Citizens' Oversight Committee

Transportation Authority of Marin

Fiscal Year 2011–2012
July 1, 2011–June 30, 2012
Eighth Annual Report

ABOUT TAM & COC MEMBER LIST

ABOUT TAM:

The Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) is a joint powers authority comprised of Marin's 11 cities and towns and the County of Marin. The TAM Board of Commissioners includes the five members of the County Board of Supervisors and an elected official from each city and town. TAM administers the Expenditure Plans for both Measure A, the 20-year ½ cent sales tax, and Measure B, the $10 vehicle registration fee. Both revenue sources are dedicated to transportation projects and programs in Marin approved by Marin voters and overseen by the Citizens' Oversight Committee (COC). TAM also serves as Marin's Congestion Management Agency (CMA) and is responsible for coordinating funding for many of the transportation projects and programs in the County.

Please visit www.tam.ca.gov for the most current information on TAM's projects and programs.

CURRENT COC MEMBERS:

Members/Alternates	Representing
Barbara George/Joy Dahlgren	Central Marin Planning Area
Gilda Selchau/Paul Roye	Ross Valley Planning Area
Robert Burton	Southern Marin Planning Area
V-Anne Chernock (Vice-Chairperson)	Northern Marin Planning Area
Scott Tye	West Marin Planning Area
Vince O'Brien	Bicyclists & Pedestrians Groups
Don Wilhelm/Nancy Okada	Environmental Organizations
Ann Batman/Sue Beittel	League of Women Voters
Allan Bortel (Chairperson)/Rocky Birdsey	Marin County Paratransit Coordinating Council
Peter Pelham/Monique Broussard	Major Marin Employers
Heather McPhail Sridharan	School Districts
Ray Hirsch	Taxpayer Groups

MESSAGE FROM THE COC CHAIRPERSON

The Citizens' Oversight Committee (COC) is charged with reviewing financial procedures and expenditure of funds generated by Measure A (a 20-year, half-cent sales tax) and Measure B (a $10 vehicle registration fee). The Committee consists of volunteers representing geographic areas and interest groups in Marin County. Committee members bring to bear a wide variety of skills in finance, public policy, and transportation management. Membership consists of recent appointees who bring fresh ideas to the group and long standing members with seven years of membership who provide continuity to our efforts.

During this past fiscal year, the COC reviewed TAM's Measure A related expenditures, making sure that they are in accordance with the requirements of the Measure A Expenditure Plan. The COC helped the TAM Board develop and adopt the Measure A Compliance Audit Policy. This Compliance Audit Policy verifies that recipients of Measure A funds manage these expenditures properly. It also helped formulate the Measure B Expenditure Plan. The TAM Board asked the COC to take on the oversight role for the $10 vehicle registration fee revenue.

The COC has also been asked by the TAM Board and staff to provide its input into the longer-term Regional Transportation Plan for the Bay Area, the funding allocation to SMART (Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit), the High Occupancy Toll lane study along the highway 101 corridor, and various other important transportation projects. We welcome the opportunities to be a voice for the public in Marin's important, transportation-related discussions and decisions.

The COC has been meeting regularly since August 2005. All meetings are open to the public and meeting agendas and materials are posted on TAM's website: www.tam.ca.gov. The COC welcomes individuals to apply for membership on the committee. If you would like to serve on the COC, please call (415) 226-0815 for more information.

Lastly, I want to thank committee members as well as TAM staff for their time and effort in helping the Transportation Authority of Marin to achieve the goals set out by the voters of Marin.

Allan Bortel
Chairperson, Citizens' Oversight Committee

Allan Bortel, a resident of Tiburon, representing the Marin County Paratransit Coordinating Council, has been serving as the COC Chairperson since early 2012.

