

Ross Valley Yellow Bus Transportation Services

Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement

Joint Committee

September 13, 2021

6:00 PM

Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81220462160?pwd=OUkxeDUzTEtGdWg1U1NCY0lrV0JiQT09>

Meeting ID: 812 2046 2160

Password: 277766

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL 6 PM

JEPA Board members:

Town of San Anselmo: Brian Colbert, Dave Donery/Absent

Town of Fairfax: Renee Goddard

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 14, 2021 Meeting Minutes	Chairperson	Approve

M/S Brian Colbert, Marci Trahan to accept the June 14, 2021 minutes.

Ayes: Brian Colbert, Renee Goddard, Nancy Vernon, Marci Trahan Noes: None Absent: Wesley Pratt, Dave Donery, Katie Rice (yet to arrive)

B. Update from Ross Valley School District JEPA Board Member Information

Superintendent Marci Trahan reported that enrollment numbers were down for White Hill and Hidden Valley but the current sixth grade is growing. The schools in District are following COVID guidelines and calling for masks for indoors

and outdoors. The state just released guidelines for after school enrichment and the administration is in process of reviewing.

Fairfax Council Member Renee Goddard and Nancy Vernon agreed to conduct bike, ped, car counts at White Hill to compare results to counts last spring.

Supervisor Katie Rice announced that the Deputy Public Health Officer Dr. Lisa Santora stated that there had been only 4 possible in-school transmissions across all the schools this fall.

No Public Comment.

C. 2021/22 Service Planning/Budget Status Update Marin Transit Information

Operations Analyst Chris Whitlock reported on lottery results: 309 families registered (347 students total) and 247 families responded (303 students total). Routes were awarded beginning July 17 and remaining passes were made available to non-lottery participants on August 4.

Takeaways from lottery: summer roll-out potentially impacted participation, new process prevented need for families to rush in purchasing passes, some families who registered changed their minds about using the service or didn't respond to the second survey, post- COVID behaviors for families have changed with more students riding bikes, walking or carpooling.

Results from second lottery survey saw 3 routes (all leaving White Hill immediately after the bell) were requested more than others and currently are sold out with wait lists. Noted that none of AM busses are sold out in contrast to PM.

Due to COVID and decrease in White Hill enrollment, Marin Transit estimated an approximate 25% reduction in number of passes sold. The actual: 567 one-way passes distributed for 336 students for a 34% reduction. Income qualified price ridership went up from 25 to 30 students across schools.

Goddard commented that Marin Transit and RVSD may want to increase promotion around the \$100 price point for income qualified. Rice asked for more information about the universe for this group of students to better understand the increase.

Whitlock reported that while a 5-bus program allows for more sustainable pass price, yellow buses are unable to transport as many students as possible at one time. Additionally, bell times at White Hill and Hidden Valley are now the same. In 2019, the "late bus" at White Hill left 10 minutes after the bell and in 2021 leaves 40 minutes after the bell.

San Anselmo Mayor Brian Colbert commented that he wasn't surprised that the late bus had less ridership. Rice asked if Marin Transit would consider doing a survey to parents to find out why their children are or aren't riding yellow bus. And to determine if the discount for the late bus was motivating enough for families/students to be comfortable with a 40-minute wait after school.

Colbert and Goddard agreed to work with Marin Transit on survey.

Vernon asked Trahan if school could do more promotion to income qualified families. She stated that they reach out to these families in the spring/summer if they are returning. New families aren't identified and contacted until after school starts.

Rice asked if buses don't restrict to 50 students and go back to the 57-62 passengers, what is that financial difference assuming those passes are sold?

Public Comment. Sharon Sagar asked about ridership from Ross Valley Charter. Currently, 2 students are riding the yellow bus.

Rice asked Trahan to talk to principals at Hidden Valley and White Hill to see if they would consider staggering bell times next year. This could potentially reduce the wait time for the late bus at the middle school.

Trahan remarked that bus capacity could return to 57 students. She is going to do analysis re: impact of bell times on drop in passes sold and asked for ridership numbers before COVID and bell change to do analysis.

An update on Michael's Transportation: 3 of the drivers have returned and 2 are new. Michael's is now responsible for notifying schools and families with excessive delays or cancellations. Service issues are reported to Marin Transit for monitoring.

Budget Update: One-way passes priced at \$505, late departing afternoon routes priced at \$425 and income qualified one-way passes priced at \$100. Pass sales were down 34% from last operating year and contractor expenses increased from \$578 to \$632 per bus per day. Marin Transit operations oversight and customer service support now reduced by \$38,387 due to elimination of GPS tracking costs. 2021/22 budget deficit is \$31,736.12

D. Measure AA Remobilization Funding Action Marin Transit Approve

Whitlock stated that due to operational impacts resulting from the pandemic, 3 schools did not operate regular yellow bus programs and were unable to meet the eligible requirements in FY 2020/21. As a result, \$294,112 unspent funds are available.

In February 2021, Marin Transit's Board of Directors approved the following:

- Participating programs will continue to be eligible for funding even if they did not operate in FY 2020/21
- Due to the suspension and cancellation of yellow bus services in FY 2020/21, unspent funds will be available to all programs for remobilization and other high priority needs

Marin Transit asked JEPA for direction to take request for remobilization funds of \$38,482 to their November Board meeting to support incurred expenses resulting from Ross Valley yellow bus program suspension and startup.

Goddard asked what constitutes a remobilization fund. General Manager Nancy Whelan stated these are funds that couldn't be claimed during COVID and can be used for programs to get re-started. Colbert said it was a redistribution and asked what would happen to remainder of funds are not claimed. Rice asked if there were any federal dollars that could be pulled in and Whelan stated that she wasn't aware of any federal funding available and that state and federal funding couldn't be used on yellow bus. Rice requested the Marin Transit also look at the number of seats (from full capacity to 50) and requested an additional amount be requested in addition to the expenses incurred for pricing of income eligible one-way passes and the daily rate increase per bus.

No Public Comment.

M/S Renee Goddard, Brian Colbert to authorize Marin Transit to request a minimum of \$38,482 for remobilization funds to support incurred expenses resulting from Ross Valley yellow bus program suspension and startup and explore the potential for asking for additional funding based on seating capacity.

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

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

Next JEPa meeting will be held in January 2022 and date to be confirmed in future.

IV. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

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

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Vernon
County of Marin