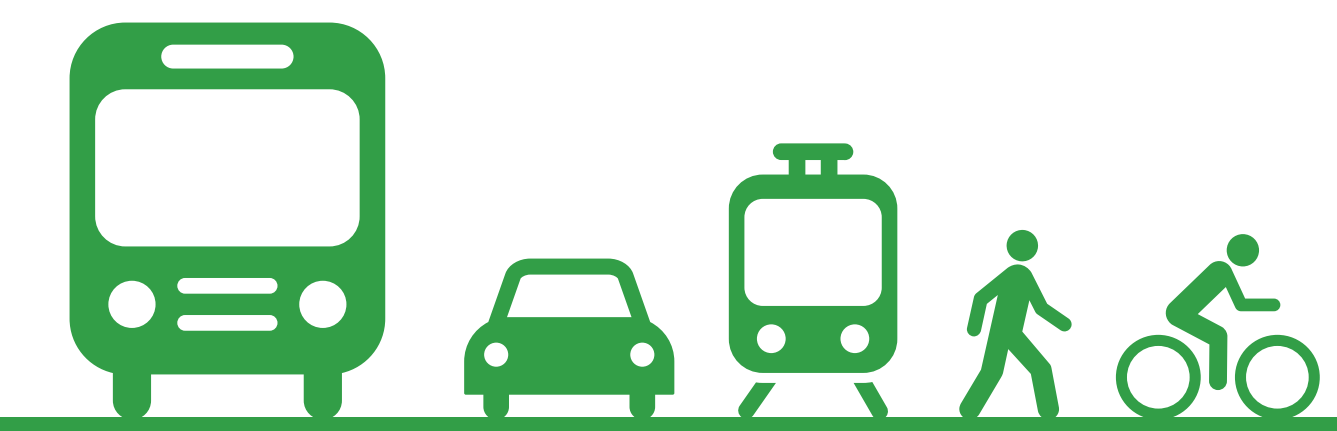




SAN RAFAEL TRANSPORTATION CENTER

Relocation Analysis, Environmental Clearance, and Preliminary Design



Purpose & Need

Project Purpose:

- Provide improved transit connectivity and ease of use in and around downtown San Rafael.
- Enhance local and regional transit use by bringing together multiple modes of the transportation network--including the SMART-bus connection--into a hub which affords transit users the safest, most efficient means of using bus and rail services.
- Efficiently accommodate transit users and services and reduce operating costs and improve transit desirability.
- Design a functional, attractive, cost-effective facility that can meet long-term projected service levels and be implemented in an expeditious manner, so as to minimize the period of use of the interim facility.
- Provide a transit facility that is readily accessible to individuals with disabilities, transit users, and transit dependent populations, including those with low incomes.
- Provide a secure, safe, and inviting space for transit patrons.
- Create a more accessible transit facility for all users by reducing vehicular, rail, bicycle, and pedestrian conflicts and improving safety.
- Provide convenient, pedestrian connections to surrounding land uses.

The SRTC project is needed for the following reasons:

- To preserve and enhance the functionality and effectiveness of the transit center following the implementation of the SMART Phase 2 line to Larkspur and the resulting loss of some of the transit center facilities.
- A new transit center solution in downtown San Rafael would address near-term and long-term transit needs while improving the desirability and usability of transit for both local residents and regional commuters.
- It would also, to the extent feasible, minimize traffic congestion and facilitate smooth transit operations while also promoting pedestrian safety.

Design Considerations

The following considerations will guide design efforts:

- Create a welcoming, attractive, memorable, vibrant place for all users that reflects San Rafael's history and culture, and enhances the city's economy.
- The site should serve as a "gateway" to Downtown San Rafael.
- Maximize the vitality of 4th Street.
- Design the site for safety, incorporating best practices of crime prevention through environmental design, including space for security staff and extensive lighting.
- Provide convenient pedestrian and bike connectivity to surrounding destinations, including Downtown San Rafael.
- Accommodate transit operations (including Greyhounds and airport shuttles) with at least 17 bus bays.
- Position bus platforms so that they can be easily accessed from the direction they are approaching, reducing bus traffic on local streets.
- Provide for transfer activity (for both bus-to-bus and bus-to-SMART transfers) to occur within the pulse window.
- Create high quality waiting areas.
- Reduce conflicts between pedestrians, vehicles, and bikes.
- Provide adequate space for customer service.
- Provide safe and secure bike parking.
- Designate a nearby location for pick-up/drop-off activities, including taxis and Transportation Network Companies (e.g. Uber, Lyft).
- Provide flexibility for current and future fleet sizes and characteristics
- Develop access to transportation services through universal design, with a focus on accessibility, wayfinding, and safe and clear paths of travel.
- Provide weather-protected and comfortable accommodations and amenities for transit riders, pedestrians and bicyclists.