



# Transportation Authority of Marin 2005 Annual Report



## A Letter from our Executive Director

The Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) is pleased to present our first Annual Report, for the year 2005. **Since the approval of the Measure A ½-cent sales tax for transportation in November 2004, TAM has made substantial progress towards implementing the package of local transportation improvements that voters approved.** From expanding the successful Safe Routes to School Program to maintaining much-needed local bus transit service, the sales tax has been put to good use, meeting the needs of Marin County's residents.

The voters of Marin created a source of funding for critical transportation programs that otherwise would have faced severe cuts in services. These programs include:

- **Transit:** Facing up to a 50% cut in local bus service in Fall 2004, the Marin County Transit District received much needed funding from the sales tax, enabling service to continue.
- **Safe Routes to School:** Prior to the passage of Measure A, a permanent source of funds for the Safe Routes to School Program had not been found, with existing limited funding due to run out in the Summer of 2005. With the advent of sales tax funding, this successful program was not only continued but expanded.
- **Highway 101 Carpool Lane:** Work on the final segments of the Highway 101 Carpool Lane Gap Closure project would have stopped, with the closure of the Gap nowhere in sight. Not only did Measure A sales tax directly fund significant elements of the project, but it also helped to leverage substantial federal funds that were dedicated to the project.

The ability to fund transportation at the local level through the Measure A sales tax heralds an exciting period for transportation in Marin. With the ability to directly apply local taxes to local needs, TAM is better able to control transportation issues in Marin County. Addressing steadily increasing transportation needs through traditional sources — such as state and federal gas taxes — has been a futile task in the last few years. Our federal government has a myriad of priorities for funding, from hurricane response to the conflict in Iraq, while our state government debates how to

meet infrastructure needs from levees to schools to port access. Nineteen counties around the state meet their transportation needs through local sales taxes, including Marin County, with 13 counties planning for new or renewed taxes in 2006. **Without these funds, the backlog of needs for all users — transit riders, pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers — would substantially erode the quality of life in Marin.**

TAM has a very important year to look forward to in 2006, with the adoption of our first Strategic Plan, and the dedication of much more funding to local transportation needs. In our role of guiding the use of a number of transportation fund sources — and continuing to find more — TAM invites you to ride along with us. Don't forget to check the TAM website for information on all of our activities, at [www.tam.ca.gov](http://www.tam.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Dianne Steinhauer  
Executive Director



The screenshot shows the TAM website homepage. At the top left is the TAM logo (Transportation Authority of Marin). To the right is a search bar. Below the logo is a navigation menu with links: Home, Inside TAM, Transportation Planning, Measure A, Programs & Projects, News, Funding Opportunities, Consulting Opportunities, Employment Opportunities, Downloads, Links, and Contact Us. The main content area features a large image of a highway with cars. Below the image are several news items with headlines and brief descriptions:

- Open House on the Central San Rafael Hwy 101 HOV Gap Closure**  
The public is invited to an informational open house on the Central San Rafael Highway 101 Carpool Lane Gap Closure Project hosted by the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) and Caltrans. [Read more...](#)
- Construction to Begin on East Sir Francis Drake Boulevard**  
TAM announced that construction would begin this week on the planned roadway improvements to a segment of East Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, from Larkspur Landing Circle/Ferry Terminal to U.S. Highway 101 in the City of Larkspur. [Read more...](#)
- MCTD Draft Short Range Transit Plan and Public Meetings**

[www.tam.ca.gov](http://www.tam.ca.gov)

# About The Transportation Authority of Marin

The Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) was created for the purpose of administering the Marin County Transportation Sales Tax Expenditure Plan —



approved by Marin voters in November 2004 as Measure A. TAM has also been designated as the Marin County Congestion Management Agency (CMA). The agency is responsible for programming the funding for nearly all transportation programs in Marin County. The TAM Board includes elected officials from each city and town in Marin County, plus the five members of the Board of Supervisors.

