



Making the Transit Connection

White Paper No. 10

For some, SMART's passenger rail service will be all the transit they'll need. They may pair their train ride with a car trip to the station, or a walk to their final destination, or may bring their bikes right onto the train.

However, train riders will also have a wide variety of convenient bus and shuttle connections available at SMART's stations. Those who combine a SMART train ride with a bus connection will find that they can go car-free just about anywhere in the North Bay, and beyond.

The intent of rail service is not to rival existing bus service, but to harmonize with it to make transit a better option in general. In the same way that our spines keeps our bodies strong and connected, so the SMART passenger rail system can act as the backbone of an overall transit network in the North Bay.

Since trains on the SMART corridor will travel at nearly 80 mph and won't be delayed by freeway traffic, riders will be able to get up and down the rail line very quickly. Because of this faster travel, many riders may choose to make trips that combine a train and bus when they might not have made the same trip using multiple buses. As a result, the SMART rail service will invite a whole new market to use transit. The analysis in SMART's EIR shows that thousands more will use transit in Marin and Sonoma Counties with the presence of the SMART rail project.



A Sonoma County Transit vehicle at the new Windsor Multi-Modal Transit Center

SMART has met with local transit operators including Golden Gate Transit, Marin Transit, Sonoma County Transit, Petaluma Transit and Santa Rosa CityBus to discuss detailed service coordination issues. There's more work to do. Between now and the start-up of rail service, SMART will continue to work with its transit partners to best optimize the North Bay's complete transit network.

When SMART begins service, trains will be timed to meet buses at key stops, such as downtown San Rafael's Bettini Transit Center, a major hub for Golden Gate Transit. It is SMART's goal to optimize connections with all transit providers in SMART's service area.

This paper offers a look at the options currently available for getting to and from SMART stations using public transit, and an understanding of how things might change when rail service begins. It should be noted that additional bus and shuttle services could be linked to SMART stations in the future only if each transit agency's governing body chooses to make such changes.

The paper is organized on a station-by-station basis from south to north, and is followed by a matrix showing specific transit services and routes that connect or can easily be connected to SMART's 14 stations.

MARIN COUNTY

In Marin, Golden Gate Transit routes include regional and commuter service to San Francisco and service across the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge. Local transit buses operating within Marin County are administered by Marin Transit, but operated by Golden Gate Transit. Marin Transit also contracts for rural service to West Marin and for local shuttles.

Larkspur Station:

The Larkspur Ferry Terminal is just a few minutes' walk from the SMART rail station, making this station a good destination for those headed to San Francisco. For those who are unable or would prefer not to walk to the ferry, SMART will offer a free shuttle connecting the rail station to the ferry terminal. SMART will also offer shuttle connections to such destinations as Marin General Hospital, College of Marin and San Quentin, a major area employer.

A bus stop on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard is about three minutes' walk from the station. Riders can connect here to the Sir Francis Drake corridor toward Ross and San Anselmo or east toward San Quentin. Currently, this service operates on hourly headways, so it may not work for every train (which will leave and arrive every 30 minutes at start-up), but it could be upgraded to frequencies of 30 minutes in the future.

To get to downtown Larkspur, Marin Transit also operates a shuttle that links to the ferry terminal three times per day.

San Rafael Downtown Station:

This station is adjacent to the San Rafael Transit Center, the most important bus hub in Marin County. Just by crossing the street, rail riders can connect to nearly two dozen different bus routes. Golden Gate Transit regional and commute service connects to downtown San Francisco and across the Richmond Bridge to BART stations in the East Bay. SMART's proposed timetable has been structured to meet the bus pulses at this transit hub to minimize transfer times.

This is also the best jumping off point for SMART riders to catch a connecting bus bound for southern Marin destinations like Marin City, Mill Valley, Strawberry and Tiburon. Local routes connect to San Anselmo, Fairfax, Ross and Kentfield.

In addition, SMART will provide two free shuttles to connect to nearby destinations, including one that specifically serves downtown San Rafael and another that serves employment areas along East and West Francisco Boulevard.

Marin Civic Center Station:

Located on Civic Center Drive, this station is just north of the Marin County Administration Center. SMART will offer a free shuttle that will wait at the station platforms to take people directly to the front door of this major employment center.

Transit routes likely to stop here include Marin Transit buses that will provide connections to Northgate, the Kaiser Hospital area and Lincoln Avenue. Marin Transit's neighborhood shuttles to Marinwood, Terra Linda and Santa Venetia are just a short walk away, but could be re-routed to link directly to the SMART rail station.

Besides serving the Civic Center, SMART's two free shuttles also will serve the Northgate Mall, Redwood Highway, the Marin Technology Center and commercial areas along Professional Center Parkway.

