



CITY OF VACAVILLE

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ESTABLISHED 1850

LEN AUGUSTINE
Mayor

RON ROWLETT
Vice Mayor

DILENNA HARRIS
Councilmember

CURTIS HUNT
Councilmember

MITCH MASHBURN
Councilmember

Office of:
The City Manager

June 29, 2016

Honorable E. Bradley Nelson, Presiding Judge
Hall of Justice
Department 4, Room 306
600 Union Avenue
Fairfield, CA 94533

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SOLANO COUNTY
GRAND JURY

**SUBJECT: RESPONSES TO 2015-2016 GRAND JURY REPORT ENTITLED:
Vacaville City Coach A Good Ride!**

Dear Judge Nelson:

This letter shall serve as the City of Vacaville's response in accordance with Penal Code §933.05 to the Grand Jury report entitled "Vacaville City Coach A Good Ride!" as approved by the Vacaville City Council on June 28, 2016.

VACAVILLE CITY COACH RIDERSHIP – CITY OF VACAVILLE (FINDINGS 1, 2, 3) - RESPONSES

FINDING 1

The Paratransit bus is a small specially equipped bus operated on a dispatch system that seldom carries more than 1 rider at a time.

RESPONSE TO FINDING 1

The City of Vacaville disagrees partially with the finding. Paratransit program rides are booked by dispatch staff to consolidate riders on a bus based on their requested pickup/drop-off times and the destination location within Vacaville. Pursuant to Federal Transit Administration rules and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), all efforts are made to create the most efficient group trip while balancing the trip needs of each rider. At times, the passenger requested trip time and or destination location can create a trip with a lone rider.

RECOMMENDATION TO FINDING 1

When replacing Paratransit buses consider purchasing vans which would reduce maintenance and operating costs.

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RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION 1

The City of Vacaville disagrees with this recommendation. Vacaville City Coach operates a total of 6 Paratransit buses. Currently the Paratransit Program transports approximately 60 individuals daily, a figure that continues to climb as the City's growing number of seniors transition away from their automobiles. To transport 60-plus individuals per day, using vans, would require a larger fleet of vans than the 6 buses currently being operated.

The limitations of using vans would result in a decline in trip efficiency as more single-rider trips would be required, additional vans would also result in higher overall operating costs in the area of driver labor, insurance, fuel and maintenance to cover the cost of a larger van fleet.

FINDING 2

City Coach is working hard to promote ridership.

RESPONSE TO FINDING 2

The City of Vacaville agrees with the finding.

RECOMMENDATION TO FINDING 2

Continue coming up with new ideas and ways to promote ridership.

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION 2

The City of Vacaville agrees with the recommendation. Staff will continue to work with the community to develop new and innovative public transit promotional campaigns to encourage ridership on Vacaville City Coach.

FINDING 3

City Coach is dependent on Federal and State grant monies.

RESPONSE TO FINDING 3

The City of Vacaville agrees with the finding.

RECOMMENDATION TO FINDING 3

Explore alternate sources of funding.

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION 3

The City of Vacaville agrees with the recommendation. Staff will continue to seek additional funding beyond which is received from the State and Federal Transit Administration.

Sincerely,



Laura C. Kuhn
City Manager

cc: Vacaville City Council
Shawn Cunningham, Director of Public Works
Brian McLean, Public Works Superintendent