

City of Brisbane

Agenda Report

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Ricardo Monroy, Recreation Coordinator

Subject: Discussion of Providing Bus Transportation from Brisbane to Oceana and Terra Nova High Schools

Date: January 5, 2017

Purpose:

Ensure High School students in Brisbane have a safe and reliable method to get to and from any High School within the Jefferson Union High School District.

Recommendation:

Direct staff regarding the next steps related to daily school bus service to and from Oceana and Terra Nova High Schools.

Background:

In 2010, due financial considerations, the Jefferson Union High School District decided not to provide bus service to and from Brisbane to Terra Nova and Oceana High Schools. Prior to that time the City paid the school \$30,000 a year to support the regular bus service and \$23,500 to fully fund the late bus. In 2010 the School District said the full cost of both services were approximately \$110,000 and given other reductions in revenues the District could no longer afford the additional \$57,000 a year in costs.

Staff contracted with CYO to provide bus at a cost of \$81,000 a year starting in the school year of 2010/11. This service was in effect with annual increases in cost through the school year of 2015/16.

At the end of the 2015/2016 school year, CYO contacted staff and said they would no longer be providing bus service to and from Brisbane to Terra Nova and Oceana High Schools. The reasons for this were discipline and behavioral issues on the bus which the drivers felt created unsafe conditions. This has been a situation which has persisted over the years.

The City of Brisbane contracted a different bus company, Metrotrans, for the 16/17 school year. Staff contacted several other companies to inquire regarding service, most of which did not want to provide the service. The primary justification for their decision was attributed to the route they needed to take. They did not feel safe driving 50-70 teen's everyday on the freeway at peak hours in the morning and afternoon.

Metrotrans agreed to work with us given that they have a bus yard near Brisbane, and felt that supporting the surrounding community would be opportune. The current cost of the service is approximately \$100,000 a year a portion of which (about \$12,000) is recovered in fees.

City staff has experienced many challenges in working with Metrotrans in the first few months of the contract period. Being that their company mostly serves the San Francisco School District, their employees work in accordance with the San Francisco School District schedule. City staff has experienced poor communication regarding scheduling which has resulted in disruptions of service. The lapse in service has negatively impacted the schools and students using this method of transportation.

City staff has spoken with Metrotrans and confirmed that their company is not interested in renewing their contract for the 17/18 school year. They too feel that the route is dangerous and their drivers have contended with behavioral challenges from students consistent with issues of the past. Schools and parents have expressed their frustration and dissatisfaction with Metrotrans due to a number of incidents that have occurred.

Discussion:

Staff has been investigating other alternatives for providing transportation.

1. Sam Trans is not willing to take on the routes.
2. The City will contact Jefferson Union High School District to explore the potential for them to provide bus service.
3. Staff has contacted individual private bus companies in the Bay Area. At this time, none have expressed interest in providing the service next year. Parents have also voiced their concerns with having private companies shuttle their children.
4. The City could facilitate setting up carpools for the parents to bring students to and from the High Schools in Pacifica.

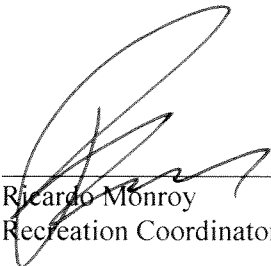
The City will continue to contact additional bus companies around the Bay Area, however, viable options are dwindling. Lastly, parents have expressed to City staff their desire for the school district to provide the service. Council should discuss the various options for the 17/18 school year and provide direction to staff regarding the preferred next steps.

Fiscal Impact:

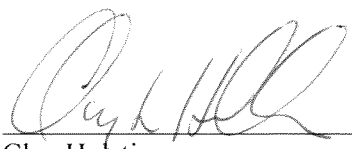
The City has budgeted \$95,000 for this service for next fiscal year.

Measure of Success:

The students in Brisbane have a safe transportation method to get to and from Oceana and Terra Nova schools.



Ricardo Monroy
Recreation Coordinator



Clay Holstine
City Manager