Novato South Station:

Based on guidance from the City of Novato several years ago, SMART's EIR identified a site at Roblar Drive to serve as the station for south Novato. However, given a recent local desire to look at other alternatives, SMART is studying three different station sites in its Supplemental EIR: Downtown, the junction of Highways 37 and 101, and Hamilton. Coordination between SMART and local bus operators has focused on connections at these three alternatives.

At Hamilton, the potential station site would be located on the north side of Main Gate Road. This station would be served by local routes that link to the surrounding area, but would not be a major center for transfer activities. In fact, buses may stay out on Main Gate road to pick up and drop off rail patrons at turnouts just steps from the rail station. A Hamilton station would be served by Golden Gate's local and commuter routes. It might also be served by a neighborhood Hamilton Shuttle.

The potential station at Highways 37 and 101 would be accessed from off ramps on Highway 37. According to SMART's transit partners, this would be an awkward location to serve with buses given the current design of off-ramps. Potentially, this station could be served by local routes linking to downtown Novato and destinations along the Highway 101 corridor.

At a Downtown station, there would be little space available for bus connections, although there is sufficient space for connecting shuttles. Meanwhile, the transfer node at Redwood and Grant is just four blocks away. There, patrons can catch local routes serving a number of Novato neighborhoods, and commute routes that serve cities to the south and San Francisco. Golden Gate buses also stop on DeLong Avenue, which is a bit closer than the hub at Redwood and Grant.

Wherever the Novato South station is located, SMART will be operating a direct point-to-point shuttle to serve the Bel Marin Keys employment area.

Novato North Station:

This station is located just off Highway 101 at Atherton Avenue near the Fireman’s Fund offices. Local, inter-city and inter-county commuter routes will connect here.

In addition to the bus service, SMART will offer a free shuttle to Fireman’s Fund, Redwood Boulevard / Auto Row and Downtown, if there is not station downtown. Shuttle service will also be available to Vintage Oaks Shopping Center and Sutter North Community Hospital, although this connection may be made from the Novato South station, depending on the site selected.

SONOMA COUNTY

In Sonoma County, Golden Gate Transit offers regional transit service and commuter routes to and from Marin and San Francisco. Sonoma County Transit operates inter-city and local routes throughout the county, including all cities along the Highway 101 corridor, the Sonoma Valley to the east and the city of Sebastopol and Russian River areas to the west. The Mendocino Transit Authority provides inter-county service between Santa Rosa and Ukiah in Mendocino County, and to several communities along the Sonoma/Mendocino Coast.

In addition, several jurisdictions along the SMART line provide local transit service within their communities, including the cities of Santa Rosa, Petaluma, Healdsburg and Cloverdale. Of the local jurisdictions, the City of Santa Rosa’s CityBus provides the most comprehensive level of service, with 17 numbered routes.

Petaluma Downtown Station:

In downtown Petaluma, SMART’s station will be located adjacent to the Petaluma Transit Mall on Copeland Street. From here, Sonoma County Transit offers service to Lakeville Highway and farther east to the City of Sonoma. Other routes connect to Petaluma Boulevard, East Washington Street, North McDowell Boulevard and north to Penngrove. Petaluma Transit offers local service to east and west Petaluma.

SMART will offer a free shuttle to key destinations in the Lakeville Highway area, including the Lakeville Business Park, the Marina Business Center, the Oakmead Northbay Business Park and Kaiser Permanente Clinic.

Petaluma Corona Road Station:

This station near the intersection of Corona Road and North McDowell Boulevard can be served by Sonoma County Transit with routes to Penngrove to the north and East Washington Street to the south. Petaluma Transit runs a bus north and south along the McDowell Boulevard corridor.

SMART will provide free shuttle service to commercial destinations along the McDowell corridor, the Redwood Business Park, the Petaluma Industrial Park, Petaluma Valley Hospital, Petaluma Center Santa Rosa Junior College and the Southpoint Business Park.

Cotati Station:

The Cotati Station is at East Cotati Avenue and Santero Way. From here, passengers will be able to link to a Sonoma County Transit route serving other parts of Cotati and Rohnert Park, including Sonoma State University. Another Sonoma County route connects northbound to Rohnert Park and southbound to Penngrove and Petaluma. Other Sonoma County Transit routes that now connect to Sonoma State University and downtown Cotati – routes that currently stop about a quarter-mile to a half-mile away – could tie into this station.

Rohnert Park Station:

The proposed Rohnert Park station is near Wilfred Avenue and Golf Course Drive just east of Highway 101. It is the site of a Caltrans Park and Ride facility, which is being expanded. Patrons can catch Golden Gate Transit buses here bound for Marin County and San Francisco. Sonoma County Transit will also provide service to this station, making connections to the south along Commerce Boulevard and Redwood Drive and to the north along Santa Rosa Avenue. It is possible that other Sonoma County Transit routes serving northern and central Rohnert Park may stop here when rail service begins.

