

**CITY OF NOVATO  
RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS  
MARIN COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY**

**“Yellow School Bus for Traffic Congestion Relief”**

- F1.** Traffic congestion is consistently cited as the number one problem in the county and school-related traffic is a significant contributor.
- F2.** School buses have been shown to reduce traffic congestion.
- F3.** There are school districts with no bus service and others with varying levels of service. The lack of coordination results in inefficiencies.
- F4.** Current school bus funding includes bus pass sales and various municipality and county contributions. The municipal and county contributions are temporary and inconsistent.
- F5.** There is demand to establish and/or expand YSB programs in the County.
- F6.** Securing dedicated YSB bus parking and a maintenance facility is essential for expansion of a countywide YSB program.
- F7.** The YSB programs in Marin face many challenges, including dependable funding sources, bus drivers and coordinated school bell times.
- F8.** Marin Transit is the appropriate entity to efficiently manage a coordinated YSB program.

The City of Novato **agrees** with Finding **F1, F2, F4, F5, F6** and **F7**.

The City of Novato **partially disagrees** with Finding **F3**: While we agree that there are school districts with no bus service and others with varying levels of service, the lack of coordination does not always result in inefficiencies. Some school districts may operate independently and very efficiently without coordination with other school districts. Therefore, the finding should be that the lack of coordination *may* result in inefficiencies.

The City of Novato **partially disagrees** with Finding **F8**: Marin Transit is one potential entity to manage a coordinated yellow school bus program for the County. However, there are other models for governance and management with the potential to perform some or all vehicle maintenance. These needs must be considered as a part of the responses to the specific recommendations.

In order to establish a coordinated YSB program to relieve associated traffic congestion the grand jury recommends the following:

- R1.** The Marin County Board of Supervisors should work with Marin Transit to secure ample locations for bus parking and a location for bus maintenance by the end of 2018.
- R2.** All municipalities should work with Marin Transit to secure ample locations for bus parking and a location for bus maintenance by the end of 2018.
- R3.** Marin Transit should produce and make public a list of possible sites for bus parking and maintenance and the barriers to purchasing and utilizing each site by October 2018.

**R7:** School districts (with or without existing YSB programs) and municipalities within the urbanized area of the County should join and actively participate in the YSB committee providing guidance to Marin Transit on YSB issues, such as cost allocations, bell times and routes. The initial meeting should be held by October of 2018.

**RESPONSE:** The City agrees with this recommendation. The City of Novato will actively participate in the YSB committee providing guidance to Marin Transit on YSB issues, such as cost allocations, bell times, and routes.

**R8:** The YSB committee should work toward the establishment of a coordinated YSB for K-8 program for the urbanized areas of Marin with the goal of beginning the coordinated program by the 2019-2020 school year.

**RESPONSE:** The City agrees with this recommendation. The City of Novato will actively participate in the YSB committee in order to work toward the establishment of a coordinated YSB for K-8 program for the urbanized areas of Marin with the goal of beginning the coordinated program by the 2019-2020 school year.

**R10:** The County and municipalities of the urbanized corridor should make financial support of all YSB programs a part of each year's budgeting process.

**RESPONSE:** The City does not agree with Recommendation R10. Funding for the consolidated Yellow School Bus program must be identified from sources other than the City of Novato. Should funding become available through other sources that Novato has influence over, the City indicates that it will make financial support of all YSB programs a part of each year's budgeting process.