

## Board of Directors Meeting/Workshop: May 3, 2023 – Public Comments

Date	Name	3. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items
Date	Name	4. Consent - Approve a Resolution and Authorize the Board Chair to Execute the Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit District (SMART) and the Operating Engineers Union Local No. 3 AFL-CIO (OE3) for the period of May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2028
		None
Date	Name	5. Fiscal Year 2024 Draft Budget (Discussion) – <i>Presented by Heather McKillop</i>
5/2/2023	various	Attached
Date	Name	6. Closed Session - Conference with Legal Counsel regarding existing litigation pursuant to California Government Code Section 54956.9(a); Filemon Hernandez, et al. v. Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit District (SMART) – United States District Court for the Northern District of California - CIV No. 4:21-cv-01782
		None



May 2, 2023

Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit District Board of Directors  
5401 Old Redwood Hwy. Suite 200  
Petaluma, CA 94954

Chair Eric Lucan  
Vice Chair Melanie Bagby  
Kate Colin  
Chris Coursey

Rachel Farac  
Debora Fudge  
Patty Garbarino  
Barbara Pahre

Gabe Paulson  
David Rabbitt  
Chris Rogers  
Mary Sackett

Re: May 3, 2023 Budget Workshop

Dear SMART Board of Directors,

Transportation is responsible for more than half of the Greenhouse gasses emitted in our communities. The single most important thing we can do to reduce our impact and save our planet is to add alternative transportation options to our transportation diets. SMART is doing more right now than other transportation purveyor to make that possible in the North Bay.

Between its passenger and freight trains and its bicycle and pedestrian pathways, SMART is putting sustainable infrastructure in the ground that will last us and future generations for the rest of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In 20, 40, and 60 years, SMART trains and pathways are going to be full of people thankful that your generation had the foresight to make the investment to put sustainable infrastructure in the ground NOW.

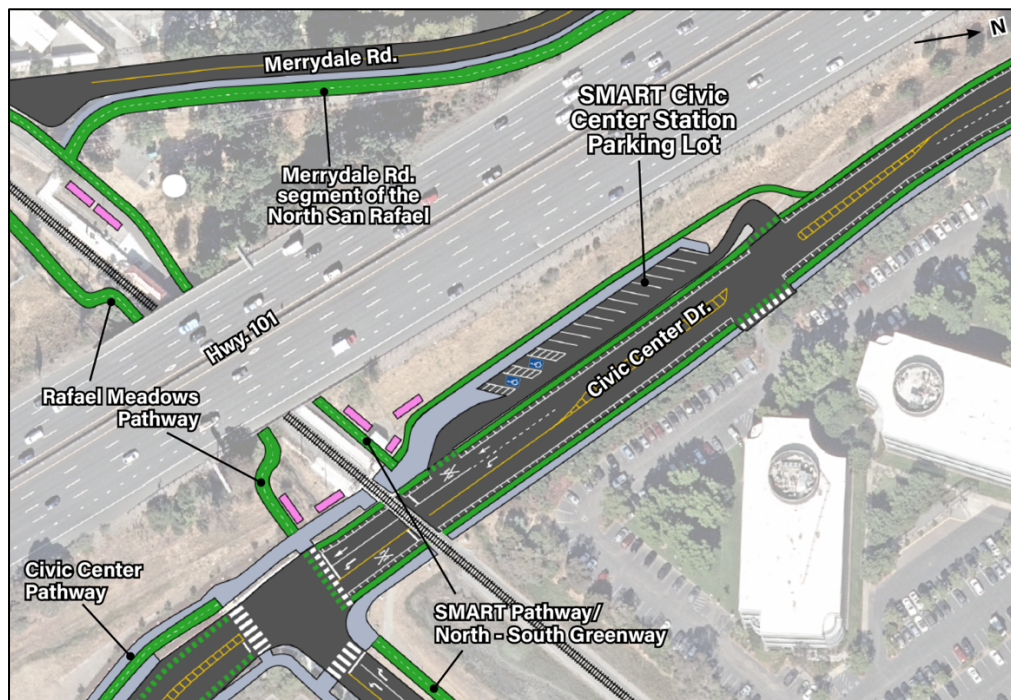
We thank SMART staff and the Board of Directors for getting us this far. SMART is close to securing the funds it needs to extend rail service and the SMART Pathway to Healdsburg and finalizing the designs to bring 13 segments of the SMART Pathway in Marin and Sonoma to shovel-ready status. Together, these segments go a long way to completing a continuous separated pathway from Larkspur to Cloverdale. After accounting for the segments currently in design, there are only a handful of gaps remaining to be designed.