Santa Rosa Railroad Square Station:

Unlike at several other communities along the rail line (Cloverdale, Healdsburg, Windsor, Petaluma and San Rafael), the SMART rail station in Santa Rosa is not co-located with the local bus transit hub. The city’s Second Street Transit Mall is located near Courthouse Square east of Highway 101, while the SMART station is west of the highway in historic Railroad Square. It is about a one-third-mile walk between the two.

There will be nearby Santa Rosa CityBus and Sonoma County Transit connections to the SMART Railroad Square station area. CityBus routes connecting the Transit Mall to neighborhoods in the northwestern part of Santa Rosa will be adjacent to the station on Third Street. Stops for Citybus routes to neighborhoods in southwestern Santa Rosa are just two blocks away from the station on Railroad Street. Furthermore, stops for Sonoma County Transit’s express service between the Transit Mall and downtown Sebastopol are located at Railroad Street and Third Street. A stop for CityBus service to the College Avenue area is just a block away on Sixth Street. The routing and schedules of these and other routes could be modified prior to rail start-up to better link with the SMART train.

Currently, SMART is working on a joint development project for its Railroad Square property. The design includes space on a newly proposed street (West Street) along the edge of the property that can accommodate taxis, buses and shuttles.

Santa Rosa Jennings Avenue Station:

Sonoma County Transit has a number of possible options for extending routes to the Jennings Avenue Station in Santa Rosa, which would allow bus connections to Coddington Mall, the Sonoma County Administration Center and Santa Rosa Junior College. A Sonoma County route

to Russian River communities to the west, and another serving the Sonoma Valley to the east, could also serve this station. Currently, Santa Rosa CityBus has its Northside Transfer Center at Coddington Mall, a half-mile from the Jennings Avenue station site.

Windsor Station:

In Windsor, SMART's station will be integrated into an existing Multi-Modal Transit Center at the intersection of Windsor Road and Windsor River Road. Here passengers can board Sonoma County Transit for connections to the south along Old Redwood Highway and to the Starr Road area to the north. Another county route circulates around the town both east and west of Highway 101. A Sonoma County Transit route that currently provides service between downtown Santa Rosa and the Charles M. Schulz-Sonoma County Airport could be extended north to this station, providing a rail-bus connection to and from the airport. A shuttle connecting this station to the airport and its surrounding business parks also has been discussed.

Healdsburg Station:

The SMART station in Healdsburg is located at the historic train depot near the corner of Harmon and Fitch streets. Sonoma County Transit will likely stop at this location when passenger rail service begins. SMART riders can use this route to make connections to the northern areas of Healdsburg and to Geyserville and Asti, or south along Old Redwood Highway to the northern Windsor area. In addition, Healdsburg's In-City Transit offers connections to various destinations within the city limits.

Cloverdale Station:

The Cloverdale Depot is the location of both the SMART rail station and a bus intermodal facility. Here, rail passengers can link to locations along Cloverdale Boulevard and other destinations to the south like Asti and Geyserville via Sonoma County Transit. Additional daily schedules of this route can provide service to and from the Cloverdale Depot when rail service is initiated.

Cloverdale Transit offers a local circulator service to downtown Cloverdale and several residential areas in northern and southern Cloverdale. While only some Cloverdale Transit trips make the connection to the Cloverdale Depot, more trips could service the station when rail service returns.

Finally, the Mendocino Transit Authority -- which currently connects the City of Ukiah in Mendocino County to Santa Rosa's Second Street Transit Mall -- could also begin to serve this station when passenger rail service begins.

For more information about SMART, go to www.sonomamarintrain.org or call SMART's information lines in Marin, 415-419-3510, or Sonoma, 707-583-2323.

Transit Connections at SMART Stations

MARIN COUNTY

SMART Station	Boarding Area	Transit Operator	Route	Destination
Larkspur	Ferry Terminal	Golden Gate Transit	Larkspur Ferry	San Francisco
	Sir Francis Drake Blvd.	Golden Gate Transit	29	Ross, San Anselmo
	Sir Francis Drake Blvd.	Golden Gate Transit	29	San Quentin
	Ferry Terminal	Marin Transit	221	Downtown Larkspur
	Larkspur Landing Cir.	SMART shuttle		Ferry, Marin General, San Quentin
San Rafael Downtown	Transit Center	Golden Gate Transit	26, 27, 44, 60, 70, 80	San Francisco
	Transit Center	Golden Gate Transit	40, 42	East Bay
	Transit Center	Golden Gate Transit	17, 36, 70, 71, 80	South Marin
	Transit Center	Golden Gate Transit	22, 23, 29	San Anselmo
	Transit Center	Golden Gate Transit	23	Fairfax
	Transit Center	Golden Gate Transit	22, 29	Ross, Kentfield
	Station	SMART shuttles		Downtown, Francisco Blvd
Marin Civic Center	Station	Golden Gate Transit	45, 49	Northgate, Kaiser Hosp., Lincoln Ave.
	Station (<i>probable</i>)	Marin Transit	259	Marinwood, Terra Linda
	Station (<i>probable</i>)	Marin Transit	233	Santa Venetia
	Station	SMART shuttles		Civic Center, Northgate, Prof. Pkwy.

