



marin transit

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August 15, 2016

The Honorable Judge Kelly V. Simmons  
Marin County Superior Court  
P.O. Box 4988  
San Rafael, CA 94913-4988

**board of directors**

John Mann, Foreperson  
Marin County Grand Jury  
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room #275  
San Rafael, CA 94903

kathrin sears  
president  
supervisor district 3

**SUBJECT: Response to Recommendation 5 of the Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report, "Traffic Congestion in Marin: The Sir Francis Drake Boulevard Project Deconstructed"**

katie rice  
vice president  
supervisor district 2

Dear Judge Simmons and Mr. Mann:

stephanie moulton-peters  
2nd vice president  
city of mill valley

On August 15, 2016, the Marin County Transit District (Marin Transit) Board of Directors authorized the General Manager to respond to Recommendation 5 of the Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report, "Traffic Congestion in Marin: The Sir Francis Drake Boulevard Project Deconstructed". Attached is Marin Transit's response.

judy arnold  
director  
supervisor district 5

Please contact me at [nwhelan@marintransit.org](mailto:nwhelan@marintransit.org) or 415-226-0864 if you have any questions about this response.

maribeth bushey  
director  
city of san rafael

Sincerely,

damon connolly  
director  
supervisor district 1

Nancy Whelan  
General Manager

steve kinsey  
director  
supervisor district 4

Attachment

**RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT**

Report Title: Traffic Congestion in Marin: The Sir Fran  
Report Date: 6/23/16  
Agenda Date: 8/15/16  
Response by: Marin Transit Title: General Manager

**FINDINGS**

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: \_\_\_\_\_
- I (we) disagree *partially* with the findings numbered: \_\_\_\_\_
- I (we) disagree *wholly* with the findings numbered: \_\_\_\_\_

(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefor.)

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Recommendations numbered \_\_\_\_\_ have been implemented.  
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered \_\_\_\_\_ have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.  
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered 5 \_\_\_\_\_ require further analysis.  
(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.)
- Recommendations numbered \_\_\_\_\_ will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.  
(Attach an explanation.)

Date: 8/15/16 Signed:   
Number of pages attached 2

**Marin Transit Response to Civil Grand Jury Report,  
“Traffic Congestion in Marin”, Recommendation 5**

*R5. TAM, Marin Transit District and the County should fund school buses for the Bacich Elementary and Kent Middle School population. Consider overall optimization of Measure A transit funds, including modification of the Measure A expenditure plan.*

**Response:** Marin Transit, in partnership with TAM and the Marin County Office of Education (MCOE), recently completed a Countywide Coordinated School Transportation Study that examined home to school student transportation conditions and made recommendations for future programs. The study focused on school bus transportation and made a number of findings related to the Civil Grand Jury’s report, “Traffic Congestion in Marin: The Sir Francis Drake Boulevard Project Deconstructed”, particularly Recommendation Number 5. These include:

1. Yellow Bus transportation is the most appropriate form of bus service for K-8 students in Marin County.
2. Bacich Elementary and Kent Middle schools demonstrate a “high” need for busing services.
3. Kentfield School District is one of two districts countywide that includes schools that demonstrate a “high” need for bus transportation services and do not currently have any home to school busing services available.
4. There is no dedicated funding stream for new home to school yellow bus programs in Marin County. Current funding sources are fully used for existing services, and have limited or no capacity to fund service expansion.

Marin Transit has recently increased its role in supporting yellow school bus service in Marin County, taking on the administration and operations oversight for Reed Union and Mill Valley school districts. This administrative role is supported financially by the school districts. Operating expenses for these services are jointly funded by parents (fares), the Cities and Towns, the County, and the School Districts. Marin Transit has already supported the Kentfield School District in a similar way by conducting parent surveys, developing conceptual routing and schedules, and estimating program costs. Until such time as a new funding source is in place, operating expenses for a new Kentfield program could utilize a similar funding stream.

Implementation of a new program for Kentfield is not just dependent upon funding, but also the availability of a contractor to provide the service. Due to a number of factors including the inability to have a facility in Marin, shortage of local labor, and the instability of small, year-to-year contracts, Mill Valley’s recent experience starting a new yellow bus program demonstrated the challenges in finding an outside vendor to bid on the service at a reasonable price. These obstacles should be addressed in parallel with funding.