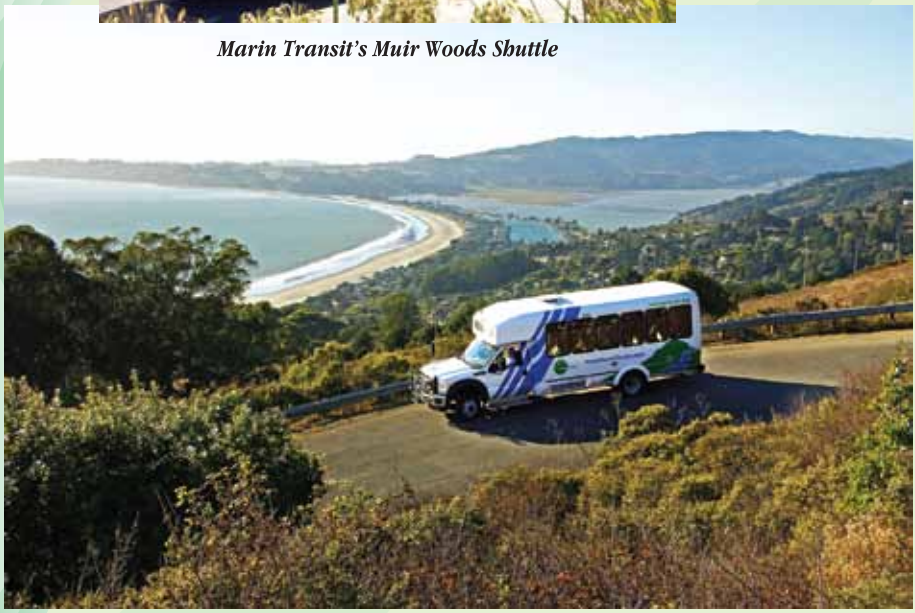
MEASURE A STRATEGY HIGHLIGHTS

STRATEGY 1: LOCAL BUS TRANSIT SYSTEM

Marin Transit manages five contracts that provide a variety of local transit services: (1) local fixed-route bus and community shuttle services; (2) rural transit services (the West Marin Stage); (3) the seasonal Muir Woods Shuttle; (4) the Novato Dial-A-Ride; and (5) transportation services for seniors and persons with disabilities.

For more information about Marin Transit services and to plan your next trip, please visit www.marintransit.org.

Marin Transit's Muir Woods Shuttle



Marin Transit's West Marin Stage before a breathtaking Stinson Beach vista

MEASURE A STRATEGY HIGHLIGHTS

STRATEGY 1: LOCAL BUS TRANSIT SYSTEM

- Carried 3.4 million fixed route and demand-response passengers.
- Implemented Volunteer Driver Programs in East and West Marin.
- Continued to cultivate partnerships that effectively address transportation issues of older adults, the disabled, and low-income residents through the Mobility Management Center.

Happy Volunteer Driver and Rider

- Experienced the highest ridership yet on the award-winning seasonal Muir Woods Shuttle, carrying more than 47,500 passengers, a 46% increase over the prior year.
- Initiated grant funded community shuttle Route 222 connecting Marin City with Marin General Hospital and surrounding medical facilities.
- Developed expanded Stagecoach service, including three additional round trips on Route 68 between Inverness and San Rafael.
- Completed design and engineering for the South Novato Bus Stops Improvement Project.
- Completed the Marin City Transit Hub Improvement Project.

Marin City Transit Hub

MEASURE A STRATEGY HIGHLIGHTS

STRATEGY 2: THE HIGHWAY 101 GAP CLOSURE CARPOOL LANE PROJECT

The Project was successfully completed in December 2010 and has been providing congestion relief for Marin travelers since then!

STRATEGY 3: LOCAL TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Strategy 3 is dedicated to the ongoing needs of our local road system, which is critical to navigating through Marin County. Funding continues to be committed for local infrastructure projects that accommodate vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic needs.

Major Roads Category

Completed Major Road Projects:

- The City of San Rafael's 4th Street/West End Village Revitalization project (2009)
- Novato Boulevard Segment 3 – Eucalyptus Avenue to San Marin Drive (2009)
- Novato Boulevard Segment 2 – Grant Avenue to Eucalyptus Avenue (2011)

Fourth Street in Downtown San Rafael

MEASURE A STRATEGY HIGHLIGHTS

STRATEGY 3: LOCAL TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Major Roads Category

Miller Avenue in Mill Valley
The Miller Avenue Streetscape Plan was adopted by the Mill Valley City Council in July 2011. The Streetscape Plan addresses critical operational and infrastructure issues while also preserving the unique character of Mill Valley. It is anticipated that construction will be phased for the two-mile project area, occurring over a three-to-five year period.

Miller Avenue, Mill Valley

Novato Boulevard in Novato
The City of Novato continues its work on Novato Boulevard improvements. Segment 2 (Grant Avenue to Eucalyptus Avenue) was completed this year. The environmental phase for Segment 1 (Diablo Avenue to Grant Avenue) is moving forward, with the last of the studies to be included in the draft Environmental Impact Report nearing completion.

