



SAN RAFAEL TRANSPORTATION CENTER

PRELIMINARY DESIGN FACT SHEET



JUNE 2024

PROJECT INFORMATION

The San Rafael Transit Center is a critical transportation hub for Marin County, serving 9,000 daily boardings and alightings, connecting a variety of local, regional, commuter, and airport transit services. It serves both as a gateway to downtown San Rafael and a key node in the mobility of thousands of essential and transit-dependent workers. The Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District (District), in coordination with the City of San Rafael, Marin Transit, the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM), and Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit (SMART), is working on a project to replace the existing transit center with a new facility. The project will be funded through federal grants, bridge tolls, and sale of the current transit center site.



PROJECT HISTORY + COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The ideal location and configuration for the transit center has been studied for more than a decade by the City of San Rafael and the District. Based on feedback from the community, partnership with project stakeholders, and technical analysis, over 10 project options were narrowed down to five alternatives for which a more detailed evaluation was conducted as part of the Project’s Environmental Impact Report (EIR). A Final EIR was adopted in December 2022 and the District selected the Move Whistlestop Alternative as the preferred alternative. Community engagement has continued throughout the process of advancing preliminary design of the project, including the formation of a Community Design Advisory Group and through several community meetings in 2023. Preliminary design is currently ongoing, along with environmental analysis to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act. Future efforts, not yet underway, will include final design and right-of-way acquisition.

LEGEND

- Existing San Rafael Transit Center
- New San Rafael Transit Center
- North-South Greenway Connection

SCHEDULE





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NEW TRANSIT CENTER

The new transit center will include:

- Bus bays and existing SMART rail station
- Curb space for shuttles, pick-up/drop-offs, and taxis
- Customer service building, including public restrooms and operations and security facilities
- Covered waiting areas and passenger seating
- Transit-supportive retail space and public plazas
- Landscaping
- Improved sidewalks and crosswalks
- New high quality bicycle connection along Tamalpais Avenue, between 2nd Street and 4th Street
- Bike parking
- Clipper machines
- Wayfinding signage and transit information
- Security and lighting
- Maintenance parking
- Green (LEED) treatments
- Consideration for Consideration for Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) strategies



ONGOING DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

Through the preliminary design phase, the District and consultant team has been evaluating opportunities related to:

- Improving bus throughput and creating safer bus-train transfers
- Bicycle and pedestrian access, safety, and amenities
- Vibrant new public spaces at the entry to the Fourth Street downtown corridor
- Relocation of the 1929 elements of the Northwestern Pacific Depot (aka "Whistlestop Building")
- Renewable energy and other sustainability opportunities

DESIGN PRINCIPLES



Consolidate Transit Center + Improve bike & pedestrian safety



Create gateway to downtown San Rafael



Incorporate the sense of historic rail building



Sustainability & Resilience