

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT FORM
City of Mill Valley

Report Title: Yellow School Bus for Traffic Congestion Relief

Report Date: June 1, 2018

Public Release: June 8, 2018

Response By: City of Mill Valley

FINDINGS

We agree with findings F1, F2, F4, F5, F6, F7

We partially disagree with Findings F3 and F8

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations numbered R2 & R10 have been implemented.

Recommendations numbered R7 & R8 have not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future.

Recommendation numbered R4 will not be implemented.

Number of attached: 1

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FINDINGS

F3. There are school districts with no bus service and others with varying levels of service. The lack of coordination results in inefficiencies.

Explanation: While we agree that there are school districts with no bus service and others with varying levels of service, we have not seen any specific data or analysis that concludes that the lack of coordination results in inefficiencies. We therefore hold our opinion on this finding until more research, data, and analysis may be provided.

F8. Marin Transit is the appropriate entity to efficiently manage a coordinated YSB program.

F8 Explanation: We feel that Marin Transit is one entity that may be appropriate to manage a coordinated yellow school bus program for the County, but that there may be other models for governance and management of a coordinated program. We would need additional analysis before agreeing to this finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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.

Recommendation implemented. The City of Mill Valley has worked with and will continue to work with Marin Transit to identify and potentially secure locations for bus parking and a location for bus maintenance within the Southern Marin area. However, the City of Mill Valley does not own or otherwise control any candidate real property for bus parking or maintenance and is not aware of any private property suitable for those purposes within City Limits.

R4. Marin Transit should facilitate negotiations for a financial arrangement across the full group of participants that would distribute any tax revenue lost by a municipality or the County for providing a parking or maintenance facility.

Recommendation not implemented. The City of Mill Valley cannot state if this recommendation will be implemented because it is directed at a Marin Transit, and not the City of Mill Valley.

However, the City does agree that a parking or maintenance facility is needed, and that a top priority for a County-wide YSB Program is securing reliable, ongoing funding for both operations and capital purchases. The City of Mill Valley recommends an increase in allocations from Measure A funds to support this effort.

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.

Recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. The City of Mill Valley will join and actively participate in the YSB committee once it is established.

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.

Recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. The City of Mill Valley agrees with this recommendation.

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.

Recommendation implemented. The City of Mill Valley has budgeted \$70,000 for FY 18/19 to support the Mill Valley Yellow School Bus program.

We would like to add, however, that over the past several fiscal years, the City has experienced increases in pension contribution costs and anticipates volatility in future contribution rates. As a result, the City Council has directed the allocation of significant financial resources to address the long-term sustainability of pension-related liabilities. Therefore, the City cannot commit to any Marin Civil Grand Jury Recommendations which call for financial obligations of an undefined amount and for an undefined length of time. Increasing future pension costs are anticipated to put a strain on the existing services the City provides.