



POINT SAN PEDRO ROAD COALITION

"Fostering Quality of Life in our Community"

Coalition Directors

July 15, 2018

Co-Presidents

*Denise Lucy
Bonnie Marmor*

Mr. Raymond Santiago, Principal Planner
Golden Gate Bridge District Highway and Transportation District
1011 Andersen Drive
San Rafael CA 94901

Secretary

Kati Miller

Treasurer

Dave Crutcher

Re: San Rafael Transit Center Relocation

Directors

*Kevin Hagerty
Sara Jensen
Alan Schaevitz*

Dear Mr. Santiago:

The Point San Pedro Road Coalition welcomes the opportunity to provide the Golden Gate Bridge and Transportation District ("District") with input on the Preliminary Concepts Under Consideration that were presented at the San Rafael Community Meeting on June 12. Residents along the Pt. San Pedro Road peninsula are very interested in this project and recognize the importance of convenient bus and SMART train access as well as improved pedestrian and bicycle safety. However, there are serious concerns in our community about the potential to be adversely impacted by traffic delays arising from the relocation of the Transit Center and extension of SMART to Larkspur.

Standing Committee Chairs

Disaster Preparedness

Henry Warren

We have reviewed the Concepts developed by the District. It is difficult to assess the options without ridership data to indicate projected use including: (a) how many people are estimated to be accessing the bus station and SMART train, (b) from which directions will the people approach and (c) how users will get there on foot, in cars, on bikes, etc. However, with the information provided, the Whistlestop Block Concept option appears most promising.

Loch Lomond Marina

*Sara Jensen
Alan Schaevitz*

We think the Whistlestop Block Concept can be enhanced by making some additional modifications, such as:

Pt. San Pedro Roadway

Kevin Hagerty

S.R. Rock Quarry

Dave Crutcher

1. Move the three bus bays currently shown on Third Street and four bus bays on Tamalpais Avenue on the area now used as the for Whistlestop parking lot at Tamalpais and Lincoln. This has many benefits:

Wetlands

Rodney Ruskin

- Removes buses from congested streets while patrons get on and off the buses.
- Makes it easier for bus riders to transfer between different bus routes.
- Makes it easier for SMART riders to transfer to buses (and vice versa).
- Costs to acquire the space on the block west of Tamalpais to enhance the Whistlestop Block Concept may be low since much of the block is currently not developed.
- Places this location near to development sites.
- Provides potential to utilize more of the block between Tamalpais and Lincoln could greatly enhance the Whistlestop Block Concept project and provide both an improved Gateway to San Rafael and integration with Downtown, possibly making room for a central plaza.

2. Use Tamalpais Avenue between 3rd and 4th Street as a designated passenger drop off and pick up area, an area for taxis and Ubers, as well as a bike lane. This, too would have many benefits:
 - Eliminates the need for buses to turn onto Tamalpais Avenue making it easier for pedestrians to cross Tamalpais, improves safety, and makes the entrance to the Whistlestop building more accessible.
 - Enhances passenger, bicycle, and pedestrian safety by prohibiting buses on the block of Tamalpais Avenue between 3rd and 4th streets.
 - Eliminates the need for pedestrians to cross 4th Street from the drop off/pick up area as shown in the Concept proposal.
 - Provides easy access to the Whistlestop building, which can be used as the heart of the Transit Center and train station.
 - Keeps buses off of this block allowing for a view corridor and making it possible for the Whistlestop building to be seen and appreciated.

If preservation of the entire Whistlestop Building in its current configuration results in significantly greater financial costs, a reduction in pedestrian and bicycle safety, and/or adverse traffic impacts, then this constraint should be reconsidered.

The Point San Pedro Road Coalition will continue to monitor the progress of this important project. We will appreciate being informed when data about ridership and traffic becomes available as it will profoundly affect consideration of the various concepts. It is critical for community to receive information well in advance of deadlines for input so that we can provide meaningful comments in the future. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your project team.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Marmor
Co-President

Denise M. Lucy
Co-President

cc:
Mayor Gary Phillips
San Rafael City Council
Supervisor Damon Connolly
Steve Kinsey, Alta Planning

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