

## Notice of Availability and Public Hearing for an Environmental Impact Report for the Jennings Avenue Pedestrian and Bicycle Rail Crossing Project

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*Para obtener la versión en español de este documento, por favor visite:*

<http://srcity.org/departments/communitydev/Pages/JenningsAvenuePedestrianandBicycleRailCrossingEIR.aspx>

**TO:** Interested Parties

**SUBJECT:** Notice of Availability of an Environmental Impact Report and Notice of Public Hearing

**LEAD AGENCY:** City of Santa Rosa

**DRAFT EIR COMMENT PERIOD:** October 17, 2014 to December 1, 2014

**PUBLIC HEARING:** City Council Meeting, November 18, 2014, at or after 5:00 p.m.  
Council Chamber at City Hall, 100 Santa Rosa Avenue, Santa Rosa

The City of Santa Rosa has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for a proposed pedestrian and bicycle rail crossing project at Jennings Avenue and the SMART rail corridor. This notice summarizes the project and its location, the starting and ending dates for the review period, the date, time, and location of a public hearing, a list of significant environmental impacts identified in the Draft EIR, and the address where copies of the Draft EIR will be available for public review.

### **Project Description**

The City proposes improvements at an existing, unofficial at-grade pedestrian and bicycle rail crossing at Jennings Avenue and the SMART rail corridor to provide an official rail crossing. The proposed Jennings Avenue bicycle and pedestrian rail crossing is identified in the City's General Plan, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan 2010, and the North Santa Rosa Station Area Specific Plan, which seeks to establish a pedestrian and bicycle rail crossing to link the eastern and western segments of Jennings Avenue.

Two types of rail crossings are evaluated in the Draft EIR: an at-grade pedestrian and bicycle crossing, which would include crossing surfaces at the same elevation as the existing railroad tracks; and a pedestrian and bicycle rail overcrossing, which would provide crossing surfaces over the railroad tracks. Both types of rail crossings are evaluated at the same level of detail in the EIR.

To construct a new rail crossing at Jennings Avenue, the City would be required to obtain approvals from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), which is the State agency that regulates railroads and rail crossings. In the event that the City constructs a new at-grade rail crossing at Jennings Avenue, CPUC staff has suggested that the City close one or two other rail crossings within the City, namely at W. Sixth Street, W. Seventh Street, or W. Eighth Street, so that the total number of permitted at-grade rail crossings in the

City would stay the same or be reduced. Therefore, in accordance with direction from CPUC staff, Transportation and Public Works staff has requested that the EIR evaluate the closure of one existing rail crossing, at either W. Sixth Street, W. Seventh Street, or W. Eighth Street, in exchange for a new pedestrian and bicycle at-grade crossing at Jennings Avenue. Staff has requested that the EIR not evaluate the closure of two crossings, as that would be unacceptable to the City based on circulation and emergency access issues.

A rail overcrossing at Jennings Avenue would consist of a grade-separated pedestrian and bicycle crossing over the rail corridor. Because the rail overcrossing would be grade-separated from the railroad tracks, this alternative would not require closure of an existing at-grade rail crossing at W. Sixth Street, W. Seventh Street, W. Eighth Street, or elsewhere in the City.

### **Project Location**

Project components may be located in two areas of the City (see Figure 1). The proposed bicycle and pedestrian rail crossing would be located where Jennings Avenue approaches the SMART rail corridor. As described above, an at-grade rail crossing at Jennings Avenue may also need to include the closure of an existing at-grade rail crossing at either W. Sixth Street, W. Seventh Street, or W. Eighth Street, located just west of Wilson Street, approximately one mile southeast of the proposed crossing at Jennings Avenue.

### **Potential Environmental Effects**

Significant and unavoidable impacts have been identified in the Draft EIR related to aesthetics, historical resources, land use, noise, and transportation. Significant but mitigable impacts have also been identified related to: air quality; biological resources; cultural and paleontological resources; geology and soils; greenhouse gas emissions; hazards and hazardous materials; hydrology and water quality; noise and vibration; transportation; and utilities.

Several parcels near W. Sixth Street, W. Seventh Street, and W. Eighth Street are included on lists enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code related to hazardous waste disposal. No sites included on lists enumerated under Section 65962.5 are located at the Jennings Avenue site.