Novato Boulevard, Novato

West Sir Francis Drake Boulevard
The County of Marin continues to move forward in improving a 5.2-mile portion of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard through Samuel P. Taylor State Park, with approval of the final environmental document in May 2011. The work consists of replacing all 70 storm drain crossings, repairing a slide near Shafter Bridge, and rehabilitating the roadway in its present configuration. Plans, specifications, and estimates are complete. Construction started in summer 2012 and is expected to be completed by summer 2013.

West Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, Completed Section

MEASURE A STRATEGY HIGHLIGHTS

STRATEGY 3: LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

Local Roads Category

To Date, the Measure A sales tax program has provided $14.8 million in funds to all the local jurisdictions in Marin for local street and road projects and bicycle and pedestrian improvements.

	FY2011-12 Allocation	Total To Date
Belvedere	$21,880	$145,500
Corte Madera	$75,267	$468,844
Fairfax	$58,296	$399,441
Larkspur	$380,162	$1,024,207
Mill Valley	$121,872	$823,988
Novato	$394,496	$2,519,251
Ross	$ –	$112,177
San Anselmo	$96,491	$653,606
San Rafael	$424,253	$2,831,490
Sausalito	$60,608	$400,375
Tiburon	$73,736	$480,124
County	$751,797	$4,913,135
Total	**$2,458,858**	**$14,772,138**

MEASURE A STRATEGY HIGHLIGHTS

STRATEGY 4: REDUCE SCHOOL RELATED CONGESTION AND PROVIDE SAFER ACCESS TO SCHOOLS

Safe Routes to Schools

TAM's nationally recognized Safe Routes to School Program continues to provide different mode choices for students traveling to/from schools. With programs in 52 schools countywide, the program has seen an average 8% shift to non-driving modes to date. TAM released a ten-year assessment of the program in November 2011 heralding the success in not only addressing congestion, but also providing and supporting healthier alternatives to driving. The success of the Safe Routes to School Program in reducing congestion and vehicular pollution, promoting team building, and supporting healthy lifestyle options would not be possible without our devoted parents, teachers, school administrators, and students. The School-Pool program is an exciting innovation that helps to coordinate trip reduction and reduce peak period traffic from school-based auto trips. More than 72 Marin schools are participating – with over 2,000 parents and students registered to share trips. Sign up at http://schoolpoolmarin.org!

Sun Valley Walk to School Day

SR2S Team Leaders

MEASURE A STRATEGY HIGHLIGHTS

STRATEGY 4: REDUCE SCHOOL RELATED CONGESTION AND PROVIDE SAFER ACCESS TO SCHOOLS

Crossing Guard Program

The TAM Crossing Guard program – one of the most comprehensive in the Bay Area – deployed trained school crossing guards at more than 76 locations throughout Marin County in the last year. By making pathways to school safer, a key barrier to promoting walking and biking is eliminated, reducing the need for students to be driven to school.

> ***"Crossing guards are a huge part of our school community and provide a very important safety net for our children. If we didn't have crossing guards I believe our school streets would be far more unsafe, and our children would be in great danger from the traffic going by our schools."***
>
> **– Andy Falk, Vallecito and Miller Creek Middle School Parent**

A Davidson Crossing Guard in action

MEASURE A STRATEGY HIGHLIGHTS

STRATEGY 4: REDUCE SCHOOL RELATED CONGESTION AND PROVIDE SAFER ACCESS TO SCHOOLS

Safe Pathways to School Projects

Completed Safe Pathway projects as of June 2012:

- Corte Madera: Neil Cummins Elementary School
- Fairfax: White Hill School
- Larkspur: Hall Middle School
- Dixie School District: Maria Silveira School
- Mill Valley: Edna Maguire Elementary and Old Mill Elementary Schools
- Novato: Hill Road and Indian Valley Road Improvements
- Ross: Ross School
- San Anselmo: Brookside, Wade Thomas, and St. Anselm Schools
- San Rafael: Laurel Dell Elementary School
- Tamalpais Union High School District: Tamalpais and Redwood High Schools

MEASURE B ELEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

With the approval of Measure B, the $10 annual vehicle registration fee, Marin voters validated that transportation continues to be one of the top priorities in the County.

ELEMENT 1 - MAINTAIN MARIN COUNTY'S LOCAL STREETS AND PATHWAYS

This element will provide more than $700,000 annually for the maintenance needs of local streets and pathways in Marin. Funding will be made available every three years to the local jurisdictions.