One of the key SMART Pathway gaps is between the top of Puerto Suello Hill and North San Pedro Rd. in San Rafael. We call this segment the *San Rafael Connection* because it connects the northern and southern halves of San Rafael separated by Puerto Suello Hill. SMART and the City of San Rafael commissioned a Feasibility Study for this segment which was completed by the consultant Zoon Engineering last year. The Feasibility Study showed that a Class I pathway utilizing parcels owned by Caltrans and SMART is feasible between the top of Puerto Suello Hill and North San Pedro Rd.

The presentation prepared by SMART staff for the May 3, 2023 Budget Workshop on page 23 shows \$708,277 in the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Budget to bring the *San Rafael Connection* to shovel-ready status (100% engineering and environmental permits and clearances). We offer our full-fledged support for this budget item and urge the Board of Directors to do the same by directing staff to confirm this funding and vote to approve the budget as recommended by staff.

Our second ask of you concerns one specific component of the *Marin Civic Center Station Multi-Modal Transportation Hub*, which is what we call the system of pathway and transit connections centered around SMART's Marin Civic Center Station (see **Figure 1**). Parts of this system are already built, such as the SMART station, the SMART Pathway, and the Civic Center Pathway. Other parts of the system are in planning and will be built by other local agencies and businesses including:

- The Merrydale Rd. segment of the *North San Rafael Promenade* (City of San Rafael, with 50% of construction funds provided by Northgate Town Square developer Merlone Geier)
- Class IV bikeways on both sides of Civic Center Dr. north to Freitas Pkwy. (City of San Rafael)
- The Rafael Meadows Safe Routes to School Pathway, which passes under Hwy. 101 on the south side of the SMART tracks (Transportation Authority of Marin)
- Destination-specific bike-share stations (Northgate Town Square, Embassy Suites, Marin Civic Center)



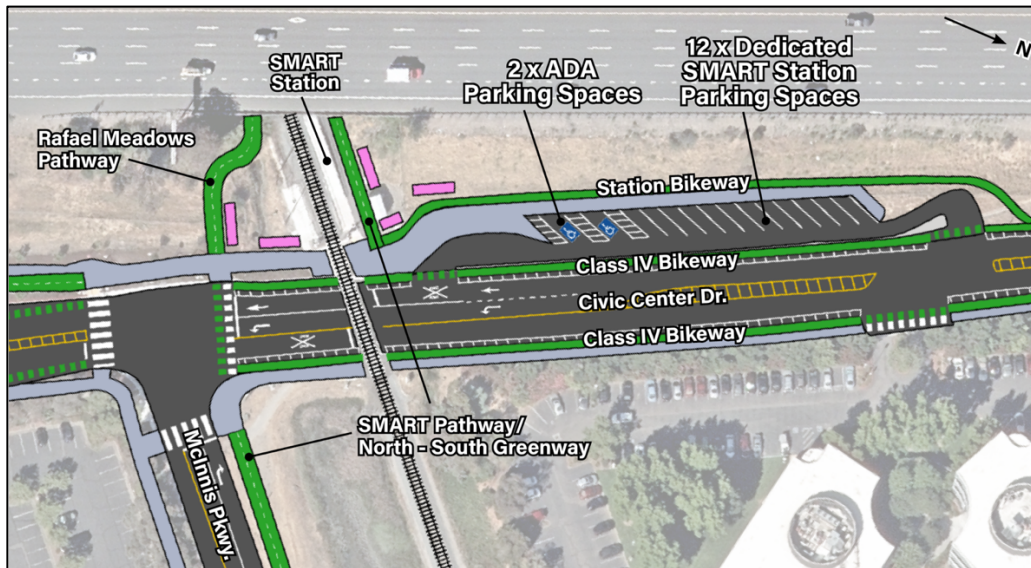
**Figure 1:** Overview map of the proposed *Marin Civic Center Station Multi-Modal Transportation Hub*

