

Mill Valley School District “Yellow School Bus for Traffic Congestion Relief”
Responding to Grand Jury Request Re: Report Dated June 1, 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.

The Mill Valley School District would join and actively participate in a Yellow School Bus committee by October 2018 to review costs, bell times and routes. In partnership with the City of Mill Valley and the County of Marin with operational support from Marin Transit, the Mill Valley School District has been actively piloting a YSB bus program coupled with staggered bell schedules since 2016-17. For fiscal year 2018-19, the Mill Valley School district will continue to evaluate the cost effectiveness of the program as it relates to student ridership, efficiency and overall costs incurred.

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.

The Mill Valley School District is prepared to participate on a Yellow School Bus (YSB) committee to explore the potential expansion of YSB services in Marin. We acknowledge that part of the work will be working with partners, including public agencies, organizations, and the community at large, to identify sustainable funding that is ongoing and reliable in order to maintain the service into the future.

Our schools understand that we play a role in addressing the issue of traffic congestion in Marin. That prompted our work, commencing in 2015, with the Transportation Authority of Marin and Marin Transit, to research the impacts of schools on traffic congestion and potential ways to mitigate those impacts. Results have included bus transportation and alternative modes of transit, including safe bike and walking routes, to reduce traffic in congested areas. The potential of expansion of the YSB services in Marin is a logical next step in that discussion.

The Mill Valley School District looks forward to addressing this important work with our partners.