

Ross Valley Yellow Bus Transportation Services

Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement

Joint Committee

June 3, 2021

6:00 PM

Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84628437978?pwd=akNtY1lmRFc2S29GSnEzWVFLTGJvdz09>

Meeting ID: 846 2843 7978 Password: 694924

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL 6 PM

JEPA Board members:

Town of San Anselmo: Brian Colbert, Dave Donery

Town of Fairfax: Renee Goddard, Garrett Toy/Absent

County of Marin: Katie Rice/Absent, Nancy Vernon

Ross Valley School District: Wesley Pratt, Marci Trahan/Joined later in meeting

Marin Transit: Christopher Whitlock, Robert Betts, Nancy Whelan

II. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Persons wishing to address the Joint Exercise of Powers (JEPA) Joint Committee on subjects not on the agenda may do so at this time. Please note, however, that the JEPA is not able to undertake extended discussion or action on items not on the agenda. Matters requiring action will be referred to the joint committee or staff or placed on a future JEPA meeting agenda. Please limit your comments to three (3) minutes.

III. JEPA BUSINESS MEETING

Item	Presenter	Action
A. Accept October 5, 2020 Meeting Minutes	Chairperson	Approve

M/S Dave Donery, Wesley Pratt to accept the October 5, 2020 minutes.

Ayes: Brian Colbert, Dave Donery, Renee Goddard, Wesley Pratt, Nancy Vernon, Noes: None Absent: Marci Trahan, Garrett Toy, Katie Rice

Fairfax Councilmember Renee Goddard congratulated the Ross Valley School District for their flexibility and hard work during the pandemic.

B. Select Chairperson for 2021	Chairperson	Approve
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M/S Wesley Pratt, Brian Colbert for Supervisor Katie Rice to remain as chair and Renee Goddard to remain as vice chair.
Ayes: Brian Colbert, Dave Donery, Renee Goddard, Wesley Pratt, Nancy Vernon
Noes: None Absent: Marci Trahan, Garrett Toy, Katie Rice

C. Update from Ross Valley School District JEPA Board Member Discussion

School Board Trustee Wesley Pratt reported out that the School District plans to return to “normal” pending any guidance from Marin’s Public Health Officer on social distancing or other. Wesley stated that Superintendent Marci Trahan may be able to offer more when she arrives at meeting.

No public comment.

D. 2021/22 Service planning and summary of Lottery requests Marin Transit Discussion

Marin Transit General Manager Nancy Whelan introduced team of Chris Whitlock, Operations Analyst and Robert Betts, Director of Operations and Planning. Kelly Zalewski, Operations Manager, will be returning in July.

Betts reported that Marin Transit is staff liaison for Yellow Bus program and oversees all aspects. Lottery requests have been made and the lottery has now closed. Passes will go on sale later this summer.

Betts stated purpose of Yellow Bus project is to reduce traffic on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and Butterfield, two key corridors. Given the pandemic and school being held primarily virtually, Michael’s Transportation service contract was suspended in fall 2020 and again in January 2021.

In partnership with Marin County Office of Education, Marin Transit led Home to School Transportation committee that started in July 2020. This committee worked with public health officials to develop guidelines for ridership during the pandemic. These guidelines will be used for fall unless they are updated before bus service begins. Currently, the requirement is to keep 6 feet between students and driver on board and while waiting at a bus stop. 2 students per bench seat and a row must be left behind the driver. Marin Transit will allow up to 50 students per bus in the fall. Students are required to wear face coverings and windows should be open as much as possible for ventilation. The bus provider must have a School Transportation Provider Specific Protection Plan.

Six out of seven Michael’s drivers are expected to return and parking at Los Gamos is confirmed. Marin Transit does expect a need for a cost increase given additional factors (e.g., additional cleaning required). Michael’s base contract expires in June and two option years are available. An option year will be exercised for 2021-22 school year.

Whitlock reported background of lottery process that was developed in response to website capacity issue two years ago. First stage is comprised of a lottery request form to survey family interest, confidence, and preferred route. An issue arose with some families receiving multiple codes, but they were instructed to use the first code received. The second stage is route development, which will take place between June 7-11, then be posted on the Yellow Bus website. Once routes are developed, a survey will be sent to ask families to select top 3 preferred am and/or pm routes. Third stage follows with routes being awarded to families based on their placement on the priority list.

