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July 1, 2019

The Honorable Judge Paul Haakenson
Marin County Superior Court
P.O. Box 4988
San Rafael, CA 94913-4988

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

**SUBJECT: Response to Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report,
"SMART First Mile/Last Mile Options"**

Dear Judge Haakenson and Ms. Randolph:

On July 1, 2019, the Marin County Transit District (Marin Transit) Board of Directors authorized the Board President to respond to the Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report, "SMART First Mile/Last Mile Options." Attached is Marin Transit's response.

Please contact Marin Transit's General Manager Nancy Whelan at nwhelan@marintransit.org or 415-226-0864 if you have any questions about this response.

Sincerely,

Damon Connolly
President

Attachment



marin transit

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July 1, 2019

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

**SUBJECT: Response to Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report
"SMART First Mile/Last Mile Options"**

Dear Board Members:

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RECOMMENDATION: Authorize the Board President to forward the attached response to Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report, "SMART First Mile/Last Mile Options."

BACKGROUND:

On May 9, 2019 the Marin County Civil Grand Jury released a report entitled, "SMART First Mile/Last Mile Options". The Grand Jury requested that Marin Transit respond to the seven findings and four of the five recommendations.

Overall, the Grand Jury report suggests that Marin Transit should take the lead on implementing a First Mile/Last Mile options for SMART stations in Marin County with the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM).

Marin Transit staff has prepared the attached response to the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations. We have shared this draft response with TAM staff.

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,

Nancy Whelan
General Manager

MARIN TRANSIT RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

REPORT TITLE: **SMART First Mile/Last Mile Options**

REPORT DATE: **May 9, 2019**

RESPONSE BY: **Marin County Transit District (Marin Transit)**

GRAND JURY FINDINGS

F1. An important key to the success of SMART will be the availability of economical, fast and convenient transit connectivity to and from the stations since many passengers do not live or work in areas close to these stops.

F2. There are numerous transportation modes to connect with SMART stations. These include walking, biking, electric bikes and scooters, cars, ride sharing, Lyft, Uber, traditional taxis, group vans, standard sized as well as smaller buses, including shuttles such as Marin Connect, which can be called as needed. In the future, autonomous shuttles and other vehicles will be an option.

F3. Transportation Authority of Marin in conjunction with Marin Transit, are the agencies charged with fostering public transit connectivity with SMART in Marin.

F4. Comprehensive surveys of customer riding patterns are extremely useful to the determination of which modes to focus on and put resources into, but the ultimate determination will be driven by customer preferences over the next few years.

F5. The distance between the SMART Larkspur terminal and the ferry terminal may act as a barrier that could adversely impact SMART ridership since currently there are no known plans for public transit between the two terminals.

F6. The SMART plan calls for limited parking for passengers at the Larkspur station. This could be an obstacle to SMART ridership northbound.

F7. There are railroad tracks owned by SMART going east out of southern Novato currently used only for freight. An engineering study is currently underway, due late spring of 2019, to determine the feasibility of extending SMART to Amtrak in the East Bay.

Marin Transit Response to Findings

- We agree with Findings F1, F5, F6, F7
- We partially disagree with Findings F2, F3, and F4

F2 Explanation: The Grand Jury Report overlooked the availability of fixed route transit service provided at the Civic Center and Downtown San Rafael SMART stations. In Downtown San Rafael, bus and SMART services are coordinated at this primary transit transfer hub for Marin County. SMART agreed to time its

Attachment

operations to sync with bus schedules at the San Rafael Transit Center (SRTC). SMART riders can access most of Marin County at the SRTC, and 14 Marin Transit bus and shuttle routes make timed transfers at half hour or 15-minute intervals at this location. At Civic Center, two Marin Transit routes serve the station and the schedules allow a four- to five-minute connection.

Connections to the existing fixed route bus network have proved to be the most cost-effective way to serve the first/last mile connection. The Grand Jury report did not include these as a potential option to consider. The ability to extend these fixed route connections to the Novato stations is dependent on capital improvements and bus stops/turnouts at or adjacent to the stations that were identified in the Metropolitan Transportation Commission led SMART Integration Study.

F3 Explanation: Golden Gate Transit (GGT) operates a shuttle (Route 31) from the San Rafael Transit Center to the Larkspur Ferry Terminal. Currently, GGT pays for the weekday ferry connector service and SMART pays for the weekend service. Under the Measure AA transportation sales tax extension, Golden Gate Transit receives funds that are specifically dedicated to provision of ferry feeder connections.