Transit Connections at SMART Stations

MARIN COUNTY (continued)

SMART Station	Boarding Area	Transit Operator	Route	Destination
Novato South alts.				
<i>Hamilton</i>	Station	Golden Gate Transit	49	Novato
	Station	Golden Gate Transit	58	San Francisco
	Station	Hamilton shuttle		Hamilton area
	Station	SMART shuttle		Bel Marin Keys
<i>Ignacio Wye</i>	Station	Golden Gate Transit	52	Downtown Novato
	Station	Golden Gate Transit	71	Hwy 101 corridor
<i>Downtown</i>				
	Redwood & Grant	Golden Gate Transit	51, 52	Novato neighborhoods
	Redwood & Grant	Golden Gate Transit	58, 70, 71, 80	South Marin, San Francisco
	Station	SMART shuttle		Bel Marin Keys
Novato North				
	Station	Golden Gate	51, 52	Novato neighborhoods
	Station	Golden Gate	71,80	South Marin, San Francisco
	Station	SMART shuttle		Fireman's Fund, Downtown
	Station	SMART shuttle		Vintage Oaks, Sutter Hospital

Transit Connections at SMART Stations

SONOMA COUNTY

SMART Station	Boarding Area	Transit Operator	Route	Destination
Petaluma Downtown	Transit Mall (Copeland)	Sonoma County Transit	40	Lakeville, Sonoma
	Transit Mall (Copeland)	Sonoma County Transit	44, 48	Petaluma Blvd, Pennngrove
	Transit Mall (Copeland)	Petaluma Transit	1, 2 and 3	East and West Petaluma
	Transit Mall (Copeland)	SMART shuttle		Lakeville Hwy Bus. Parks, Kaiser
Corona Road	Station	Sonoma County Transit	44	Pennngrove, E. Washington St.
	Station	Petaluma Transit	2	McDowell Blvd. corridor
	Station	SMART shuttle		McDowell corridor, Peta. Valley Hosp SR Jr. College, Southpoint Bus. Park
Cotati	Station	Sonoma County Transit	10	Cotati, Rohnert Park, Sonoma State
	Station	Sonoma County Transit	44	Rohnert Park, Pennngrove, Petaluma
	Station	Sonoma County Transit	26	SSU, Petaluma Hill Road, Snyder Ln.
	Station	Sonoma County Transit	48	Downtown Cotati
Rohnert Park	Station	Golden Gate Transit	72, 73, 74, 75	Hwy 101 south, San Francisco
	Station	Sonoma County Transit	44, 48	Commerce Blvd, Redwood Dr.
	Station	Sonoma County Transit	12, 14	Rohnert Park neighborhoods

Transit Connections at SMART Stations

SONOMA COUNTY (continued)

SMART Station	Boarding Area	Transit Operator	Route	Destination
Santa Rosa Railroad Square	Station or 3rd Street	Santa Rosa City Bus	6, 17	Transit Mall, Northwest SR
	Station or 3rd Street	Santa Rosa City Bus	9, 12	Southwest SR
	Station or 6th Street	Santa Rosa City Bus	3	College Avenue
	Station or 3rd Street	Sonoma County Transit	22	Sebastopol, Transit Mall
	2nd St. Transit Mall	CityBus, SCT, GGT Vine, Mendocino	30 separate routes	intra-Santa Rosa, intra-Sonoma Cty. Marin, Napa, SF, Mendocino Counties
Santa Rosa Jennings Avenue	Station	Sonoma County Transit	20, 30	Russian River, Sonoma Valley
	Station	Santa Rosa CityBus	10, 11, 15	Coddingtontown
Windsor	Station	Sonoma County Transit	60	Redwood Hwy, Starr Road
	Station	Sonoma County Transit	66	East and West Windsor
	Station	Sonoma County Transit	62	Schulz-Sonoma County Airport
Healdsburg	Station	Sonoma County Transit	60	Geyserville, Windsor
	Station	Healdsburg Transit		Healdsburg neighborhoods
Cloverdale	Station	Sonoma County Transit	60	Asti, Geyserville
	Station	Cloverdale Transit	68	Cloverdale downtown and surrounds