



May 18, 2021

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415.457.7656

Transportation Committee and Board of Directors
Golden Gate Bridge Highway & Transportation District
1011 Andersen Drive
San Rafael, CA 94901

RE: San Rafael Transit Center Preferred Alternative

Honorable Committee and Board Members,
For the reasons stated in our April 15 letter to the San Rafael City Council (included in your packet), Sustainable San Rafael concurs with the District staff's recommendation of the 'Move Whistlestop' concept as the preferred alternative for the Transit Center EIR. The 'Adapt Whistlestop' concept should also remain in the mix of alternatives.

We urge you not to further delay this vital project, but proceed with any additional studies and/or outreach simultaneously with the EIR process. That will allow all information to be on the table at the time a final decision is made.

We continue to believe that viable and appealing transit service remains the core answer to traffic congestion in Marin, providing the essential infrastructure to support a walkable, bike-friendly, thriving, livable, equitable, and low-carbon community. Nothing has changed that basic equation, and the flexibility of the Whistlestop Block alternatives allows for future transit service to evolve as needed.

Thank you and your team for developing a range of concepts for consideration. We look forward to the completion of a thoughtful and informed public process, leading to expeditious delivery of a project that has been over a decade in the making.

Sincerely,

William Carney
President, Sustainable San Rafael

Copies:

Mayor Kate Colin
San Rafael City Council
Jim Schutz
Bill Guerin
Paul Jensen
Danielle O'Leary

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SAN RAFAEL HERITAGE
P.O. BOX 150665, SAN RAFAEL, CA 94915



May 19, 2021

Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District
Board of Directors and Transportation Committee

Barbara L. Pahre, President Board of Directors
Alice Fredericks, Chair of Transportation Committee

Via: Amoretta M. Ko-Wong, districtsecretary@goldengate.org

Regarding: Transportation Committee meeting – May 20, 2021; 9am
Board of Directors meeting – May 21, 2021; 10am

Subject: Draft EIR for the San Rafael Transit Center

Greetings:

The San Rafael Heritage Steering Committee has reviewed the various San Rafael Transit Center options. While we are not endorsing any option, we strongly urge that existing historic structures be preserved and utilized within any new Transit Center configuration. Otherwise, a timeless sense of connection to San Rafael history that gives our city a sense of place and identity will be lost. Historic buildings should be deliberately kept as part of the Station Area, and their preservation is paramount.

The historic structures in the Station Area include:

1. 930 Tamalpais Avenue, The Northwestern Pacific Depot (NWP) (aka Whistlestop)
2. 927 Tamalpais Avenue (Trevor's) (aka the Barrel House)
3. 709-711 Fourth Street (The Tavern on Fourth)
4. 633 and 637 Fifth Avenue (Queen Anne houses)

According to the Draft EIR report noted on the Transportation Committee meeting agenda a designation will be made for a preferred alternative to serve as the focus. We understand from the agenda of the Board of Director's meeting that the "Move Whistlestop Alternative" will be designated.

San Rafael Heritage does not support a relocation of the Depot. We take the position that all historic buildings on both sides of Tamalpais should be respected. It is best if the Depot building remain on its historic site as it retains sufficient "Aspects of Integrity", one of the criteria for listing on the national and/or state registers. There are a number of cases where historic buildings have been relocated and have maintained their listing status. However, we are very concerned about the costs of such an undertaking and we expect such funds would be set aside to assure fulfillment of such a project.

Heritage expects the District to apply for and gain local landmark status with the City. We previously submitted a landmark application to the City of San Rafael. This effort required hundreds of voluntary hours and the compensated services of preservation consultants. The application was withdrawn without prejudice in December 2020. The application and support documents were provided in January to Jon Rusch, ICF architectural historian for the project.

We ask to continue to work in partnership with the City and District no matter which option is decided on. We will lend our expertise as issues develop to assure these historic structures are properly preserved, repurposed, managed and maintained and the Depot is restored to an agreed upon “Period of Significance”. Heritage expects to be directly involved with the City of Rafael and Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District in the process of planning and determining the scope of work for all these buildings, especially the NWP Depot.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Linzy Klumpp". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light green rectangular background.

Linzy Klumpp, President

CC: Ray Santiago, Principle Planner, GGBHTD
San Rafael Mayor Colin
San Rafael City Council
Jim Schutz, SR CityManager
Bill Guerin, SR Director of Public Works
SRH Steering Committee

May 19, 2021

To: Transportation Committee/Committee of the Whole
Meeting of May 20, 2021

From: GGBHTD Bus Passengers Advisory Committee (BPAC)

Re: San Rafael Transit Center Preferred Alternative



RECOMMENDATION

The Bus Passengers Advisory Committee unanimously supports the staff recommendation that the Board of Directors designate the *Move Whistlestop Alternative* as the preferred alternative to serve as the focus of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) relative to Project No. 2017-D-30, *San Rafael Transit Center Relocation Analysis, Environmental Clearance, and Preliminary Design*.

Respectfully submitted,

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Scott Kempf
Chair
GGBHTD Bus Passengers Advisory Committee (BPAC)

C: David Davenport, Ray Santiago

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