Community Update Meeting Presentation
November 2020
Meeting Format

- Presentation by project team about alternatives
  - Additional background information available on the project website (goldengate.org/SRTC)

- Question and Answer
  - Provide your questions in the Q&A function box
  - We will update project FAQ based on questions received (https://www.goldengate.org/district/district-projects/san-rafael-transit-center/faqs/)

- Feedback on the alternatives should be provided via the online survey (http://bit.ly/SRTC_Survey) by December 11th
Denis Mulligan
General Manager/CEO
Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District
Ongoing Public Outreach Activities

- Partnership with the Canal Alliance
  - Hosted a Facebook Live event in Spanish on Nov 9 (3,100 views so far)
  - Conducted 32 hours of Outreach activities at the Transit Center
- Outreach to businesses through San Rafael Chamber of Commerce and San Rafael Business Improvement District
- Over 100 email notifications to community, neighborhood and business organizations
- Presented at San Rafael High School SELAC (School English Learner Advisory Committee) to 110+ families
- Thus far, received over 760 surveys
  - 630+ surveys in English
  - 130+ surveys in Spanish
  - The survey continues to be advertised through community partners, government agencies, schools, social media, and e-blasts
Meeting Format

• Presentation by project team about alternatives
  • Additional background information available on the project website (goldengate.org/SRTC)

• Question and Answer
  • Provide your questions in the Q&A function box
  • We will update project FAQ based on questions received (https://www.goldengate.org/district/district-projects/san-rafael-transit-center/faqs/)

• Feedback on the alternatives should be provided via the online survey (http://bit.ly/SRTC_Survey) by December 11th
Goals for This Presentation

• Show examples of what a new San Rafael Transit Center could look like
• Describe the three transit center alternatives under consideration
• Show where you can find more information and how you can provide feedback
• Answer questions about the alternatives, design approach, and the project process
Why a New Transit Center?

• The SMART extension to Larkspur bisected the existing San Rafael Transit Center (SRTC), significantly impacting bus operations and pedestrian movements.

• The SRTC will operate in an interim condition until a replacement transit center is constructed.
**Project Need:** The SMART extension to Larkspur requires relocating the Transit Facility to accommodate bus operations and safe passenger transfers.

**Goal:** Safe, functional and efficient site configuration that accommodates bus transit requirements, seen as an asset to the community, and can be integrated into the City’s downtown vision.
IDENTIFY ALTERNATIVES

- Identify and screen alternatives
- Completed in 2018

EVALUATE OPTIONS/ENVIRONMENTAL

- Study environmental impact of options
- Additional outreach planned in Spring 2021
- Anticipated completion in mid-2021

PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING

- Prepare preliminary design for selected alternative
- Anticipated completion in early 2022

FINAL DESIGN

- Final design of selected alternative
- Completion date uncertain – anticipated 1-2 years after preliminary engineering

CONSTRUCTION

- Construction of selected alternative
- Funding not yet fully secured
- Completion date uncertain – anticipated to be about 2 years after final design

Timeline to Project Opening: anticipated 4-7 years from now
Integrated Design Approach

Transit Facility Functional Requirements

- Meet operational capacity requirements
- Good On-time performance
- Good On-site circulation
- Ease of Passenger Transfer between services

High Quality Patron Experience

- Intuitive wayfinding
- Safe and Secure
- Comfortable and Clean
- Universal access
- Sustainability and resilience

Placemaking and Passenger Experience

- Create opportunities for placemaking, activated and visible site
- Respond to City downtown planning goals
- Improve access for all modes

Transit Choices that Work

- how does each option balance objectives?

Integrated with Downtown

- Create opportunities for placemaking, activated and visible site
- Respond to City downtown planning goals
- Improve access for all modes
What Could the Transit Center Look Like?

- Current focus is on *scale, location* and *placement* of passenger amenity features
- Design treatments such as those shown below (paving, lighting, landscape, and placemaking elements) will be developed in later design stages for the selected alternative

Patasouras Bus Facility L.A. (above)
Health Line BRT, Cleveland (below)
San Rafael City Plaza (along 4th Street)
Design Inspiration
NATURAL MATERIALS such as wood in the canopy
NATURAL MATERIALS such as wood in the canopy
SIMPLE, durable, and elegant materials
SIMPLE, durable, and elegant materials
Mixed materials in a “MISSION STYLE”
Mixed materials in a “MISSION STYLE”
Transit Center Alternatives
SAN RAFAEL TRANSPORTATION CENTER
Relocation Analysis, Environmental Clearance, and Preliminary Design

Option Locations
- 4th Street Gateway
- Under the Freeway
- Whistlestop Block
4th Street Gateway Alternative
Existing Conditions

4th Street Gateway
Bus facility would be located on two blocks.

Whistlestop Building is fully outside the project boundary.
Transferring passengers would use existing crosswalks on 4th Street.