Marin Transit bus and shuttle routes serve SMART stations in Marin County where bus turnouts are provided. SMART and Golden Gate Transit have already entered into partnerships to provide first/last mile services and should be included in the conversation regarding connecting services to SMART

F4 Explanation: SMART has already conducted extensive public and passenger surveys before and after it initiated rail service. Surveys and studies assist in identifying needs and potential travel behavior. However, funding availability and sustainability is the ultimate determinant in the decision to provide service.

GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS

The Grand Jury requested that Marin County Transit District respond to the following recommendations.

R1. Transportation Authority of Marin and Marin Transit should conduct surveys and pertinent research, using the criteria of convenience, cost, and accessibility to determine optimal “first mile - last mile” connections to SMART stations.

R2. Marin Transit should expand the usage of Marin Connect beyond northern San Rafael no later than the first quarter of 2020.

R4. Upon completion of the SMART station in Larkspur, there needs to be a free passenger shuttle between the station and the Larkspur ferry terminal.

R5. SMART, Transportation Authority of Marin and Marin Transit should prepare a joint feasibility study for the possible implementation of an autonomous shuttle for connection from the Larkspur SMART station to the Larkspur Ferry.

Marin Transit Response to Recommendations

Responses to Individual Recommendations

R1. The recommendation has been implemented.

Marin Transit has worked with and advised SMART on planning for its stations since its inception. In SMART's Environmental Impact Report, SMART proposed to provide up to ten shuttle routes in support of its rail service. In its planning and design phases, SMART conducted surveys and developed possible shuttle options. Marin Transit met with SMART staff and consultants throughout that process. The MTC led SMART Commuter Rail Integration Plan (2015) is the most recent effort and included all transit operators in the Highway 101 corridor.

Since SMART became operational, it has surveyed its passengers extensively. Marin Transit has conducted surveys associated with the planning and implementation of the Connect pilot service in Northern San Rafael and has shared these results with SMART and TAM.

The Transportation Authority of Marin subsidizes Lyft services and will soon provide bikeshare programs serving the SMART stations in Marin.

The Civil Grand Jury's Report does not include the most important SMART transit connections for all modes and service providers at the San Rafael Transit Center (SRTC).

R2. The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable.

The Connect service is a pilot project that Marin Transit continues to evaluate. The pilot is currently scheduled to run until the end of 2019. At this time, Marin Transit does not know whether the service will continue or what funding could be dedicated to support it. Current funding for the program comes from a Federal Section 5310 discretionary grant and the Measure B Vehicle License Fee. Marin Transit has not identified a funding source to extend current Connect operations beyond the term of the pilot. There is no funding to extend the current service beyond Northern San Rafael. At this time, Marin Transit would have to reduce its other services and reallocate resources in order to continue or expand the Connect.

R4. The recommendation requires further analysis.

Golden Gate Transit (GGT) operates a shuttle from the San Rafael Transit Center to the Larkspur Ferry Terminal. Currently, GGT pays for the weekday ferry connector service and SMART pays for the weekend service. Under the Measure AA transportation sales tax extension, Golden Gate Transit receives funds that are specifically dedicated to provision of ferry connections. Golden Gate Transit and SMART are the appropriate agencies to consider providing a shuttle connection between the Larkspur Ferry Terminal and the future Larkspur SMART station.

R5. The recommendation has not yet been implemented.

Attachment

Golden Gate Transit owns the Larkspur Ferry Terminal and the parking overflow lots in the vicinity. GGT and the City of Larkspur should lead a future feasibility study with participation by Marin Transit, SMART, and the Transportation Authority of Marin. Currently, autonomous transit vehicles are being tested on dedicated rights of way where no other vehicles, pedestrians, or bicyclists are allowed. These dedicated rights of way are off-street and do not have traffic signals. The timeframe is unknown for studying an autonomous shuttle linking the Larkspur Ferry Terminal to the Larkspur SMART Station. This is due to the state of the technology, accompanying regulations, and the availability of funding. Marin Transit will be happy to participate in a future feasibility study with SMART, the Transportation Authority of Marin, Golden Gate Transit, and the City of Larkspur.