The Expenditure Plan was developed with the assistance of five Citizens' Advisory Committees (CACs), representing diverse interests, including environmental, social justice and business. The CACs also included advocates for every travel mode and for underserved populations including seniors, persons with disabilities, and those with limited income. One of TAM's key roles is to implement programs and projects in the ½-cent sales tax Expenditure Plan that will be entirely dedicated to improving transportation in Marin County. The ½-cent sales tax is expected to generate approximately \$331.6 million for transportation over 20 years.

## The single goal of Measure A:

**Improve mobility and reduce local congestion for everyone who lives or works in Marin County by providing a variety of high quality transportation options designed to meet local needs.**

Four Strategies were developed to meet this goal:

- ▶ **Strategy 1 – Develop a seamless local bus transit system** that improves mobility and serves community needs, including special transit for seniors and the disabled (paratransit services).
- ▶ **Strategy 2 – Fully fund and ensure the accelerated completion of the Highway 101 Carpool Lane** Gap Closure Project through San Rafael.
- ▶ **Strategy 3 – Maintain, improve, and manage Marin County's local transportation infrastructure**, including roads, bikeways, sidewalks, and pathways.
- ▶ **Strategy 4 – Reduce school related congestion and provide safer access** to schools.

Each of the strategies was intended to optimize the efficiency of the transportation investment by coordinating funding, creating independence for Marin County to directly affect its transportation future, and providing access to other available funding.

You can read more about the Measure A programs and projects in the Expenditure Plan or the first Strategic Plan, which will be published in Summer 2006.

In its role as the Marin County CMA, TAM is the liaison between local jurisdictions and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and is responsible for programming state and federal transportation funds. TAM is also managing four Regional Measure 2 Projects.



# Community Involvement

The Transportation Authority of Marin is committed to partnering with the residents of Marin County and the surrounding communities to respond to the needs of residents, businesses, commuters, and public officials. We are a full disclosure agency and realize the importance of open and productive community outreach in shaping the transportation improvements that affect all Marin residents. By setting up a participatory process, we have tried to ensure that the improvements TAM makes to the transit and transportation systems in Marin County are efficient, effective and useful.

As part of our community outreach program, in the last year we have:

- ▶ **Built a new website with frequently updated information** on all TAM projects and programs, TAM meetings and agendas, and much more: [www.tam.ca.gov](http://www.tam.ca.gov).
- ▶ **Created and distributed fact sheets, brochures and fliers** about specific TAM projects and programs.
- ▶ **Held four informative and participatory public meetings and open houses** making it possible for every Marin citizen to participate. The meeting's covered major projects, including various segments of the Highway 101 Gap closure construction and improvements to the Greenbrae Corridor and the Canal neighborhood community-based transportation plan.
- ▶ **Worked with state and local legislators** to educate them about the current and future transportation needs of Marin County.

## Continuing Our Community Outreach

We will continue to involve Marin County residents in the process of improving Marin County transportation and transit systems. Information about our community outreach can most easily be found on our website: [www.tam.ca.gov](http://www.tam.ca.gov). The website contains links to current and upcoming projects and programs, meeting agendas, dates and reports, Measure A, TAM staff and Board contact information, and much more.

As new projects and programs are planned and executed, TAM will hold public meetings, solicit feedback from Marin residents, conduct informational open houses and public meetings, produce brochures and fliers for distribution, and update the TAM website with the most current information. We look forward to working with you to help improve transportation in Marin.



# Measure A Revenue & Expenditure Summary

The collection of the sales tax revenue started in April 2005, and TAM received the first check in June 2005. Of the \$14.5 million recorded as the total revenue received for the seven months, \$10.6 million was allocated for programs, projects (designated as “Strategies” in the Marin County Transportation Sales Tax Expenditure Plan) and administration. An allocation of \$3.5 million was allocated for the debt expense to make the

advance payment to Marin County’s Transit District (MCTD), which plans and implements local transit services. The remainder, \$400,000, was set aside as a reserve.

