Planning + Design
- Sydney Cape, Alta Planning + Design
- George Foster, Alta Planning + Design
- Andrea-Anne Cadieux, Alta Planning + Design
- Courtney Wood, Alta Planning + Design
- Kristin Haukom, Alta Planning + Design
- Jasmine Law, TransForm
- Sarah Hadler, Bike Sonoma
- Christina Panza
- Nina Garde
- Ann Jasper
- Martha Lara
- Theresa Vallez-Kelly
- Amy Antunano
- Alisa Campbell
- Carlotta Sainato

Meeting Notes

1. Introductions and Agenda (5 minutes)
   - Introductions & Icebreaker, Hannah Day-Kapell, Alta Planning + Design
     o What bike did you want as a kid?

2. Presentations (40 minutes)
   - Theresa Vallez-Kelly, San Mateo County Office of Education School Travel Fellowship program
     - Held a webinar in 2021 when students were returning back to school – supporting back to school travel with equity & empathy
       - Invited cities to attend
     - Had an idea for a school travel fellowship
       - Invited cities to apply and choose one or two schools they wanted to focus on
       - Someone from public works and someone from the school; at least 3 people on the team
       - Come up with an idea to improve student travel
       - Technical assistance and support from Alta
       - Non-permanent quick build materials
• Quarterly meetings with every team
• Team selection
  o Breadth and diversity of team
  o Project innovation, scope, and feasibility
  o Project location and equity consideration
• Application went out to all cities in the county

- Case studies
  • Millbrae: Student involved demonstration project
    o Crosswalks, traffic calming
  • Menlo Park: Community-led SRTS initiative
    o Local businesses agreed to be safe spaces
    o Logo development
  • Redwood City: Quick build design and implementation
    o In year 2 of the project
    o Year 1: concept plan
    o Year 2: put the project in place with temporary materials
  • East Palo Alto: Quick build to permanent installation
    o In year 2 of project
    o Traffic circle
    o Sidewalk decals with QR codes for feedback
      (overwhelmingly positive)
    o Working with the City to do real construction
  • South SF: Placemaking through quick build
    o Intersection mural – branded for the school

- Takeaways
  • Leverage existing funding/resources to support projects
  • Use data collected during pop-up and design plans to secure outside grant funding
  • Collaborate more effectively
  • Build relationships with local schools

- Challenges/lessons learned
  • Flexibility is key
  • Relationship building up front
  • Liability
  • Project can be more expensive than anticipated
  • Community trust takes time

- Have secured funding for future efforts

- Q&A
  • Did cities also take responsibility for maintenance of quick-build projects? Like if flexiposts were knocked over, etc.?
    o Yes! They did. We bought extra and they reinstalled as needed.

  - Ann Jasper, San Jose School Streets program
    • 3.5 full time staff; longevity in funding; cover 80 schools
    • What is Viva Escuela?
      • “open.school streets” event
      • One school block closed to cars
      • Community partners focused on health behaviors, community issues (7-10)
      • Local elected officials
    • Background
      • UK schools experimented with this
• Resulted in 68% decrease in vehicle traffic; 30% increase of walking students; 51% increase for biking students
  ▪ Close down the street for an hour before school drop off
  ▪ Mascot: Sunny the safety squirrel
  ▪ Pledge to walk and roll – kids sign poster and it’s given to principal
  ▪ “Tell us about your experience today!”
  ▪ Community partners
    • Beautify San Jose
    • Vector Control
    • San Jose Public Library
      o Bring an RV with free books
    • Santa Clara Valley Water District
    • Parks & Rec
    • Santa Clara County Parks
  ▪ Elected officials
    • Give them talking points
  ▪ Outreach
    • Have to let every address within a ¼ radius that a portion of the street will be closed down
    • Postcard mailings (2 weeks before), neighborhood associations, school flyers, council member, school district administration
  ▪ Planning
    • Collect interest from schools Jun-Aug
    • Confirm dates with schools
    • Host planning meeting with school
    • Special events application submitted 45 days before event
    • Submit tow away application with DOT
    • Reach out to community partners for tabling
    • Postcards 2 weeks before
    • Tow away signs posted 2 days in advance
  ▪ Q&A
    • Do you pick a different school for each week during a certain time period? Like October and April or May?
      o Try to spread the love by doing it at different schools every term
    • Have any of the schools discussed closing their streets more regularly vs 1-time? Like a school street?
    • Have you considered having a format that isn’t such a big event?
      o The main reason we don’t is because of funding
      o Every street closure is $3,000

3. Breakout Discussion Sessions (20 minutes)
   - Provide participants with discussion space to share, ask, and further explore either these SRTS programs or how the 2023-24 school year has kicked off

4. Announcements and Upcoming Meetings (10 minutes)
   - Next TAC Meeting
     i. December 6, 2023
     ii. Topics include Bike Buses (Sam Balto) & Safety language (Matt Dove)