Calpark Multi-Use Pathway

Canal Neighborhood Local Street

MEASURE B ELEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

ELEMENT 2 - IMPROVE TRANSIT FOR SENIORS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The dedication of 35% of the vehicle registration fee revenue to Element 2 enables Marin Transit to provide expanded transportation service options for Marin's seniors and persons with disabilities. Additional options include:

- Transitioning the previously grant-funded, very successful volunteer driver programs for seniors to Measure B funding, and expanding one of these programs to serve younger persons with disabilities.
- Supplementing the rapidly growing Marin Access local paratransit service.
- Providing fare subsidies for low-income Marin Access paratransit riders.
- Providing funds for travel training for seniors, including a volunteer based "transit ambassador" program, a “Gap Grant Program,” and the “Marin Catch-A-Ride” discounted ride program for seniors.

Volunteer Driving Program

Travel Training for Seniors

MEASURE B ELEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

ELEMENT 3 - REDUCE CONGESTION AND POLLUTION

- **School Safety and Congestion Reduction:** Twelve additional crossing guards were funded by Measure B funds in 2011.
- **Local Marin County Commute Alternatives:** The Emergency Ride Home program, started in early 2012, is one of the Transportation Demand Management (TDM) activities enabled by the $10 vehicle registration fee. Please visit www.marinerh.org for more information.
- **Alternative Fuels Infrastructure and Promotion:** Funds generated by the $10 vehicle registration fee serve as matching funds for state and federal grants to install publicly available electric vehicle charging stations and bring alternative fuel fleet vehicles to local governments and public agencies.

Electric Vehicle Recharging Station – Belvedere

FINANCIALS

FY2011-12 AUDIT RESULT AND COC REVIEW

TAM's primary goal is to ensure the best value for the public funds it is entrusted to manage, including Measure A, the ½ cent transportation sales tax fund, and Measure B, the $10 vehicle registration fee fund. A rigorous system of checks and balances is in place to ensure that both the Measure A and Measure B funds are spent efficiently and as promised. Annual independent audits are performed to ensure accountability and transparency of the funds as required by the expenditure plans.

For another year, TAM received an "unqualified" opinion, also known as a clean opinion, meaning that the financial statements appear to be presented fairly with no problems for its FY2011-12 Financial Statements. The COC has reviewed the audited FY2011-12 Financial Statements and verified that Measure A funds were properly administered in accordance with the terms of the Measure A Expenditure Plan and the Strategic Plan for the reporting period. The audit also confirmed that TAM has been in compliance with the 5% cap on administration costs, as required by the Measure A Expenditure Plan.

TAM also completed its second round of Measure A compliance audits for Measure A funds disbursed to fund recipients in and prior to FY2011-12. The purpose of the compliance audit is to confirm that all Measure A funds were spent in accordance with the requirements of the Measure A Expenditure Plan and the funding agreements. Eight Measure A fund recipients were selected for this effort. The results of the compliance audits, along with TAM's FY2011-12 Financial Statements, are available at TAM's website: www.tam.ca.gov or by calling (415) 226-0815.

COC In Action

FINANCIALS

FY2011-12 MEASURE A AND MEASURE B ALLOCATION/PROGRAMMING

FY2011-12 Measure A Funding Allocation/Programming By Strategy

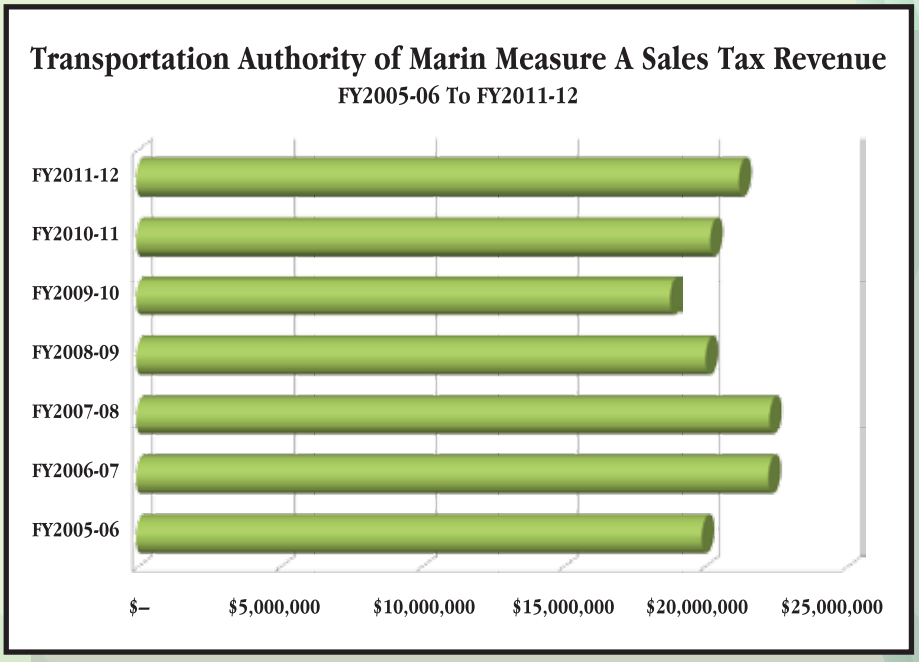
Strategy	FY2011-12
Strategy 1 – Local Bus Transit System	$9,853,944
Strategy 3 – Local Transportation Infrastructure	
3.1 Major Roads	$5,196,278
3.2 Local Roads	$2,458,858
Strategy 4 – Reduce School Related Congestion and Provide Safer Access to Schools	
4.1 Safe Routes to Schools	$724,972
4.2 Crossing Guards	$725,000
4.3 Safe Pathway Projects	$100,000
TOTAL	**$19,059,052**

