North of 4th Street Concept
Project Information

What is the project?

The project: working to identify a new San Rafael Transit Center (SRTC).

Project Lead Agency: Golden Gate Bridge Highway & Transportation District (GGBHTD)

“Responsible Agency” under CEQA: City of San Rafael

Cooperating Agencies:
* Marin Transit
* Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM)
* Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART)

This project will include:
* Determination of facility requirements
* Analysis and identification of potential sites in downtown San Rafael
* An environmental impact review process

Why does it need to be relocated?

* The planned SMART tracks extension will go through the current San Rafael Transit Center site south to Larkspur.

Why does it function best in downtown San Rafael?

* Downtown is a point of intersection for major north-south and east-west bus routes.
* Access to major arterials will help reduce time buses spend on City streets.
* Downtown is a destination for work and play.
* Consolidation of services downtown will help to reduce riders’ travel time.
* A downtown location is fiscally responsible and can help reduce operating costs.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Identification of Transit Center Alternatives

Build on the previously prepared Relocation Study and identify potential transit center sites and configurations.

Environmental Analysis

Identify potential environmental impacts associated with the project.

Preliminary Engineering

Prepare initial designs for the transit center.

Final Design & Construction

(not a part of this study)

Environmental analysis and preliminary design is anticipated to be completed in 2020. Subsequent project efforts after 2020 will include final design and construction.
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.

*A Purpose & Need statement is required as part of the environmental process. A project’s “need” is an identified deficiency or problem. A project’s “purpose” is the set of objectives that will be met to address that deficiency.
INFORMATIONAL BOARDS
Scoping & Environmental Process

What is Scoping?
- Scoping is the process of determining the focus and content (scope) of an environmental document through outreach to other agencies and the public.
- As part of this process, a Notice of Preparation (NOP) is prepared. This document provides notice to the public and other agencies that a draft environmental document is being prepared, and initiates their involvement in the process.

How You Can Provide Input
- Tell us the environmental issues that should be studied as part of the environmental impact report (EIR).
- Provide comments in written format on comment cards or via e-mail to SRTC@goldengate.org.
- Submit written comments in comment box or mail to:
  Raymond Santiago  
  Principal Planner  
  Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District  
  1011 Andersen Drive  
  San Rafael, CA 94901-5318
- Comments must be received by November 19, 2018.

What Happens Next?
- All comments will be documented at the end of the scoping period.
- The comments received will inform the technical studies in the EIR, as well as the evaluation and selection of alternatives.
- There will be two additional public meetings:
  - **Spring 2019** – This meeting will be held to share further evaluation results to inform the selection of alternatives.
  - **Fall/Winter 2019** – This meeting will share the results of the draft EIR.

Environmental Process

October 2018  
Notices of Preparation

Fall 2019  
Prepare & Distribute Draft EIR

Winter 2019/2020  
Respond to Public & Agency Comments

Spring 2020  
Prepare & Distribute Final EIR

Spring 2020  
District Certifies EIR & Approves Project

Topics Required to be Considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Report

- Aesthetics
- Noise and Vibration
- Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases
- Population and Housing
- Biological Resources
- Transportation and Transit
- Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Public Services
- Geology, Soils, & Seismicity
- Cumulative Impacts
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Growth-Inducing Impacts
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Alternatives to the Project
- Land Use and Planning
Two-Story Concept

**Upper Level**

**Lower Level**