Most of the components of the *Marin Civic Center Station Multi-Modal Transportation Hub* have already been built or will be built by other agencies. All we are asking SMART to do is to build the parking lot component. We ask that you direct staff to assign funds in the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Budget to bring the parking lot to shovel-ready status. This parking lot has been planned since the 2012 *Civic Center Station Area Plan*. In 2017, AECOM engineers completed 100% engineering for the parking lot, including a station bikeway running behind the parking lot sidewalk. WTB-TAM followed the basic outline of these two previous efforts in designing a conceptual parking lot with 2 ADA spaces, 12 non-ADA spaces, a Kiss n' Ride/Rideshare/Pick-up/Drop-off zone, and a station bikeway similar to that in the AECOM plans (see **Figure 2**).

The parking lot component of the *Marin Civic Center Station Multi-Modal Transportation Hub* has many important benefits for SMART. One is to boost SMART's ridership. The Marin Civic Center Station is one of the only stations on the SMART system with no dedicated parking lot. Another benefit is that by drawing parking activity to the east side of Hwy. 101, the parking lot will relieve the need for on-street parking on Merrydale Rd. on the west side of Hwy. 101. This is important because the Merrydale segment of the *North San Rafael Promenade* will run along



Merrydale Rd. This pathway segment is an important first-and-last-mile project that will connect the redeveloped Northgate Town Square to the SMART station and boost SMART ridership. However, for the *Promenade* to be as safe, green, and user-friendly as possible, there cannot be any on-street parking on Merrydale Rd.



**Figure 2:** Detail of the parking lot component of the *Marin Civic Center Station Multi-Modal Transportation Hub*

Unlike Merrydale Rd., which is a dead-end road with poor vehicular access, the SMART parking lot on the east side of Hwy. 101 would be easily accessible from all North San Rafael neighborhoods, including Marinwood, Lucas Valley, Terra Linda, Rafael Meadows, Los Ranchitos, and Santa Venetia. If people drive to the parking lot on the east side of Hwy. 101 and find its 12 spaces full, they can take their pick of any of numerous nearby parking spaces on McInnis Pkwy. or in the Marin Center and Civic Center parking lots.

We know that you must consider many competing needs when considering the best budget for SMART's limited resources. We hope you will see that these two projects are amongst the most strategic and highest value-added of any potential project up for consideration. Both projects will help complete and optimize SMART's multi-modal network, increasing pathway use and train ridership, and thus helping our communities shift transportation use away from automobiles to greener, more efficient modes. These projects also have the support of influential community organizations in the area such as Responsible Growth for Marin (see **Appendix A**).

Thank you for all that you do to support multi-modality in Marin and Sonoma Counties.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Seidler  
WTB-TAM President

Matthew Hartzell  
WTB-TAM Director of Planning

Cc: Eddy Cumins, General Manager  
Bill Gamlen, Chief Engineer  
Heather McKillop, Chief Financial Officer



# Responsible Growth in Marin

January 3, 2023

Mr. Eddy Cumins, General Manager  
Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit District  
5401 Old Redwood Hwy. #200  
Petaluma, CA 94954

Mayor Kate Colin  
San Rafael City Hall  
1400 Fifth Ave.  
San Rafael, CA 94901

RE: Support for SMART North San Rafael Projects

Dear Mr. Cumins and Mayor Colin,

We are *Responsible Growth in Marin*, a coalition of concerned citizens, community members, business leaders, and environmentalists with a mission to maintain harmony and balance between architecture, infrastructure, and the natural environment.

We aim to make North San Rafael more livable and successful, and we believe that a key element is making the community more pedestrian and bicycle friendly. We support neighborhoods knit sensitively to each other, to community activity centers and transportation hubs, and to surrounding open space through safe and separated pedestrian and bicycle paths.