Most of the expenditures during this reporting period constituted start-up costs for TAM as an agency and to launch the Strategies. The major spending for most of the Strategies is expected to

happen after the initial startup is completed. For example, Strategy 3 can be implemented only after Public Works Directors of each local jurisdiction, along with the Technical Advisory Committee, decide on the priorities for major roadway and infrastructure projects. The exception is Strategy 1, for which the existing local transit district, MCTD, can use the revenue immediately in their operation.

## Total Program to Date (November 2, 2004 – December 31, 2005)

### REVENUES

Sales Tax.....	10,962,231
Loan .....	3,500,000
<b>Total Revenues.....</b>	<b>14,462,231</b>

### EXPENDITURES \*

Salaries and Benefits.....	79,177
Other Administrative.....	9,594
Loan Repayment.....	3,506,576

#### Professional Services

Project Management.....	404,120
Other .....	17,108

#### Measure A Programs/Projects

Strategy 1: Local Bus Transit.....	6,373,068
Strategy 4: Safe Routes to School.....	98,243

<b>Total Expenditures .....</b>	<b>10,487,885</b>
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<b>Excess of Revenues over Expenditures .....</b>	<b>3,974,346</b>
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<b>Beginning Fund Balances .....</b>	<b>0</b>
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<b>Ending Fund Balances .....</b>	<b>3,974,346</b>
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\*Expenditures incurred are greater than the amount shown due to standard lag-times in billing. An estimate of actual expenditures does not exceed available revenue.



# What We're Working On

## Strategy 1: Local Bus Transit System



The approval of Measure A ensures that Marin's Local Bus Transit System will remain well-maintained and that new transit routes and programs will be added, so that a transit system is available to all Marin citizens. Recently, the Marin County Transit District (MCTD) has prepared its first Short Range Transit Plan which seeks to increase frequency to maximize ridership, enhance connectivity, allow for appropriately sized vehicles throughout the County by introducing smaller vehicles on certain routes, and enhance school service.

## Strategy 2: Highway 101 Carpool Lane Gap Closure Project

The Highway 101 Gap Closure is a roadway widening project that will ultimately provide a continuous carpool lane in Marin County. Phase One, Calpark Hill, is complete and Phase Two, Corte Madera Creek, is currently under construction. Phase Three, Central

San Rafael, is slated to begin in the Spring of 2006. The final phase is Puerto Suello Hill and construction will begin in early 2007.



## Strategy 3: Local Transportation Infrastructure

Strategy 3 addresses the need to "maintain, improve, and manage Marin County's local transportation infrastructure." The two components include Major Roads and related infrastructure, and Local Roads. The Marin Public Works Directors Association (MPWA) and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) initiated the prioritization process for the Major Roads portion of the strategy. The groups defined the performance criteria established in the Expenditure Plan and developed a project evaluation methodology. The local roads component allocation formulas were updated and funding agreements were developed for TAM and the local jurisdictions. In 2006 the local jurisdictions will receive their allocations.

## Strategy 4: Reduce School Related Congestion & Provide Safer Access to Schools

Strategy 4 is comprised of three sub-strategies designed to complement each other with the objective of providing safer access to Marin



schools: Safe Routes to School; the Crossing Guard program; and, Safe Pathways to School. Safe Routes to School is a program that promotes walking, bicycling, taking transit or carpooling to school. The Crossing Guard program surveyed all schools in Marin County for crossing guard requirements. The TAC developed criteria and prioritized the crossing guard locations. Implementation is planned for Fall 2006. The Safe Pathways Program will provide funding for the engineering, environmental clearance and construction of pathways and sidewalks improvements in all Marin County communities.

## Greenbrae Corridor Projects

The Greenbrae Corridor transportation improvements will address traffic congestion in central Marin County by proposing modifications to Highway 101, making improvements to Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, and creating new pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Marin County will receive \$65 million from voter-approved Regional Measure 2, a \$1.00 increase on state-owned toll bridges, to fund these projects.