The customer service building would be located along Hetherton Street.

Right-turns from Hetherton to 4th Street would be prohibited due to safety concerns with bus bays.
Illustrative concept only – Final Design in Next Project Phase

4th Street Gateway (4th Street & Hetherton St Looking West)
Illustrative concept only – Final Design in Next Project Phase

4th Street Gateway (3rd Street & Hetherton St Looking Northwest)
Benefits

• Slightly reduces bus travel times relative to current transit center
• Convenient transfers to/from SMART

Drawbacks

• Closes right turns from Hetherton to 4th Street
• Passengers have to cross 4th Street to make some transfers
• Victorian-style houses fronting 5th Avenue would need to be relocated
• Utilizes city blocks otherwise envisioned for other uses
• Several bus driveways on 4th Street
Under the Freeway Alternative
Existing Conditions

Under The Freeway
Bus facility is partially under the freeway and on both sides of 4th Street.

Transfers to SMART train would require crossing Hetherton Street.
Bridges over creek would provide connection to Hetherton Street

Portion under 101 freeway. Limits opportunities for amenities and improvements on Caltrans property

Proposed canopy to provide coverage and shield from freeway debris

Under The Freeway
Under The Freeway (5th Avenue & Irwin Street looking northwest)

Illustrative concept only – Design Resolution in Next Project Phase
Under The Freeway (Bus Bays under freeway looking east)
Benefits

• Utilizes otherwise less-developable land
• Moderate (<10%) reduction in traffic delay
• Reduces bus travel times (5%-15% in downtown area) and improves reliability relative to current transit center
• Closer to San Rafael High School

Drawbacks

• Passengers have to cross Hetherton to transfer to SMART
• Passengers have to cross 4th Street to transfer between routes
• Freeway columns limit line of sight and visibility
• Less connected to downtown
• No site control, Caltrans can rescind access to site (i.e repairs to freeway)
• Impacts existing public park-and-ride
• Impacts to Erwin Creek require mitigation
Whistlestop Block Alternative
Existing Conditions

Whistlestop Block
Opportunity to integrate transit uses with Whistlestop building

Tamalpais Ave would be redesigned for exclusive bus, shuttle, and bike use
SAN RAFAEL TRANSPORTATION CENTER
Relocation Analysis, Environmental Clearance, and Preliminary Design

Intuitive passenger connections between services and convenient transfers

Reconfigure Tamalpais Ave to provide wider sidewalks and a dedicated bike facility

Whistlestop Block
Whistlestop Block (4th Street & Tamalpais Avenue looking south)
Illustrative concept only – Final Design in Next Project Phase
Whistlestop Block (3rd Street & Hetherton Ave looking northwest)

Illustrative concept only – Final Design in Next Project Phase
Tamalpais Ave would be realigned to provide for improved sight lines, shorter transfers, and better through bus/bike/pedestrian connectivity.

Whistlestop Building would be either relocated or reconstructed to allow for urban integration and efficient building space layout.

Whistlestop Block (Alternate – Relocate Whistlestop)
Whistlestop Block (Alternate – Relocate Whistlestop)
SAN RAFAEL TRANSPORTATION CENTER
Relocation Analysis, Environmental Clearance, and Preliminary Design

Illustrative concept only – Final Design in Next Project Phase

Whistlestop Block (Alternate – Relocate Whistlestop; 4th Street & Tamalpais Ave looking south)
Benefits

• Concentrates transit center activity on one block
• Reduces bus travel times (5%-15% in downtown area) and improves reliability relative to current transit center
• Moderate (<10%) reduction in traffic delay
• Passengers don't have to cross streets to make any transfers
• Opportunity to leverage existing/rebuilt Whistlestop as part of transit function

Drawbacks

• Uses land that could be envisioned for other purposes
• Bus driveways on 4th Street between SMART and Hetherton
We Want Your Input!

• Information on the project, schedule, and the three alternatives (and more) is on the project website: goldengate.org/SRTC

• This live meeting is for the purposes of answering clarifying questions – we ask that all community members provide their feedback through the survey
We Want Your Input!

• Provide your feedback through the online survey (see http://bit.ly/SRTC_Survey)
  • Tell us how these alternatives rate under different categories
  • Tell us what you like or would like to change about any of the three alternatives
  • Indicate preference on the design inspirations

• Survey open through December 11\textsuperscript{th}
• Additional outreach planned for Spring 2021
Thank You for Participating!

• Website: goldengate.org/SRTC
• E-mail: SRTC@goldengate.org
• Phone: (415) 257-4444
Question and Answer Period

- Additional background information available on the project website: goldengate.org/SRTC

- Question and Answer
  - Provide your questions in the chat box
  - We will update project FAQ based on questions received

- Feedback on the alternatives and design inspirations should be provided via the survey