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## Route 106 Spared For Campolindo Students

By *Sophie Braccini*

The Central Contra Costa Transit Authority (CCCTA, also known as County Connection), in response to an outpouring of concern from parents in a large residential neighborhood of Moraga, has agreed to maintain some of the Route 106 bus line that had been scheduled to be cut due to budgetary concerns.

Sarah Roberts, who coordinated a petition campaign, is happy with the results of her grassroots efforts. "I am thrilled to be able to tell you that I received word from Al Dessayer, Moraga's Citizen Advisory Representative to the County Connection (CCCTA), that at the December 16th meeting the County Connection voted to approve the 'School Tripper' bus service we petitioned them about," wrote the Moraga mother in a recent email to parents.

Last November, County Connection announced that due to budgetary constraints they had to cut about 25% of their routes. The decision on what routes to cut was based solely on the number of passengers per day at each stop. That's how the part of Route 106 that serves Canyon Road and Camino Pablo Drive in Moraga was cut: it is used primarily by students going or coming from Campolindo and Joaquin Moraga Intermediate (JM) schools. That's not many passenger when you look at the whole day, but for some students the route is their only way to get to school.

After learning about the proposed cuts, Roberts, who has children at both schools, started a campaign to encourage parents to petition the agency. The Campolindo High School Parents Club and Joaquin Moraga PTA supported her and sent emails to all parents asking them to participate in the campaign. "We could not have been able to get this word out without help from Diana Obrand, President of JM's PTA and Ann Oeth and Grace Panetta, Co-Presidents of the Campolindo Parents Club," acknowledges Roberts. "We all know these economic times are hard, and public agencies also need to make cuts to their services, but keeping the 'school tripper' routing of the 106 bus will keep dozens of cars off the Moraga streets daily."

Dessayer confirmed that CCCTA will run one bus in the morning and one in the afternoon. "The service is maintained for Campolindo students," said Dessayer, who personally worked with CCCTA staff to make this happen. "As far as JM is concerned, the number of students was too small (to warrant service). I personally observed only two or three JM students taking the bus."

The service will remain unchanged until March 22nd, after that date the 'school tripper' schedule will be implemented. For further updates, go to the County Connection webpage at

<http://www.cccta.org/index.html>

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