We write today to express our support for two SMART projects in San Rafael described by WTB-TAM, and to ask that they be brought to shovel-ready status, including at least 30% engineering, environmental clearances, and environmental permits, to allow their prompt funding and construction:

- **The SMART Civic Center Station Parking Lot** (off Civic Center Dr., east side of 101)
- **The San Rafael Connection** (top of Puerto Suello Hill to N. San Pedro Rd. pathway)

These two projects have the potential to transform mobility and accessibility for everyone who lives in, works in, shops in, and visits North San Rafael. These projects, together with a few other links such as the **North San Rafael Promenade**, will provide a complete pathway network, allowing adults and children to get around their neighborhoods safely without the need for a car.

- **The SMART Marin Civic Center Station Parking Lot** would catalyze ridership at what has the potential to be Marin County's busiest train station. At present, Marin Civic Center is the only SMART station in Marin County without a dedicated parking lot. In fact, SMART previously planned to build a parking lot for this station, on the east side of Hwy. 101. The plan for this parking lot was published in the 2012 Civic Center Station Area Plan. WTB-TAM has identified room for 13 parking spaces and 2 ADA spaces within the footprint of the parking lot SMART already designed in 2012. The Station Area Plan also identified 600 additional parking spaces within 10 minutes of the Civic Center Station, all located on the east side of Hwy. 101.



Timely completion of the Civic Center Station Parking lot is a high priority, given increased station usage with imminent development of housing at Northgate Mall and several other major housing projects in the North San Rafael area. The parking lot dovetails with the completion of the North San Rafael Promenade along Merrydale Road to allow safe station access for pedestrians and cyclists on the west side of Highway 101 as well as clear and easy station access on the east side for rider drop-off (“kiss and ride”), ADA parking, and commuter parking.

**We recommend that SMART, with the support of Mayor Colin and the San Rafael City Council, bring the Marin Civic Center station parking lot project on the east side of Hwy. 101 to shovel-ready status.**

- **The San Rafael Connection** – The largest remaining unbuilt segment of the North – South Greenway is in San Rafael. Currently, the path from Downtown ends at the top of the hill. From there, the only way for bicyclists to reach the pathway at N. San Pedro Rd. is via steep, unprotected bike lanes on Los Ranchitos Rd., or the even steeper Merrydale Rd., where a pedestrian was killed in 2021. Neither route has sidewalks.

WTB-TAM’s proposed San Rafael Connection would knit San Rafael together by closing the gap in the Greenway, providing both pedestrians and cyclists with a 12-foot-wide pathway with a maximum 5% grade. **We recommend that SMART, with the support of Mayor Colin and the San Rafael City Council and in collaboration with WTB-TAM for project design, bring this project to shovel-ready status.**

Let’s make these projects a reality. We trust that you can see the vast dividends that these projects will have for North San Rafael, and San Rafael as a whole. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,  
Grace Geraghty, Executive Director  
*Responsible Growth in Marin*

cc: Matthew Hartzell  
Patrick Seidler  
L. Rosa-Mendoza  
RGM Leadership

**From:** [Andrew Crawford](#)  
**To:** [Leticia Rosas](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment on Item 5 of May 3 Budget Workshop: Puerto Suello to San Pedro Rd path  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 2, 2023 2:45:22 PM

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Dear SMART Board,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Puerto Suello to San Pedro Road project, also known as the San Rafael Connection. As a 10 + year resident of San Rafael, I believe that this project is crucial for improving bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in our city. For 8 years we lived along the multi-use path that parallels 101 prior to moving to northern San Rafael. I've used this connection countless times, recreationally, commuting and with our children.

Simply put, the section from the top of the hill is dangerous. It requires you to either a) ride on a busy street with very little shoulder or b) go via an extremely steep hill with multiple blind turnouts from the various apartment complexes + an intersection that is poorly designed for pedestrian/bicycle traffic and puts users on another dangerous road, that is dark, no shoulder and contains speeding traffic both entering and exiting the freeway.

By creating a safe and accessible route for pedestrians and cyclists, the San Rafael Connection will encourage more people to leave their cars at home and instead opt for environmentally-friendly modes of transportation. This will not only help reduce traffic congestion but also promote healthier and more active lifestyles for our community.

