



DATE: July 26, 2018

TO: Transportation Authority of Marin Board of Commissioners

FROM: Dianne Steinhauser, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Response to Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report on Yellow School Bus (Action), Agenda Item No. 10

RECOMMENDATION

The TAM Board considers the response to the Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report entitled “Yellow School Bus for Traffic Congestion Relief” and authorize the Executive Director to forward the response to the Marin County Superior Court and the Marin County Grand Jury. Note that the response letter will be provided at the TAM Board meeting. The response is due back to the Marin Grand Jury no later than September 1, 2018.

BACKGROUND

On June 8, 2018, the Marin County Civil Grand Jury released a report entitled “Yellow School Bus for Traffic Congestion Relief”. A response is required to the Grand Jury by TAM, Marin Transit, the County of Marin, local jurisdictions and school districts addressing the eight findings and ten recommendations contained in this report.

In December 2015, Marin Transit, partnering with TAM and the Marin County Office of Education produced the Coordinated County Student Transportation Study to assess the demand for yellow school bus service in Marin County. The study examined opportunities and obstacles to expanding school bus service. The study noted that Marin Transit currently provides supplemental school bus services to all high schools and several middle schools in Marin. The supplemental service meets school bell times. Marin Transit also provides school districts with operational, planning and management support to run yellow school bus programs that meet the needs of younger students. The study noted that expanding Yellow School Bus could necessitate substantial additional funds.

The Coordinated County Student Transportation Study illustrated Marin Transit's Yellow School Bus program operating in several areas of the County. These descriptions have been updated to reflect the current status in 2018:

- In partnership with the City of San Anselmo, the Town of Fairfax, and the County of Marin, Marin Transit provides students at White Hill Middle School and Hidden Valley Elementary School the opportunity to ride to and from school on a bus that’s been specifically designed for student transportation operated by drivers trained to service this population. This service was originally supplemental bus service, but was converted to Yellow School Bus due to the population it serves and the heavy demand.

- In 2016, the Mill Valley School District in partnership with the City of Mill Valley and the County of Marin established a pilot yellow bus program.
- In April 2016, the Town of Tiburon, the City of Belvedere and Reed Union School District (RUSD) voted to form the Tiburon Peninsula Traffic Relief Joint Powers Agency (JPA) to coordinate efforts to reduce school-related congestion on Tiburon Boulevard. The JPA oversees yellow bus service to schools in the Reed Union School District. Marin Transit is contracted to provide operational and planning support for the program.

Through TAM's City and Town Outreach in 2017 and 2018, the TAM board heard requests from cities and towns to dedicate funding for Yellow School Bus services in the Sales Tax Renewal Expenditure Plan. The TAM board approved the Sales Tax Renewal Expenditure Plan at the April 2018 TAM Board meeting, which authorized ongoing, dedicated school bus funding. As a result of the outreach, and in concert with Yellow School Bus expansion being a priority in Marin Transit's Short-Range Transit Plan, TAM and Marin Transit committed to identifying additional funds beyond the funds committed in the renewal of the sales tax.

To illustrate its commitment to meeting the goal of expanded Yellow School Bus service, the TAM Board authorized the programming of Measure A Transportation Sales Tax Interest Funds of approximately \$1.1M to Marin Transit for Yellow School Bus service at the June 2018 TAM Board Meeting.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The response letter to the Grand Jury's Findings and Recommendations will be provided at the TAM Board meeting in accordance with Penal Code Section 933.05.

FISCAL CONSIDERATION

There is no fiscal consideration required for this item.

NEXT STEPS

If approved by the Board, staff will forward the response to the Marin County Superior Court and the Marin County Grand Jury.

ATTACHMENTS

Not Applicable