## Marin/Sonoma Narrows Project

The Marin-Sonoma Narrows (MSN) Project proposes to add carpool lanes throughout the corridor. The MSN Project extends 17 miles between State Route 37 in Novato (Marin County) and Old Redwood Highway in Petaluma (Sonoma County) along a rural, largely undeveloped corridor.

## Canal Neighborhood Community-Based Transportation Plan



The Canal Neighborhood Community-Based Transportation Plan is a grassroots community effort to facilitate community participation in prioritizing transportation needs and identifying potential solutions. TAM received a \$60,000 grant from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) to assist with this collaborative planning effort. A well-attended Open House was held in February, 2006 to gather information from community stakeholders on their transportation needs. At an Open House in July 2006, the draft Plan will be presented to the community. The final Plan is expected to be completed by September 2006.

## Transit-Oriented Development

TAM is developing a Transit Oriented Design and Pedestrian Design (TOD/PeD) Toolkit to help local jurisdictions overcome barriers to implementing projects in their communities. TAM worked with each of Marin's cities, the County of Marin, and representatives of the business, environmental, bicycle, disabled and neighborhood association stakeholders to help identify these barriers and collaborate on tools that would be helpful. The TOD/PeD Toolkit is currently in development and is expected to be completed in Summer 2006.

## Pedestrian/Bicycle



TAM is responsible for implementing the Countywide Pedestrian/Bicycle Master Plan Update process. All plans will be updated to ensure consistency from plan to plan, and to make all plans meet Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) requirements to ensure these bike projects will be competitive for grant funding in the future. All plans are expected to be completed by June 2008.

## Transportation Funds for Clean Air (TFCA)



Transportation Funds for Clean Air is funded by a \$4.00 vehicle license surcharge applied to all vehicles licensed in the Bay Area Region. Forty percent of these funds are earmarked for projects that reduce auto use. In April 2005, TAM awarded \$526,043 to seven projects that included bike path and bikeway improvements, bike racks on GGT buses, the Ride & Roll student bus ticket program, and roadway improvements for bike and pedestrian facilities.

## Congestion Management Plan



In its role as the Congestion Management Agency for Marin County, TAM prepares a Congestion Management Plan (CMP), monitors levels of service on the County's roadways and works to improve all methods of transportation locally and regionally.

## Transportation for Livable Communities (TLC) and Housing Incentive Program (HIP)

Marin's new Local TLC and Local HIP Transportation Capital Grant Programs provide local support for small-scale, community-based transportation projects. The programs create sustainable transportation projects that encourage the use of alternative modes and protect the environment. Local HIP funds reward local governments that give planning and zoning approvals and building permits to higher-density housing, particularly affordable housing, and mixed-use developments at or near transit stops. Both the Local TLC and Local HIP grants fund transportation capital projects. A total of \$1.7 million is available for projects over a 3-year period. TAM awarded a portion of these funds to two local TLC projects: \$500,000 to the Town of Fairfax Center Boulevard Streetscape Redesign project and \$198,906 to the Fireside Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Improvements project in the Mill Valley area. The remaining \$1,013,094 will be reserved for HIP projects.

# Board of Directors & Committees for 2006

## Board of Commissioners

**Steve Kinsey**, Chair, Supervisor, County of Marin  
**Al Boro**, Vice Chair, Mayor, City of San Rafael  
**Cynthia Murray**, Supervisor, County of Marin  
**Carole Dillion-Knutson \***, Mayor, City of Novato  
**Susan Adams**, Supervisor, County of Marin  
**Hal Brown**, Supervisor, County of Marin  
**Peter Breen**, Councilmember, Town of San Anselmo  
**Jeanne Barr**, Councilmember, Town of Ross  
**Joan Lundstrom**, Councilmember, City of Larkspur  
**Lew Tremaine**, Councilmember, Town of Fairfax  
**Charles McGlashan**, Supervisor, County of Marin  
**Amy Belser**, Councilmember, City of Sausalito  
**Melissa Gill**, Councilmember, Town of Corte Madera  
**Jerry Butler**, Councilmember, City of Belvedere  
**Alice Fredericks**, Councilmember, Town of Tiburon  
**Dick Swanson**, Councilmember, City of Mill Valley