Moreover, the project will help connect neighborhoods in San Rafael, making it easier for residents to access local parks, schools, and businesses without having to rely on cars. This will also help support local businesses by increasing foot traffic and reducing parking demand.

In summary, the San Rafael Connection project is a win-win for our community. It will promote sustainability, improve public health, and support local businesses. I urge the SMART Board of Directors to support this important project.

Thank you for considering my input.

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**From:** [cerise mayo](#)  
**To:** [Leticia Rosas](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment on Item 5 of May 3 Budget Workshop: Puerto Suello to San Pedro Rd path  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 2, 2023 2:24:19 PM

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Dear SMART Board,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Puerto Suello to San Pedro Road project, also known as the San Rafael Connection. As a resident of San Rafael, I believe that this project is crucial for improving bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in our city.

By creating a safe and accessible route for pedestrians and cyclists, the San Rafael Connection will encourage more people to leave their cars at home and instead opt for environmentally-friendly modes of transportation. This will not only help reduce traffic congestion but also promote healthier and more active lifestyles for our community.

Moreover, the project will help connect neighborhoods in San Rafael, making it easier for residents to access local parks, schools, and businesses without having to rely on cars. This will also help support local businesses by increasing foot traffic and reducing parking demand. We often bike to Marin ymca or to civic center as a family.

In summary, the San Rafael Connection project is a win-win for our community. It will promote sustainability, improve public health, and support local businesses. I urge the SMART Board of Directors to support this important project.

Thank you for considering my input.

Sincerely,

Cerise Mayo  
San Rafael resident and parent

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**From:** [Chuck Becker](#)  
**To:** [Leticia Rosas](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment on Item 5 of May 3 Budget Workshop: Puerto Suello to San Pedro Rd path  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 2, 2023 2:19:15 PM

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Dear SMART Board,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Puerto Suello to San Pedro Road project, also known as the San Rafael Connection. As a resident of San Rafael, I believe that this project is crucial for improving bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in our city.

By creating a safe and accessible route for pedestrians and cyclists, the San Rafael Connection will encourage more people to leave their cars at home and instead opt for environmentally-friendly modes of transportation. This will not only help reduce traffic congestion but also promote healthier and more active lifestyles for our community.

Moreover, the project will help connect neighborhoods in San Rafael, making it easier for residents to access local parks, schools, and businesses without having to rely on cars. This will also help support local businesses by increasing foot traffic and reducing parking demand.

In summary, the San Rafael Connection project is a win-win for our community. It will promote sustainability, improve public health, and support local businesses. I urge the SMART Board of Directors to support this important project.

Thank you for considering my input. **CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE:** This message, together with any attachments, is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to whom it is addressed and may contain information that is confidential and/or privileged and prohibited from disclosure. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, or copying of this message, or any attachment, is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please notify the original sender immediately by telephone or by return e-mail and delete this message along with any attachments.

**From:** [Dave Rhoads](#)  
**To:** [Leticia Rosas](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment on Item 5 of May 3 Budget Workshop: Puerto Suello to San Pedro Rd path  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 2, 2023 2:15:59 PM

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Dear SMART Board,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Puerto Suello to San Pedro Road project, also known as the San Rafael Connection. As a resident of San Rafael, I believe that this project is crucial for improving bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in our city.

By creating a safe and accessible route for pedestrians and cyclists, the San Rafael Connection will encourage more people to leave their cars at home and instead opt for environmentally-friendly modes of transportation. This will not only help reduce traffic congestion but also promote healthier and more active lifestyles for our community.

Moreover, the project will help connect neighborhoods in San Rafael, making it easier for residents to access local parks, schools, and businesses without having to rely on cars. This will also help support local businesses by increasing foot traffic and reducing parking demand.

In summary, the San Rafael Connection project is a win-win for our community. It will promote sustainability, improve public health, and support local businesses. I urge the SMART Board of Directors to support this important project.

Thank you for considering my input.

