Marin Transit

Countywide School Transportation Study

August 2014

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 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

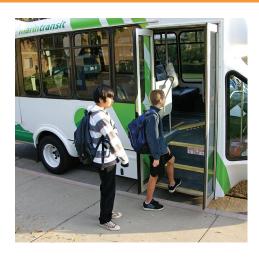
In total, there are 59 public schools in 14 school districts within or adjacent to the urbanized areas in Marin County and an additional 7 schools in multiple districts within rural west Marin County.

District	No. of Schools					Familiarent	Served by	Served by
District	Elem.	Middle	K-8	High	Total	Enrollment	Marin Transit	Yellow Bus
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-Marin 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.

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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

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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 nonmotorized student travel