Marin Transit has established an Ad Hoc Committee on School Transportation to guide the implementation of recommendations outlined in the Countywide Coordinated School Transportation Study. The Ad Hoc Committee is considering near-term and longer-term funding options for existing and

planned school transportation service, including yellow school bus service to Bacich Elementary and Kentfield Middle schools. The portion of Measure A funds made available to Marin Transit in Strategy 1 of the Expenditure Plan are optimized in Marin Transit's Short Range Transit Plan, which has been recently updated. Further optimization of other eligible Measure A funds and new sources of funds are being considered to meet current school bus service requirements and expansion of service to high and medium need schools throughout the County. This implementation plan is being coordinated with TAM, MCOE, the school districts, cities and towns, and the County. Marin Transit will complete a draft implementation plan for countywide school transportation by January 1, 2017.

**Reference Documents:**

Marin Transit 2016-2025 Short Range Transit Plan

[http://www.marintransit.org/pdf/SRTP/2016-2025/2016-2025SRTP\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.marintransit.org/pdf/SRTP/2016-2025/2016-2025SRTP_FINAL.pdf)

Coordinated Countywide School Transportation Study, Existing Conditions Assessment, May 2015

[http://www.marintransit.org/pdf/planning/050115\\_FINAL\\_MarinTransit\\_SchoolStudy\\_Task2.pdf](http://www.marintransit.org/pdf/planning/050115_FINAL_MarinTransit_SchoolStudy_Task2.pdf)

Coordinated Countywide School Transportation Study, Final Report, December 2015

[http://www.marintransit.org/pdf/planning/CCSTS\\_FINAL\\_123115.pdf](http://www.marintransit.org/pdf/planning/CCSTS_FINAL_123115.pdf)



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August 15, 2016



Honorable Board of Directors  
Marin County Transit District  
3501 Civic Center Drive  
San Rafael, CA 94903

**board of directors**

kathrin sears  
president  
supervisor district 3

katie rice  
vice president  
supervisor district 2

stephanie moulton-peters  
2nd vice president  
city of mill valley

judy arnold  
director  
supervisor district 5

maribeth bushey  
director  
city of san rafael

damon connolly  
director  
supervisor district 1

steve kinsey  
director  
supervisor district 4

**SUBJECT: Response to Recommendation 5 of the Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report, "Traffic Congestion in Marin: The Sir Francis Drake Boulevard Project Deconstructed"**

Dear Board Members:

**RECOMMENDATION:** Authorize the General Manager to respond to Recommendation 5 of the Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report, "Traffic Congestion in Marin: The Sir Francis Drake Boulevard Project Deconstructed".

**BACKGROUND:**

On June 30, 2016 the Marin County Civil Grand Jury released a report entitled, "Traffic Congestion in Marin: The Sir Francis Drake Boulevard Project Deconstructed." Among the findings and recommendations in the report, the Grand Jury requested that Marin Transit, the Transportation Authority of Marin, and the Marin County Board of Supervisors respond to Recommendation 5 that states:

*"TAM, Marin Transit District, and the County should fund school buses for the Bacich Elementary and Kent Middle School population. Consider overall optimization of Measure A transit funds, including modification of the Measure A Expenditure Plan."*

Marin Transit staff has prepared the attached response to this recommendation. Our agency's response focuses on the findings of the Countywide Coordinated School Transportation Study and the follow-on efforts to develop an implementation plan. We also note that a Marin Transit Ad Hoc Committee on School Transportation has been established to guide this effort and is considering near-term and longer-term funding options. We plan to have a draft implementation plan completed by January 1, 2017.

We have shared this response with staff at TAM and the County, and they have agreed that the response is acceptable. As the agency responsible for administering the Measure A Transportation Sales Tax Expenditure Plan, TAM is responding directly to the Civil Grand Jury regarding the element of this recommendation that pertains modifying the Expenditure Plan.

The Civil Grand Jury report states that the response of the governing body must be conducted in accordance with Penal Code section 933 (c) and subject to the notice, agenda, and open meeting requirements of the Brown Act.

**FISCAL/STAFFING IMPACT:**

None associated with this item.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy E. Whelan".

Nancy Whelan  
General Manager

Attachment