Dave Rhoads

Co-Chair, **Walk/Bike San Rafael**, A Marin County Bicycle Coalition Local Team

P: 702-630-2423

W: [www.walkbikesanrafael.org](http://www.walkbikesanrafael.org)



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**From:** [Lauren Withey](#)  
**To:** [Leticia Rosas](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment on Item 5 of May 3 Budget Workshop: Puerto Suello to San Pedro Rd path  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 2, 2023 4:02:10 PM

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Dear SMART Board,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Puerto Suello to San Pedro Road project, also known as the San Rafael Connection.

I live in Terra Linda and, while I would like to bike to downtown to access all that it has to offer more regularly, I am often deterred by the steep, dangerous route currently in place. By creating a safe and accessible route for pedestrians and cyclists, the San Rafael Connection will allow me to bike downtown with much more confidence.

I am sure that many others in our community feel the same, including those coming from downtown San Rafael to Terra Linda to access events such as the Farmers Market at the Civic Center, and the new commerce that will be part of the redeveloped Northgate area. By connecting neighborhoods in San Rafael, the project will make it much easier, then, for residents to access local parks, schools, and businesses without having to rely on cars. This will also help support local businesses by increasing foot traffic and reducing parking demand.

This is therefore a crucial project to encourage more people to leave their cars at home and instead opt for environmentally-friendly modes of transportation. This will not only help reduce traffic congestion but will also promote healthier and more active lifestyles among local residents.

In summary, the San Rafael Connection project would be a transformative win for our community. It will help us meet our climate goals, improve public health, and support local businesses. I urge the SMART Board of Directors to support this important project.

Thank you for considering my input.

Sincerely,  
Lauren Withey

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**From:** [Liz Bernstein](#)  
**To:** [Leticia Rosas](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment on Item 5 of May 3 Budget Workshop: Puerto Suello to San Pedro Rd path  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 2, 2023 3:40:30 PM

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Dear SMART Board,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Puerto Suello to San Pedro Road project, also known as the San Rafael Connection. As a resident of San Rafael, I believe that this project is crucial for improving bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in our city.

By creating a safe and accessible route for pedestrians and cyclists, the San Rafael Connection will encourage more people to leave their cars at home and instead opt for environmentally-friendly modes of transportation. This will not only help reduce traffic congestion but also promote healthier and more active lifestyles for our community.

Moreover, the project will help connect neighborhoods in San Rafael, making it easier for residents to access local parks, schools, and businesses without having to rely on cars. This will also help support local businesses by increasing foot traffic and reducing parking demand.

In summary, the San Rafael Connection project is a win-win for our community. It will promote sustainability, improve public health, and support local businesses. I urge the SMART Board of Directors to support this important project.

Thank you for considering my input.

Liz Bernstein

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**From:** [Mark Day](#)  
**To:** [Leticia Rosas](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment on Item 5 of May 3 Budget Workshop: Puerto Suello to San Pedro Rd path  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 2, 2023 2:41:12 PM

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Dear SMART Board,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Puerto Suello to San Pedro Road project, also known as the San Rafael Connection. As a resident of San Rafael, I believe that this project is crucial for improving bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in our city.

I frequently ride in this area, and the lack of a bicycle-friendly connection through this area compromises my safety.

By creating a safe and accessible route for pedestrians and cyclists, the San Rafael Connection will encourage more people to leave their cars at home and instead opt for environmentally-friendly modes of transportation. This will not only help reduce traffic congestion but also promote healthier and more active lifestyles for our community.

Moreover, the project will help connect neighborhoods in San Rafael, making it easier for residents to access local parks, schools, and businesses without having to rely on cars. This will also help support local businesses by increasing foot traffic and reducing parking demand.

In summary, the San Rafael Connection project is a win-win for our community. It will promote sustainability, improve public health, and support local businesses. I urge the SMART Board of Directors to support this important project.

Thank you for considering my input.

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**From:** [Stephen Locke](#)  
**To:** [Leticia Rosas](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment on Item 5 of May 3 Budget Workshop: Puerto Suello to San Pedro Rd path  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 2, 2023 5:21:16 PM

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Dear SMART Board,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Puerto Suello to San Pedro Road project, also known as the San Rafael Connection. As a resident of San Rafael, I believe that this project is crucial for improving bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in our city.

