

Marin County Transportation Sales Tax Expenditure Plan

Fact Sheet

The Plan	Improve transportation in Marin by expanding bus service, completing the Highway 101 carpool lane through San Rafael, providing roadway improvements, and safer access to schools. The plan would raise \$16.5 million per year or \$331 million over 20 years from a 1/2-cent sales tax increase.										
Goal of The Plan	The plan's goal is to improve transportation and mobility for all Marin County residents and workers by providing a variety of high quality transportation improvements and transit options designed to meet local needs. It allows Marin to control its transportation future.										
How the Plan Was Drafted to Address Competing Needs	<p>Hundreds of Marin residents, including elected officials and planners, have met and participated in public forums over the past four years to decide the best way to address Marin's transportation needs. The process was conducted by a Joint Committee of the Board of Supervisors, Marin County Transit District, and Marin County Congestion Management Agency, which includes representation from each city and town in Marin. In 2003, participants created a "Transportation Vision" that outlined \$1.6 billion in desired projects, and noted that a source of local funding is the necessary first step to address the most immediate needs. A 1/2-cent sales tax is the most feasible option available.</p> <p>Citizens' Advisory Committees in each part of the County, representing the many diverse interests in Marin, provided input that resulted in a draft Expenditure Plan earlier this year. The draft plan was presented to each of Marin's City/Town Councils and to numerous stakeholder groups. Their comments prompted refinements reflected in the Transportation Sales Tax Expenditure Plan. Details of the plan are available at www.marintraffic.org.</p>										
What the Plan Provides	<p>There are four key strategies to reducing congestion and improving transportation in Marin. The expenditure plan addresses them all:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop a seamless local bus system that serves community needs, including special services for seniors and those with disabilities. ▪ Fully fund and accelerate completion of the Highway 101 Carpool Lane Gap Closure Project through San Rafael. ▪ Improve, maintain, and manage Marin's local transportation infrastructure, including roads, bikeways, pathways, and sidewalks. ▪ Reduce school-related congestion and improve safe access to schools. </td> <td style="vertical-align: top; text-align: right; padding-left: 20px;"> <table border="0"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">\$182.4 million</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">55%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">24.8 million</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">7.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">87.9 million</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">26.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">36.5 million</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">11%</td> </tr> </table> </td> </tr> </table>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop a seamless local bus system that serves community needs, including special services for seniors and those with disabilities. ▪ Fully fund and accelerate completion of the Highway 101 Carpool Lane Gap Closure Project through San Rafael. ▪ Improve, maintain, and manage Marin's local transportation infrastructure, including roads, bikeways, pathways, and sidewalks. ▪ Reduce school-related congestion and improve safe access to schools. 	<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">\$182.4 million</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">55%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">24.8 million</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">7.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">87.9 million</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">26.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">36.5 million</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">11%</td> </tr> </table>	\$182.4 million	55%	24.8 million	7.5%	87.9 million	26.5%	36.5 million	11%
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Improving mobility and reducing local congestion for everyone who lives and works in Marin County by providing a variety of high quality transportation options designed to meet local needs.

**Facts About
Marin Traffic and
Transportation**

- Traffic is always cited as Marin's biggest problem. Some facts:
- 79% of all trips made by Marin residents are within the county.
 - 70% of all Marin morning commute traffic (all roads) originates in Marin.
 - 70% of all Marin trips are made by people driving alone.
 - 62% of Marin workers live in Marin.
 - 21% of morning congestion comes from school traffic.
 - Because of State funding cuts, the Highway 101 car pool lane project through San Rafael will not be finished until 2015 without new financing.
 - Demand for special transit for seniors increased 27% over the past 5 years.
 - Most other Bay Area counties already have a transportation sales tax, and Marin's sales tax is the lowest in the Bay Area.
 - A local sales tax would qualify Marin as a "self-help" county, allowing us to provide local matching funds and compete for federal and state grants, which will multiply the impact of the tax dollars.

Accountability

The sales tax expenditure plan will be managed by the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM). Its 16-member board consists of the Board of Supervisors and a council member from each incorporated city/town. The Authority will be accountable to a 12-member Citizens' Oversight Committee, created with the assistance of the League of Women Voters. The committee will review all expenditures and report annually to the public. Salaries and benefits for the Authority's staff will not exceed 1% of funds collected.

**What's Not
Included**

There is no funding in the plan to create a rail system, to purchase open space, or to operate ferry service, as prior transportation measures proposed.

**Making Tax
Dollars Work**

State funding earmarked for transportation is being diverted to other programs by the Legislature. In addition, funding for local transit services is insufficient to meet even the reduced service levels implemented in November 2003. Local funding would provide local control for transit funding decisions. Local funding also opens new opportunities to receive State and Federal grants that requires a local share.

The sales tax is the approach provided to counties by the State Legislature to fund local transportation projects. A gasoline tax would need to be 14 cents per gallon to raise an amount equal to a 1/2-cent sales tax. Also, by statute, a county agency cannot raise either the gas tax or the real estate tax.

Plan Status

In addition to TAM, the following agencies have approved the plan:

Marin County Board of Supervisors	City of Novato
City of Belvedere	Town of Ross
Town of Corte Madera	Town of San Anselmo
Town of Fairfax	City of San Rafael
City of Larkspur	City of Sausalito
City of Mill Valley	Town of Tiburon

The plan will be on the November 2, 2004 ballot. It requires 2/3-voter approval to implement and would go into effect in the year 2005.