

Marin Transit is collaborating with the Transportation Authority of Marin and the Marin County Office of Education to assess countywide school transportation needs and services and options for future improvements. The assessment will focus on non-mandated home to school transportation provided primarily by public and private transit and the County's Safe Routes to School programs.

Study Objective

To create a countywide access to school program that achieves a high green trip rate.

Program Goals:

- » Reduce traffic congestion around school sites
- » Improve access to school
- » Increase/improve student health and safety

Purpose

Recent studies show that 21-27% of morning commute traffic countywide is comprised of parents driving their children to school. While programs and resources currently exist for student transportation within Marin County, these efforts have grown organically and have lacked an overall framework for implementation. There has not been a comprehensive approach to determining how home to school transportation resources are best allocated.

This study will provide a forum for organizations within the County currently involved in student transportation to work cooperatively to provide the most effective options to meet specific student and school site needs. The study will catalog existing conditions, quantify future demand projections and identify current needs through research and outreach. The end result will be an action plan to increase bus transportation offerings, make them more efficient, and improve coordination.

School Districts

In total, there are 59 public schools in 14 school districts within or adjacent to the urbanized areas in Marin County and an additional 7 schools in multiple districts within rural west Marin County.

| District | No. of Schools | | | | Total | Enrollment | Served by Marin Transit | Served by Yellow Bus |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|---------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| | Elem. | Middle | K-8 | High | | | | |
| Dixie | 3 | 1 | - | - | 4 | 1,863 | No | Yes |
| Kentfield | 1 | 1 | - | - | 2 | 1,212 | No | No |
| Lagunitas | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | 292 | No | Yes |
| Larkspur-Corte Madera | 2 | 1 | - | - | 3 | 1,403 | Yes (3 schools) | No |
| Marin County Office of Education | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 80 | No | No |
| Mill Valley | 5 | 1 | - | - | 6 | 3,154 | Yes (1 school) | No |
| Novato | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 14 | 7,911 | Yes (4 schools) | No |
| Reed Union | 2 | 1 | - | - | 3 | 1,508 | Yes (1 school) | Yes |
| Ross | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | 350 | No | No |
| Ross Valley | 4 | 1 | - | - | 5 | 2,226 | Yes (3 schools) | No |
| San Rafael (Elem.) | 8 | 1 | 1 | | 10 | 4,282 | No | Yes |
| San Rafael (High) | - | - | - | 3 | 3 | 2,057 | Yes (2 schools) | No |
| Sausalito-Marín City | - | - | 2 | | 2 | 361 | Yes (1 school) | No |
| Tamalpais Union | - | - | - | 4 | 4 | 3,806 | Yes (4 schools) | Yes |
| TOTAL | 34 | 9 | 5 | 11 | 59 | 30,502 | | |

Table does not show private schools or districts within West Marin.



Current Conditions

Marin Transit Supplemental School Service

- » Over **200,000** school-related trips provided annually
- » **3,000** students participate in the youth pass program, a discounted pass for all local bus service
- » **90%** of students participating in the youth pass program qualify for free passes due to family income restrictions

Yellow School Buses

- » **5** school districts offer students yellow school bus service. Two of these districts provide the service themselves and three districts contract with First Student (a private school bus service)
- » Each district has a unique price and cost structure for buses with parents paying a portion or the entire cost of the service

Safe Routes to School

- » **2x** more children walking or cycling to school since the inception of the program
- » More than **70** crossing guards around the County
- » Ongoing education and encouragement, including Green Ways to School, Walk and Roll to School Days, SchoolPool Marin
- » **\$2.5 million** distributed every 2-3 years for capital improvements for non-motorized student travel

Guiding Principles

- » Serve as many students as possible
- » Begin providing services as soon as possible
- » Minimize the cost of service to students and parents
- » Yellow bus services will form the core method of conveyance with other methods providing supplemental services
- » Services will be managed by a lead agency that has a formal and structured process of stakeholder outreach

Work Plan & Schedule

| Task | Schedule / Status |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Existing Conditions Assessment | September–December 2014 |
| Future Conditions Assessment | January 2014 |
| Service Improvements | February 2015 |
| Financial Plan | March 2015 |
| Action Plan | June 2015 |

Contact

Robert Betts

Marin Transit
rbetts@marintransit.org



In partnership with:

