

Stephen Burke
Mayor
Max Perrey
Vice Mayor
Caroline Joachim
Councilmember



Urban Carmel
Councilmember
Katherine Jones
Councilmember
Todd Cusimano
City Manager

August 21, 2025

Mr. Denis Mulligan
General Manager and CEO
Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District
Golden Gate Bridge Toll Plaza, Building 210
San Francisco, CA 94129

Ms. Nancy Whelan
General Manager
Marin Transit
711 Grand Avenue, Suite 110
San Rafael, CA 94901

Dear Mr. Mulligan and Ms. Whelan:

On behalf of the Mill Valley City Council, we thank you for initiating and advancing MASCOTS. The goal of coordinating service between agencies, growing ridership, and improving connections from southern Marin to San Francisco (and within Marin) is an excellent one.

As the elected representatives of Mill Valley, we write on behalf of our residents to express our strong interest in ensuring that regional transit improvements provide equitable access and meaningful benefits to our community. Mill Valley is the third-largest city in Marin, and the largest south of San Rafael. While other Marin cities have convenient access to SMART and/or ferries, Mill Valley has neither. Bus 114 provides excellent peak-hour commuter service from our downtown to San Francisco, but after 8 a.m. the trip takes at least 90 minutes. Bus 17 is equally important: it links Mill Valley to the Sausalito ferry and downtown San Rafael, serves as a vital local “loop bus” within Mill Valley, and provides Tamalpais High School students from Marin City and Sausalito with direct, transfer-free access to school.

MASCOTS aims to increase bus ridership and frequency, but there are two issues of concern for Mill Valley. First, the proposed changes would terminate Bus 17 in Marin City, forcing riders to make a time-consuming and inconvenient transfer to reach Sausalito. Second, while service to San Francisco from Marin City, Sausalito, and San Rafael would improve, Mill Valley riders would not see corresponding benefits.



Accordingly, the Mill Valley City Council respectfully requests your consideration of the following recommendations:

1. **Retain the full Bus 17 route** as it is today so Mill Valley, Marin City, and Sausalito remain seamlessly connected—for ferry riders, Tamalpais High School students, and the wider community.
2. **Add off-peak Bus 114 trips** between Mill Valley and San Francisco. If increased frequency of bus service is being provided to other, smaller cities, then the same logic should apply to service to and from Mill Valley. We also urge exploration of a “Rapid 114” service during peak commute hours. This would involve limited-stop service along key segments of the route, allowing Mill Valley riders to reach San Francisco in under 50 minutes. Maintaining this travel time benchmark is critical to ensuring the 114 remains a competitive, reliable, and attractive alternative to driving.
3. **Have Bus 101 stop at Manzanita during off-peak hours.** Creating a faster, rail-like “highway service” between Marin and San Francisco is an excellent idea and should keep travel times under an hour. Although Mill Valley residents would need to transfer from Bus 17 (or ride a bike), a well-timed transfer would make this route to the city and back time-efficient.

We appreciate your partnership and your attention to the unique transportation needs of Mill Valley residents. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mill Valley City Council

cc. Marin County Supervisor – District 3, Stephanie Moulton-Peters
Stephen Burke, Mill Valley Mayor
Max Perrey, Mill Valley Vice Mayor
Caroline Joachim, Mill Valley Councilmember
Urban Carmel, Mill Valley Councilmember
Katherine Jones, Mill Valley Councilmember
Todd Cusimano, Mill Valley City Manager