



Happy 2019!

We would like to wish you and your family a happy, healthy and safe new year! Still looking for a good New Years resolution? Consider making one around Safe Routes - walking and biking more are great ways to ring in 2019!

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**Did you give a bike as a present this holiday season?
We hope you didn't forget...**



Bikes make great holiday gifts! However, if you gave one to your child, we hope you also remembered to provide the following:

- Well-sized helmet, properly fitted. Click [here](#) for a helmet fitting guide.
- Bike lights for the front and back of the bike. The one in front is for seeing and being seen. You should also consider daytime running lights. Click [here](#) here for a cool article about them.
- Bright and reflective gear. This can take the form of a yellow vest, bright colored helmet (see above) or even reflective stickers or patches for an existing helmet, backpack or bag. It's important to be visible.
- Bike bell. While yelling out works, bike bells also do a good job notifying people of a cyclist's presence.
- Water bottle/water bottle holder.
- Bike basket or rack to help carry things.
- Bike lock.

We could go on and on, but the above list is a good start. See something above that you forgot to get? Check out Menlo Velo on El Camino just south of Middle. They'll hook you up (and/or even provide a bike tune-up).

And, even more important than the right gear, is making sure your child is taught the safety skills he or she will need to navigate around town. Questions about where to turn? Email us at info@parents4saferoutes.org.

Inspiration from the Netherlands



The Dutch have two kinds of cyclists: *wielrenner*, which means sporty cyclist, and *fietser*, which just means “someone on a bike.” *Modacity*

Is your family made up of fietsters (people on bikes)? Check out this wonderful [article from Vox](#) that discusses how the Dutch developed a cycling culture for all people. Think we can't do it in Menlo Park? Think again!

And why is Parents for Safe Routes including a picture of a mom and three young kids not wearing helmets??? Per the article, "the Dutch show that [for them], safety in infrastructure, safety in slowing cars, and safety in numbers are all far more important than safety in body armor." Something else to think about.

Local Action You Can Take to Support Safe Routes

Menlo Park City Council Goal Setting - Every January the Menlo Park City Council sets its priorities for the year. This year the process will take place over a series of meetings starting with a meeting this Friday, **January 11th** from 1-5pm in City Council Chambers (701 Laurel Street). Parents for Safe Routes will be in attendance advocating to make Menlo Park more walk-able and bike-able for kids (and everyone). Want to support our efforts? Email city.council@menlopark.org and urge them to keep Safe Routes projects at the top of their list in goal-setting (you can be as specific or vague as you want).

Railroad Crossing Decision to be Revisited - Did you know that starting in 2022, there will be more trains coming through Menlo Park? And, by 2040 there will be A LOT more? This means that the railroad crossing gates will be down more and that traffic patterns will certainly change. Parents for Safe Routes is taking a position that **3 streets should be grade separated** (technical term that means the road is on one level and the train is on another so that cars/bike/peds don't have to wait for passing trains), not just 1 (the past Council voted for only 1 to be separated). We believe that this is the best and safest

option for all modes of mobility. This issue will be on the agenda at the City Council meeting on Tuesday, **January 15th**. Again, please send your thoughts to city.council@menlopark.org.

Updates



We have a hodge-podge of updates for you - both looking back at 2018 and looking forward to 2019 and beyond.

1. Bollards on Olive - Approximately one year after a child was "doored" on Olive right at Santa Cruz (a car door opened just as a kid was biking by, knocking him off his bike and leaving him with a broken collarbone), bollards were installed. While this doesn't completely address the problem (cars can still drop off earlier down the street), it's a good start until a longer-term solution (bike lanes?!) is able to be implemented.
2. Menlo Park Citywide Safe Routes Program - The City is developing a Safe Routes to School program and as part of that a Safe Routes Coordinator will soon be hired. Do you know someone who might be good for that job? If so, let us know and we'll pass along the name to City Staff and the consultants working on this.
3. SamTrans bus from Belle Haven to M-A - SamTrans is working to implement a new route to take kids that live in Belle Haven to M-A. They are hoping to have it up and running in August 2019 for the start of the 2019/2020 school year. This is a great thing (though we have asked that the route avoid Coleman Avenue where lots of kids walk and bike).
4. [Santa Cruz Ave/Alameda de las Pulgas Corridor Study](#) - Thanks to those of you who took an online survey this Fall about this important stretch in Unincorporated Menlo Park. [An executive summary of survey results are now available online](#). We continue to be involved in this project and hope that recommendations will come to the larger community this coming Fall. Fingers crossed!
5. [Menlo Park Transportation Master Plan](#) - This complicated project is ongoing and we are highly engaged in the process. We anticipate a Community Meeting to review the plan in process either later this winter or in Spring 2019. We will definitely send out a Call to Action to engage when this comes to the public.
6. Safe Routes Meeting at Hillview TOMORROW night - The San Mateo County Office of Education has asked us to publicize a "Parents and Community Empowerment Workshop" that is taking place this Wednesday night, January 9th, from 6:30-7:30 in the Hillview PAC (1100 Elder Ave.).

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