

Ross Valley Yellow Bus Transportation Services

Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement

Joint Committee

June 14, 2021

6:00 PM

Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83527632063?pwd=clpieVNCMStMTS9XV29ZWVWeWh5Zz09>

Meeting ID: 835 2763 2063

Passcode: 141382

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

County of Marin: Katie Rice, Nancy Vernon

Ross Valley School District: Wesley Pratt/Absent, Marci Trahan

Marin Transit: Christopher Whitlock, 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 June 3, 2021 Meeting Minutes | Chairperson | Approve |
| M/S Renee Goddard, Dave Donery to accept the June 3, 2021 minutes. Ayes: Brian Colbert, Dave Donery, Renee Goddard, Garrett Toy, Nancy Vernon, Marci Trahan, Katie Rice Noes: None Absent: Wesley Pratt | | |
| B. 2021/22 Service planning, proposed budget and pass pricing | Marin Transit | Approve |

Chris Whitlock, Marin Transit Operations Analyst, reported that service plan options were developed based on the lottery request survey results and assumed that White Hill has staggered AM start times and one PM release time (bell

schedule still being finalized). Most students prefer PM buses that depart immediately after release time rather than buses that return for second round of students. Historically, RVSD yellow bus has been a six-bus program, but currently appears to be financially infeasible.

Whitlock presented proposal for two 5 bus programs, with most buses serving multiple routes providing more opportunities to sell passes and improve program financials. Five bus programs will also accommodate Hidden Valley route (one bus) as well as the Charter (four buses integrated into White Hill route).

Whitlock reported that Michael's cost per bus per day has increased, but Marin Transit reduced costs of bus tracking and monitoring. Revenues from County, San Anselmo and Measure AA confirmed. Fairfax funding approval in progress. Key variables in scenario development: number of buses, estimated pass sales, pass pricing. Decrease in White Hill enrollment also plays into pricing – 645 students projected for 2021-22.

Fairfax Council Member Renee Goddard asked if "Center and Bridge" bus stop is same as bus stop at the "Hub" in San Anselmo. Whitlock confirmed. Dave Donery asked if Memorial Park stop would still be used to serve students going to Hidden Valley. Whitlock confirmed. County of Marin Supervisor Rice asked if changes to COVID yellow bus guidelines would drive any changes. Marin Transit confirmed wouldn't cause major changes.

Whitlock reported pass sale and enrollment trend takeaways: enrollment and full price pass sales were relatively stable for the first three years of the program, but sales of reduced-price pass significantly decreased year over year correlating to increased reduced pass price.

Marin Transit General Manager Nancy Whelan presented three scenarios for 2021-22 yellow bus program: Scenario 1 with six buses; Scenario 2 with 5 buses, one way pass price increased by \$10 to \$505- and one-way reduced price at \$100 (20% of full price pass); Scenario 3, same as Scenario 2 but with \$425 rate for later PM bus. All scenarios included assumption of 0 pass sales for Hidden Valley and Ross Valley Charter.

San Anselmo Mayor Brian Colbert asked what monitoring included that would now be done by Michael's. Marin Transit responded that Michael's will be able to track drivers and alert parents if buses are late (which has previously been done by Marin Transit). Supervisor Rice asked if Marin Transit had addresses for students qualifying for reduced price pass. Nancy Vernon answered that information was available about number of students but not their addresses. Supervisor Rice asked Superintendent Marci Trahan her thoughts on Scenario 3. Superintendent Trahan reported that White Hill would be implementing an after school tutoring program that could be accommodated by Scenario 3 with discounted late bus.

Whelan presented 2021/22 budget scenarios and scenario comparison. Scenario 1 pass price is \$670 (\$335 income eligible) with immaterial surplus; Scenario 1 pass price is \$505 (\$100 income eligible) with small surplus; Scenario 3 pass price is \$505, \$425 late bus (\$100 income eligible) with immaterial deficit. Budget uncertainties include Hidden Valley and Ross Valley Charter pass sales.

Supervisor Rice asked if size of surplus in Scenario 1 is enough to get pass price close to that of other scenarios. Marin Transit responded that pass price could decrease to \$630 to balance budget. Goddard asked if late bus in scenarios 2 and 3 would be dependable and if we could give parents a time frame that bus would leave. Marin Transit responded that the student wait time would likely be 30 – 45 minutes depending on traffic. Garrett Toy suggested that assumption be adjusted for Hidden Valley and Charter pass sales to indicate conservative amount sold (50% of past sales). Surplus would then increase to \$20,000 for scenario 1, and roughly \$9,000 for scenario 3.

Colbert thanked Marin Transit for their work and voiced preference for scenario 3 for equity reasons and reduced PM late bus. Goddard voiced approval for scenario 3 but would like to explore sixth bus. All other JEPA members expressed preference for scenario 3. Whitlock clarified that parents would be able to pick the late bus. They will see time and price upon selection. Passes will be awarded on 6/28 and families have seven days to purchase.

Supervisor Rice asked Marin Transit to express thanks to Michael's Transportation. Town Manager Garrett Toy was lauded for his service to Fairfax upon his move to another position in Sonoma County.

No Public Comment.

JEPA voted to adopt Pass Price Scenario 3.

M/S Renee Goddard, Dave Donery to approve full one-way pass price of \$505, \$425 later PM bus, \$100 income eligible.

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

Absent: Wesley Pratt

JEPA voted to adopt 2021-22 Budget under scenario 3 with approval to execute the first-year option on Michael's contract.

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

C. Set date, time, location, and agenda topics Chairperson Approve

Next JEPA meeting will be September 13th, 2021 at 6pm either in person or by zoom. Vernon to check in with Colbert on potential scheduling conflict.

IV. **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

V. **ADJOURNMENT 7:30 PM** - to the next regular meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Vernon
County of Marin