Families will be notified by email and will have seven days to purchase the passes. Unsold passes will go to the next family on the list.

Results of Phase 1 – 268 families responded to the lottery, representing 301 students, a slight decline from previous year. 77% of respondents were very confident they would purchase. Top three AM stops are San Anselmo Hub, Memorial Park, Sir Francis Drake and Broadmoor. Top PM stops are San Anselmo Hub, Memorial Park, Red Hill Avenue and Sequoia Dr. More demand exists for PM service and for service on Sir Francis Drake.

The JEPA acknowledged that Superintendent Marci Trahan arrived.

Marin Transit does expect there to be fewer number of bus passes sold this year with still more demand in afternoon and split between periods comparable to previous years. Reed school district (Tiburon Peninsula) is seeing significantly less sales in bus passes and are experiencing heavy congestion. JEPA may want to consider running fewer buses and will need to reconvene to review financials before June 25. The plan is for bus passes to go on sale the last week in June. Michael's contract also to be renewed by end of June. First day of school is August 18, 2021. Goddard thanked Marin Transit for the report and called for questions. Goddard asked what the 75% confidence rating was based on. Marin Transit responded that question referenced criteria of guidelines staying in place and price point between \$490 to \$575. Goddard also asked if Tiburon Peninsula prices went up. Marin Transit responded they did not.

Attendee Danielle Kentenbaum asked for an update on the Hidden Valley bus. Betts replied that there would be service to Hidden Valley and the Ross Valley Charter, but White Hill drives the program. Historically, Hidden Valley has only had one bus and sells about 40 passes. This service will continue.

Attendee Dewi Burton asked when passes would go on sale for Hidden Valley. Betts said the same time as White Hill but without restriction. No lottery needed.

Attendee Dara Matson asked why the Sorich neighborhood families had to pay for bus service since they were closer to Brookside but zoned to Hidden Valley. Whelan gave a brief history of the yellow bus program, the subsidies provided and the formation of the JEPA to advise the program.

Trahan reinforced the School District is planning for a full return and already planning for next year. Any safety guidelines will be much more minimal.

E. Update on financial commitments Marin Transit Discussion

Whelan reviewed revenue sources for the Yellow Bus program – Measure AA (\$132,956), Measure AA Supplement (\$30,000), County of Marin (\$90,000), Town of San Anselmo (\$30,500) and Town of Fairfax (\$30,500). Whelan reported that County of Marin funding was secured for 2021-22 school year, Mayor Colbert confirmed that San Anselmo's funding is also secured for coming school year. Goddard reported that Fairfax would be going through their budget process later in June. Measure AA funding was approved by Marin Transit Board on February 1, 2021 and Measure AA Supplement was approved on May 6, 2019.

No public comment.

F. Pedestrian and Traffic Survey Results JEPA Board Member Discussion

Nancy Vernon reported that volunteers counted bikes and pedestrians on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday the week of May 17 and Parisi Consulting conducted a car count for that week. The purpose of count is to compare numbers to data gathered in the fall once yellow bus is in place. Takeaways include:

- 50% kids walking and biking home after school
- More bikers than walkers in morning; more walkers than bikers in afternoon
- Much more car traffic for morning drop off than afternoon
- Handful of students riding Marin Transit bus in morning and afternoon
- Cars back up to turn out of Glen Drive during school drop off and pick up, but staggered start and release times do help with congestion
- Some parents doing tricky pick up and drop off on Glen Drive (currently not supposed to park or pick up except in school parking lot)

Goddard remarked that bike riders were even number of boys and girls, congestion in Fairfax had picked up, kids were wearing masks and helmets and biker's were using the appropriate path through the field.

Mayor Colbert asked Whelan if weather affected public transit numbers. She confirmed that transit is used more when weather is bad or dark. Goddard noted that when smoke is present due to fires, Safe Routes reporting numbers drop off significantly.

No public comment.

G. Set date, time, location, and agenda topics Chairperson Approve
Next JEPA meeting will be June 14 at 6pm via zoom.

IV. **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

V. **ADJOURNMENT 7 PM** - to the next regular meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Vernon
County of Marin