

When traffic flow is thought to only be relieved by adding more lanes and more parking for cars, the way to go becomes a barrier for children. Such is the case with the new Tam Valley Elementary School parking lot reconfiguration being paid for with Measure C.

[Complete Streets](#), a national non-profit, recognizes, "Many children will end up in the back seat of the car, missing out on opportunities for independence and physical activity. One recent survey found that, while 71% of adults walked or rode their bicycles to school as a child, a mere 17% of their own children currently do so. While 'stranger danger' is often cited as a primary factor, a CDC survey found that traffic-related danger is a more common reason children did not walk or bike to school".

However, parents in Marin County should be thankful for all the attention and funding that our friends in Washington have awarded us to make our routes safe for children. "Safe Routes to School" originated at Tam Valley Elementary ten years ago with a visit from James Oberstar, Transportation Committee Chairman, vowing to make Tam Valley Elementary the model for "Safe Routes".

Education and engineering project are on going in Marin. The County of Marin has received millions for bike lanes, tunnels, and safe routes for cyclists. The Tennessee Valley Pathway, the Marin Ave sidewalks, and new stop signs and traffic calming devices have been erected around Tam Valley. A robust "Share the Road Campaign" has provided free bicycling classes targeted to parents riding bikes with youth.

Measure C was passed to provide our school district with funding from property tax to upgrade and modernize our schools in Mill Valley. Voters have always favored "green" designs that include bike facilities. It would be unfortunate to have the current auto centric schematic design implemented showing little priority to cycling.

Currently cyclist have to cross over from the right side of the road to the left in order to get to the bike racks. While cyclists cross the road a crossing guard has no choice but to stop traffic in all four directions until the child and bike are safely on the sidewalk. Cyclists trying to stay with the flow of traffic have to ride into the parking lot where they cross in front of outgoing traffic. Drivers are unaware of where cyclist might be going or should be going. This will always be the case unless we speak up on the need for an efficient way for cyclists to go.

We believe the cyclists should stay on the right side of the road all the way to the office area. This is the most sensible solution to avoid more congestion and improve traffic flow. It will also promote and encourage cycling to children and show a priority for active transportation as it should be for health and environmental reasons. Millions of dollars will be spent to improve traffic flow at Tam Valley and there is still time to ask for a bike path since this is "the first phase in the design of the project".

**[Please click on the Schematic design. You can send comments to our school board members and click "like this" to show support.](#)**

Schematic design is the first phase in the design of a project whereby the project team prepares initial diagrams and drawings giving a general view of the components and the scale of the project after detailed discussions with the MVSD staff, site committees, and the community.

Final schematic designs for Tam Valley School and Old Mill School were presented to the Board for approval at the June 15 School Board meeting. The schematic design for Edna Maguire has been extended through August 2010.