

## Fact Sheet



### The Plan

Improve transportation in Marin by expanding bus service, completing the Highway 101 carpool lane through San Rafael, providing roadway improvements, and safer access to schools. The plan raised \$25.3 million in FY2014-15 from the 1/2-cent sales tax revenue, which is \$1.2 million, or 4.9% higher than the \$24.1 million collected in FY2013-14.

### Goal of The Plan

The plan's goal is to improve transportation and mobility for all Marin County residents and workers by providing a variety of high quality transportation improvements and transit options designed to meet local needs. It allows Marin to shape its transportation future.

### How the Plan Was Drafted to Address Competing Needs

Hundreds of Marin residents, including elected officials and planners, met and participated in public forums from 2000 to 2004 to decide the best way to address Marin's transportation needs. The process was conducted by a Joint Committee of the Board of Supervisors, Marin County Transit District (now Marin Transit), and Marin County Congestion Management Agency (now the Transportation Authority of Marin), which included representation from each city and town in Marin. In 2003, participants created a "Transportation Vision" that outlined \$1.6 billion in desired projects, and noted that a source of local funding is the necessary first step to address the most immediate needs. A 1/2-cent sales tax was the most feasible option available.

### What the Plan Provides

There are four key strategies to reducing congestion and improving transportation in Marin. The expenditure plan addresses them all:

- Develop a seamless local bus system that serves community needs, including special services for seniors and those with disabilities 55%
- Fully fund and accelerate completion of the Highway 101 Carpool Lane Gap Closure Project through San Rafael. (Completed 2010) 7.5%
- Improve, maintain, and manage Marin's local transportation infrastructure, including roads, bikeways, pathways, and sidewalks. 26.5%
- Reduce school-related congestion and improve safe access to schools. 11%

### Accountability

The sales tax expenditure plan is managed by the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM). Its 16-member board consists of the Board of Supervisors and a council

member from each incorporated city/town. The Authority is accountable to a 12-member Citizens' Oversight Committee, created with the assistance of the League of Women Voters. The COC represents the many diverse interest groups in Marin County. The committee reviews all sales tax related expenditures and reports the results to the public annually.

**What's Not Included**

There is no funding in the plan to create a rail system, to build the Marin-Sonoma Narrows, to purchase open space, or to operate ferry service, as prior transportation measures proposed.

**Making Tax Dollars Work**

State and Federal funding earmarked for transportation is diminished over the last several years. In addition, funding for local transit services continues to be insufficient to support even existing services. Local funding provides local control for transit funding decisions. Local funding also opens new opportunities to receive State and Federal grants that require a local match.

The sales tax is the approach provided to counties by the State Legislature to fund local transportation projects. A gasoline tax would need to be 14 cents per gallon to raise an amount equal to a 1/2-cent sales tax. Also, by statute, a county agency cannot raise either the gas tax or the real estate tax.

**Measure A Project and Program Accomplishments in 2014**

- \$13.82 million of Measure A sales tax revenue was allocated in FY2014-15 in support of local transit operations and capital programs
- Marin Transit carried 3.5 million passengers in 2014
- The County of Marin completed its major and complex improvements to Sir Francis Drake Blvd using funding from Measure A's Major Roads category
- \$3.43 million was distributed to the cities/towns/County for their local street and road needs in FY2014-15
- 68 Crossing Guards were funded by Measure A sales tax in 2014
- Total of 24 Safe Pathways to School Infrastructure Projects throughout Marin County were completed by the end of 2014

