

May 13, 2018

To: TAM Commissioners

From: Jim Fraser, Mayor
Town of Tiburon

Bob McCaskill, Vice-Mayor
City of Belvedere

RE: Marin Transit Funding for Yellow Bus Services (Agenda Item 10 for May 14 Meeting)

Over the past three years the Tiburon Peninsula Traffic Relief Joint Powers Authority (“Peninsula Traffic JPA”) has achieved a remarkable reduction in traffic congestion on the Tiburon peninsula (primarily on Tiburon Blvd. and Paradise Drive in Tiburon and Corte Madera). The program now provides bus services to the three Reed Union School District schools and to the Cove School of the Larkspur/Corte Madera School District on 13 different bus routes.

The total cost of this program is budgeted to be \$899,000 for the coming school year, an increase of 19% over the current year costs. These costs include payments to Marin Transit for their operational support of the bus program, which has been invaluable.

But, only about 50% of the cost of this program is provided by revenue from the sale of student bus passes. The remainder of the program’s costs have historically been subsidized by Tiburon, Belvedere, Corte Madera and the County of Marin. These jurisdictions supported the initial bus program with the expectation that additional funding could be identified to help offset the costs incurred by these jurisdictions in the 2nd and 3rd year of the program from other tax revenues dedicated to traffic congestion in Marin. Unfortunately, no such other funding has yet materialized.

We are respectfully requesting that TAM and Marin Transit adjust their budgets for the coming year to include some funding for the Peninsula Traffic JPA. (Marin Transit does not presently provide any funding for the Peninsula Traffic JPA’s program.) Additional funding is especially important given the increased costs that our cities will need to cover in the upcoming school year.

We strongly believe that the recently established yellow bus programs in Marin should have a greater priority in the Marin Transit Short Term Plan in consideration of the congestion relief benefits being offered by these programs. Your consideration of this request will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jim Fraser, Mayor
Town of Tiburon

Bob McCaskill, Vice Mayor
City of Belvedere