By creating a safe and accessible route for pedestrians and cyclists, the San Rafael Connection will encourage more people to leave their cars at home and instead opt for environmentally-friendly modes of transportation. This will not only help reduce traffic congestion but also promote healthier and more active lifestyles for our community.

Moreover, the project will help connect neighborhoods in San Rafael, making it easier for residents to access local parks, schools, and businesses without having to rely on cars. This will also help support local businesses by increasing foot traffic and reducing parking demand.

In summary, the San Rafael Connection project is a win-win for our community. It will promote sustainability, improve public health, and support local businesses. I urge the SMART Board of Directors to support this important project.

Thank you for considering my input.

Steve Locke

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**From:** [Susan Nawbary](#)  
**To:** [Leticia Rosas](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment on Item 5 of May 3 Budget Workshop: Puerto Suello to San Pedro Rd path  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 2, 2023 4:31:55 PM

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Dear SMART Board,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Puerto Suello to San Pedro Road project, also known as the San Rafael Connection. As a resident of San Rafael, I believe that this project is crucial for improving bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in our city.

More and more families are purchasing cargo bikes to carry their children and do errands. I encourage you to view the desire for safe infrastructure as a way to help families make safe, car-free trips. It's also so that the average person who doesn't call themselves a "cyclist" feels comfortable hopping on their bike for a sunny stroll to the farmers market, or to help connect people to the SMART train for lunch in Petaluma, or a visit to one of the North Bay's many fantastic breweries we're so famous for.

By creating a safe and accessible route for pedestrians and cyclists, the San Rafael Connection will encourage more people to leave their cars at home and instead opt for environmentally-friendly modes of transportation. This will not only help reduce traffic congestion but also promote healthier and more active lifestyles for our community. According to Axios in 2023, Marin ranks #1 as the healthiest county in California, and one reason is because we have access to safe outdoor activities. This project supports Marin's healthy, active lifestyle.

Moreover, the project will help connect neighborhoods in San Rafael, making it easier for residents to access local parks, schools, and businesses without having to rely on cars. This will also help support local businesses by increasing foot traffic and reducing parking demand.

In summary, the San Rafael Connection project is a win-win for our community. It will promote sustainability, improve public health, and support local businesses. I urge the SMART Board of Directors to support this important project.

Thank you for considering my input.

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** [Tarrell Kullaway](#)  
**To:** [Leticia Rosas](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment on Item 5 of May 3 Budget Workshop: Puerto Suello to San Pedro Rd path  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 2, 2023 3:21:51 PM

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Dear SMART Board,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Puerto Suello to San Pedro Road project, also known as the San Rafael Connection. As a resident of San Rafael, I believe that this project is crucial for improving bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in our city.

By creating a safe and accessible route for pedestrians and cyclists, the San Rafael Connection will encourage more people to leave their cars at home and instead opt for environmentally-friendly modes of transportation. This will not only help reduce traffic congestion but also promote healthier and more active lifestyles for our community.

Moreover, the project will help connect neighborhoods in San Rafael, making it easier for residents to access local parks, schools, and businesses without having to rely on cars. This will also help support local businesses by increasing foot traffic and reducing parking demand.

In summary, the San Rafael Connection project is a win-win for our community. It will promote sustainability, improve public health, and support local businesses. I urge the SMART Board of Directors to support this important project.

Thank you for considering my input.

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**From:** [Tracy Minicucci](#)  
**To:** [Leticia Rosas](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment on Item 5 of May 3 Budget Workshop: Puerto Suello to San Pedro Rd path  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 2, 2023 2:58:32 PM

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Dear SMART Board,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Puerto Suello to San Pedro Road project, also known as the San Rafael Connection. As a resident of San Rafael, I believe that this project is crucial for improving bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in our city.

By creating a safe and accessible route for pedestrians and cyclists, the San Rafael Connection will encourage more people to leave their cars at home and instead opt for environmentally-friendly modes of transportation. This will not only help reduce traffic congestion but also promote healthier and more active lifestyles for our community.

Moreover, the project will help connect neighborhoods in San Rafael, making it easier for residents to access local parks, schools, and businesses without having to rely on cars. This will also help support local businesses by increasing foot traffic and reducing parking demand.

