



TOWN OF FAIRFAX

STAFF REPORT

May 1, 2019

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Garrett Toy, Town Manager *GT*

SUBJECT: Authorize Vice Mayor to send a letter supporting the Marin Transit staff proposal to increase annual supplemental funds by \$30,000 for the Ross Valley Yellow School Bus program

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize Vice Mayor to send a letter supporting the Marin Transit staff proposal to increase annual supplemental funds by \$30,000 for the Ross Valley Yellow School Bus program.

BACKGROUND

For many years Marin Transit contracted with Golden Gate Transit to provide public bus service to hundreds of RVSD students traveling to and from school each day. In June of 2015, Golden Gate Transit no longer operated the routes that serve students, potentially adding hundreds of cars to already crowded streets during peak commute times.

Marin Transit was able to negotiate a contract with Michael's Transportation of Vallejo to provide yellow bus service to the families of the Ross Valley. That service was initiated in August of 2015 and continues to serve White Hill, Brookside, and Hidden Valley Schools.

Recently, the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement (JEPA) was created that includes representation from the County, Marin Transit, the Ross Valley School District and the Towns of Fairfax and San Anselmo. This joint committee was created to allow for local decision making around the Ross Valley Yellow Bus (Yellow Bus) program and to give the public the chance to provide input. The inaugural JEPA meeting was March 14th. Vice-Mayor Goddard is the Council's primary representative to the JEPA. The JEPA met again on April 2nd and April 22nd.

DISCUSSION

At its April 3rd meeting, the Town Council received a report on the funding changes to the Yellow Bus program. In response to those changes in funding from the County of Marin and Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM)/Measure AA Funding, the Council committed to increasing its annual contribution for the Yellow Bus program from \$10,000 to \$30,500 for FY19-20. This matches the commitment from San Anselmo.

We are pleased to report that at the April 22nd JEPA meeting, the County of Marin indicated it was able to increase its contribution for the Yellow Bus program by \$10,000 from \$90,000 to \$100,000 for this year. Marin Transit staff reported that they will be recommending to the Transit Board that the supplemental funding for the Ross Valley Yellow Bus program be increased by an additional \$30,000 per year from Measure AA funds for FY19-20 through FY21-22. Based on the existing formula used to distribute Measure AA funds to yellow bus programs countywide, there was a surplus of \$30,000.

With the supplemental funding from the County of Marin and Marin Transit (Measure AA), the JEPA would be able to keep bus pass increases under 25% as opposed to over 30% without the supplemental funding.

Staff will work with Vice-Mayor Goddard to draft and send a letter of support to Marin Transit for consideration at its May 6th Board meeting.

The Yellow Bus program provides valuable congestion relief along the Sir Francis Drake Blvd. corridor during morning commute hours and is well-managed through Marin Transit. Marin Transit estimates that the Yellow Bus program eliminates approximately 2000 auto trips daily on Sir Francis Drake.

FISCAL IMPACT

None