## Alternates

**John Telischak**, City of Belvedere  
**Michael Lappert**, Town of Corte Madera  
**Larry Bragman**, Town of Fairfax  
**Christopher Raker**, City of Mill Valley  
**Barbara Thornton**, Town of San Anselmo  
**Pat Eklund**, City of Novato  
**Paul Albritton**, City of Sausalito  
**Paul Smith**, Town of Tiburon  
**Barbara Heller**, City of San Rafael  
**Larry Chu**, City of Larkspur

\* Replacing Pat Eklund who served in 2005

## Technical Advisory Committee

**Jean Bonander**, Chair, Marin Managers Association  
**Dana Whitson**, Marin Managers Association  
**Andy Preston**, Marin Public Works Association  
**Farhad Mansourian**, Marin Public Works Association  
**Hamid Shamsapour**, Marin Public Works Association  
**Bob Brown**, Marin County Planning Directors Group  
**Alan Zahradnik**, Golden Gate Bridge, Highway & Transportation Dist.  
**Rocky Birdsey**, Marin County Paratransit Coordinating Council  
**Amy Van Doren**, Marin County Transit District  
**Luke McCann**, Marin County Office of Education  
**Karen Nygren**, Environmental Organizations of Marin County  
**Merv Giacomini**, Bicycle & Pedestrian Groups  
**Mike DiGiorgio**, Business Organizations

## Alternates

**Jay Tashiro**, Marin Managers Association  
**Daniel Keen**, Marin Managers Association  
**Glenn Young**, Marin Public Works Association  
**Bob Beaumont**, Marin Public Works Association  
**Rabi Elias**, Marin Public Works Association  
**Linda Jackson**, Marin County Planning Directors Group  
**Ron Downing**, Golden Gate Bridge, Highway & Transportation District  
**Andrea Feit-Dougan**, Marin County Paratransit Coordinating Council  
**Available**, Marin County Transit District  
**Mary Jane Burke**, Marin County Office of Education  
**Doug Wilson**, Environmental Organizations of Marin County  
**Chris Lang**, Bicycle & Pedestrian Groups  
**Available**, Business Organizations

## Citizens' Oversight Committee

**Jim LeLand**, Chair, Northern Marin Planning Area  
**Barbara George**, Central Marin Planning Area  
**Lori Lopin**, Ross Valley Planning Area  
**Robert Burton**, Southern Marin Planning Area  
**Patrick Seidler**, Bicyclists & Pedestrians Group  
**Don Wilhelm**, Environmental Organization  
**Gina Palmo Feiner**, School District  
**Ray Hirsch**, Taxpayer Group  
**Ann Batman**, League of Women Voters  
**Timothy Stanton**, West Marin Planning Area  
**Allan Bortel**, Marin County Paratransit Coordinating Council  
**Available**, Major Marin Employers

## Alternates

**Available**, Northern Marin Planning Area  
**Available**, Central Marin Planning Area  
**William Petrocelli**, Ross Valley Planning Area  
**Walter Strakosch**, Southern Marin Planning Area  
**Susie Weaver**, Bicyclists & Pedestrians Group.  
**Available**, Environmental Organization  
**Annan Paterson**, School District  
**Mike Cunningham**, Taxpayer Group  
**Sue Beittel**, League of Women Voters  
**Scott Tye**, West Marin Planning Area  
**Jane Scurich**, Marin County Paratransit Coordinating Council  
**Available**, Major Marin Employers