In summary, the San Rafael Connection project is a win-win for our community. It will promote sustainability, improve public health, and support local businesses. I urge the SMART Board of Directors to support this important project.

Thank you for considering my input.

-Tracy Minicucci

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Sent from Gmail Mobile

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**From:** [Tyler Dibble](#)  
**To:** [Leticia Rosas](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment on Item 5 of May 3 Budget Workshop: Puerto Suello to San Pedro Rd path  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 2, 2023 2:25:04 PM

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Dear SMART Board,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Puerto Suello to San Pedro Road project, also known as the San Rafael Connection. As a resident of San Rafael, I believe that this project is crucial for improving bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in our city.

This addition would help link existing dedicated bike and pedestrian paths, thereby making the system as a whole more effective, safe, and inviting for families like my own. By creating a safe, accessible, and contiguous route for pedestrians and cyclists, the San Rafael Connection will encourage more people to leave their cars at home and instead opt for environmentally-friendly modes of transportation. This will not only help reduce traffic congestion but also promote healthier and more active lifestyles for our community.

Moreover, the project will help connect neighborhoods in San Rafael, making it easier for residents to access local parks, schools, and businesses without having to rely on cars. This will also help support local businesses by increasing foot traffic and reducing parking demand.

I believe the San Rafael Connection project is a win-win for my community and I urge the SMART Board of Directors to support the project.

Thank you,

The Dibble Family

Tyler, Amy, Cameron, Emma, and Cooper Dibble

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**From:** [Philip Winn](#)  
**To:** [Leticia Rosas](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment on Item 5 of May 3 Budget Workshop: Puerto Suello to San Pedro Rd path  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 2, 2023 4:49:00 PM

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Dear SMART Board,

I am writing on behalf of myself and my four year old daughter Inés to express our strong support for the Puerto Suello to San Pedro Road project, also known as the San Rafael Connection. As a resident of San Rafael, I believe that this project is crucial for improving bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in our city.

The project will have particular impact for us because we travel from our home close to San Rafael High School primarily by bicycle including frequent trips to the Marin Civic Center for the Sunday farmers market, the public library and other needs. We also travel by bike to the Marin YMCA for swim lessons and to the Kaiser facilities in Terra Linda.

All of these trips and more will be made safer and more accessible for ourselves and other families by the implementation of this project. We urge the SMART Board of Directors to support this important project.

Thank you for considering our input.

Philip Winn (45) and Inés Winn (4)

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#1

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Tuesday, May 02, 2023 1:51:37 PM  
**Last Modified:** Tuesday, May 02, 2023 1:55:32 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:03:55  
**IP Address:** 135.180.49.117

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Page 1

Q1

What is your name?

Warren Wells, Marin County Bicycle Coalition

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Q2

Respondent skipped this question

3. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

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Q3

Respondent skipped this question

4. Consent Calendar - Approve a Resolution and Authorize the Board Chair to Execute the Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit District (SMART) and the Operating Engineers Union Local No. 3 AFL-CIO (OE3) for the period of May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2028

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Q4

5. Fiscal Year 2024 Draft Budget (Discussion) – Presented by Heather McKillop

I am writing to provide support on behalf of the Marin County Bicycle Coalition for the budgeting of ~\$700k for design and engineering of the Puerto Suello Hill to N San Pedro Road pathway segment indicated in the budget presentation.

This segment of pathway will close a key gap where there are no existing pedestrian facilities, and the bike route consists of either a very steep grade road via Merrydale Road or a high-speed collector street via Los Ranchitos Road.

Though this was not initially considered part of the SMART network, we applaud the agency for its openness to consider taking another look at this in the 2021 feasibility study, and we are very happy to see that staff recommend moving it forward.

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**Q5**

**Respondent skipped this question**

6. Closed Session - Conference with Legal Counsel  
regarding existing litigation pursuant to California  
Government Code Section  
54956.9(a); Filemon Hernandez, et al.v. Sonoma-Marín  
Area Rail Transit District (SMART) – United States District  
Court for the Northern District of California - CIV No. 4:21-  
cv-01782

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