FY2011-12 Measure B Funding Allocation/Programming By Element

Element	FY2011-12
Element 1 – Maintain Local Streets and Pathways	
1.1 Local Streets	$ -
1.2 Pathways	$ -
Element 2 – Improve Transit for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities	$530,000
Element 3 – Reduce Congestion and Pollution	
3.1 School Safety and Congestion Reduction	$175,000
3.2 Local Marin County Commute Alternatives	$130,000
3.3 Alternative Fuels Infrastructure and Promotion	$161,992
TOTAL	**$996,992**

FINANCIALS

MEASURE A AND MEASURE B REVENUE TREND



TAM received its first full revenue collection for Measure B, the $10 vehicle registration fee, in FY2011-12. The total FY2011-12 revenue is $2.3 million, a great revenue enhancement to Marin's transportation funding!

MEET YOUR TAM COC REPRESENTATIVES

THIS YEAR'S FEATURED MEMBER: RAY HIRSCH, RESIDENT OF SAN RAFAEL, REPRESENTING THE TAXPAYER GROUPS

Ray and Betty Hirsch

I came to Marin County in 1961 with my wife, Betty, and our three children, and settled in the Lucas Valley area of San Rafael. We were immediately drawn into the community through school, work and my participation in the Marin United Taxpayers Association (MUTA).

As one who won the national jitterbug championship in 1938, I am passionate about dancing and singing. I had some great times with all my partners, who were the stars of Hollywood's Golden Age. I still have vivid wonderful memories about my roles in "Mad Youth", "Georgie Porgie", and "The Razor's Edge", where I met my bride, Betty. My song-and-dance career was interrupted by World War II, during which I served with the Marines as a master tech sergeant in support of torpedo bomber squadrons. In 2009, I was inducted into the California Swing Dance Hall of Fame.

Retired at 77, I now enjoy my participation with the Sons In Retirement group, entertaining folks at assisted living homes with my movie clips and, of course, dancing and singing. I have also been asked to put my encyclopedic knowledge of dance to work as a judge at dance competitions and workshops, which has opened up a whole new life for me.

How long have you been serving on the COC?

I got involved, on the local level, with transportation issues and community service in Marin when we first moved here. I have been serving on the COC for more than six years and am now on the last year of my second four-year term.

MEET YOUR TAM COC REPRESENTATIVES

What brought you to the COC and made you stay?

Being a travelling salesman for 38 years, I travelled all over California and observed the same transportation congestion problem everywhere. I understand the importance of transportation issues and always wanted to contribute to the improvement of the system. It is also MUTA's strong belief that an effective transportation system is essential if Marin expects to continue to be a strong and vital community. Because of the importance of the taxpayer groups, a permanent seat was created on the COC, and I was nominated by MUTA to serve on the Committee from the beginning. Every meeting is an adventure with great transportation-related discussions among the dedicated committee members. I am pleased to serve the community on this committee.

Ray Hirsch with Judy Garland

Do you think the COC has made a difference in addressing transportation issues of Marin and the transportation future?

The COC definitely plays a critical role in addressing the current and future transportation issues of the County. Over the years, the COC has also become the platform for TAM to reach out to the public on various transportation issues, such as the Central Marin Ferry Connection project and long-term regional transportation planning efforts.

What do you value the most about the COC?

I really value the dedication to various transportation issues my fellow committee members have. The meetings are always very informative. I also appreciate the TAM Executive Director, Dianne Steinhauser, for her and her team's effort of making our government process more efficient and for the wonderful work and support that TAM staff provides.

Ray Hirsch in Mad Youth, *1938*

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