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August 9, 2018

Pat Randolph, Foreperson  
Marin County Grand Jury  
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 275  
San Rafael, CA 94903

Subject: Response to Grand Jury Report, "Yellow School Bus for Traffic Congestion Relief"

Dear Ms. Randolph:

The Transportation Authority of Marin Board of Commissioners considered the report issued by the Civil Grand Jury entitled "Yellow School Bus for Traffic Congestion Relief" at its regularly scheduled meeting of July 26, 2018. The Board appreciated the efforts of the Grand Jury and the opportunity to respond to their recommendations. Attached please find the Board's response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Steinhauser".

Dianne Steinhauser  
Executive Director  
Transportation Authority of Marin

DS/dmm

Attachment: Response to Grand Jury Report

## RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

**Report Title:** Yellow School Bus for Traffic Congestion Relief

**Report Date:** June 1, 2018

**Agenda Date:** July 26, 2018

**Response by:** Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM)

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**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:** 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 to R8. The recommendation has not yet been implemented. It will be implemented in the future if reliable, ongoing funding for a coordinated yellow bus program is secured.

A committee may help further develop a coordinated Yellow School Bus program, assist in identifying ongoing operating funds, and help secure a parking and maintenance facility for buses. The program can be implemented once the funding plan is in place. TAM is committed to support the development of a robust yellow school bus program. TAM will be presenting for public approval on the November 2018 ballot in Marin an extension of the current ½ cent transportation sales tax which, if approved by a 2/3rds majority vote of the public, provides on-going funding for yellow school bus service. TAM encourages Marin Transit to develop a committee. However, given that a reliable ongoing source of funds has not been identified, it is unlikely that a fully coordinated program will be in place by 2019-2020.

Please also note the following:

As a part of the “Coordinated Countywide School Transportation Study,” Marin Transit has convened representatives from Marin County, Marin County Office of Education, and each school district and municipality in the urbanized areas of Marin. Letters were sent to each City Manager and each school district Superintendent inviting their participation in the study. In May 2016, the Marin Transit Board of Directors established an Ad Hoc Committee on School Transportation comprised of three Board members. The Ad Hoc Committee on School Transportation has met ten times, and interested representatives from the County, cities, and school districts have attended these meetings. Additionally, Marin Transit staff have convened smaller groups with similar interests or groups sharing similar geography and student populations. These groups have met as needed or as requested over the course of the past two years to discuss school transportation issues.

The Ad Hoc Committee has considered convening an expanded group of school transportation stakeholders. They determined that a larger stakeholder group should be convened when a reliable, ongoing funding source for yellow school bus operations is identified. If the Transportation Authority of Marin's countywide half cent transportation sales tax is renewed in November 2018, a small increase in school transportation funding will be available. The Ad Hoc Committee will consider establishing a larger advisory group at that time.