### **Public Review Period and Public Review Copies**

A 45-day public review period will extend from October 17, 2014 to December 1, 2014. The Draft EIR and reference documents will be available for public review online at

<http://srcity.org/departments/communitydev/Pages/JenningsAvenuePedestrianandBicycleRailCrossingEIR.aspx>, and at the following locations:


- Santa Rosa City Hall, 100 Santa Rosa Avenue, Community Development Department (Room 3) and City Manager's Office (Room 10)
- Transportation and Public Works Department, 69 Stony Circle;
- California Welcome Center, 9 Fourth Street;
- Northwest Santa Rosa Library, 150 Coddington Center; and
- Central Santa Rosa Library, 211 E Street.

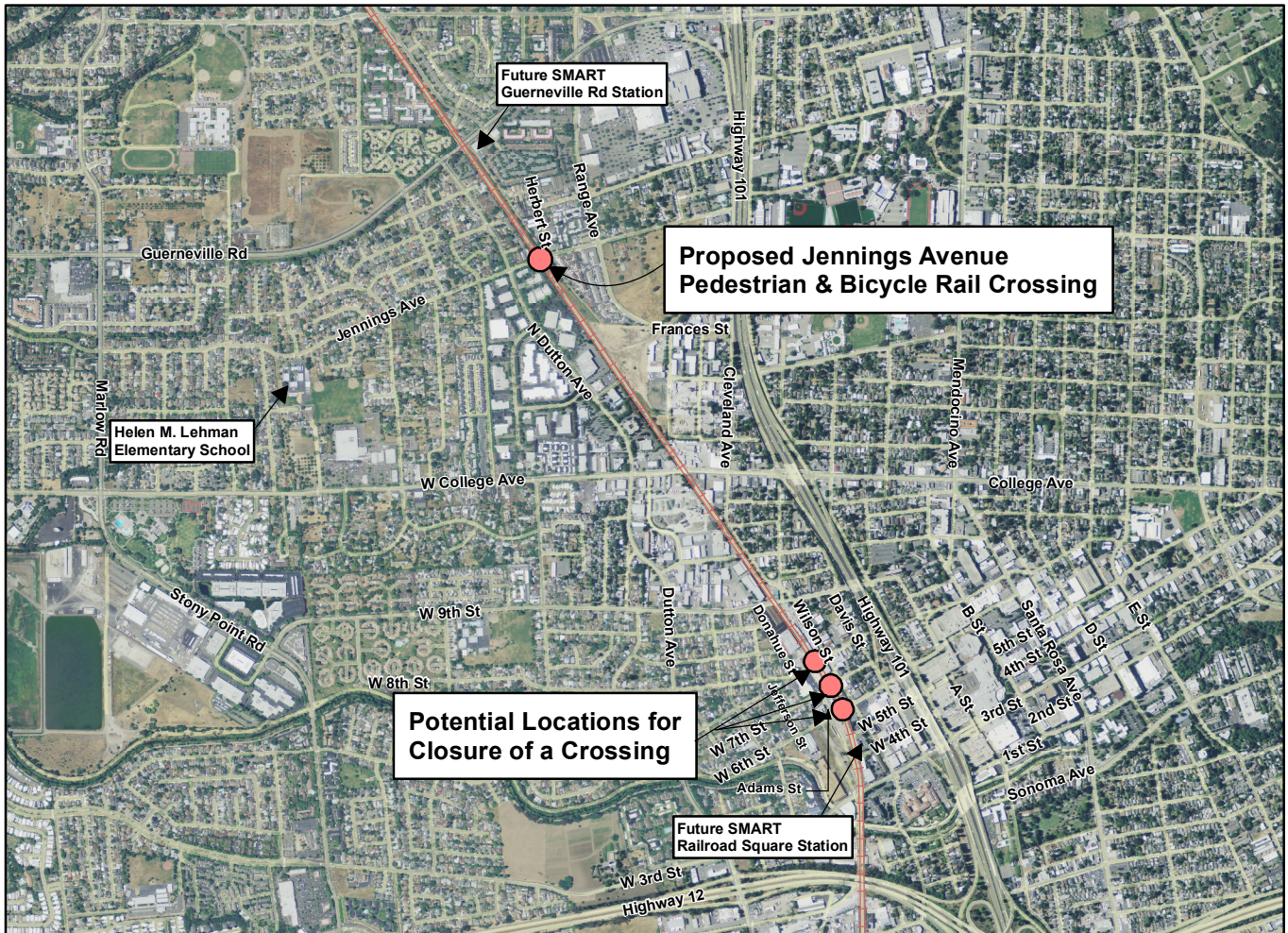
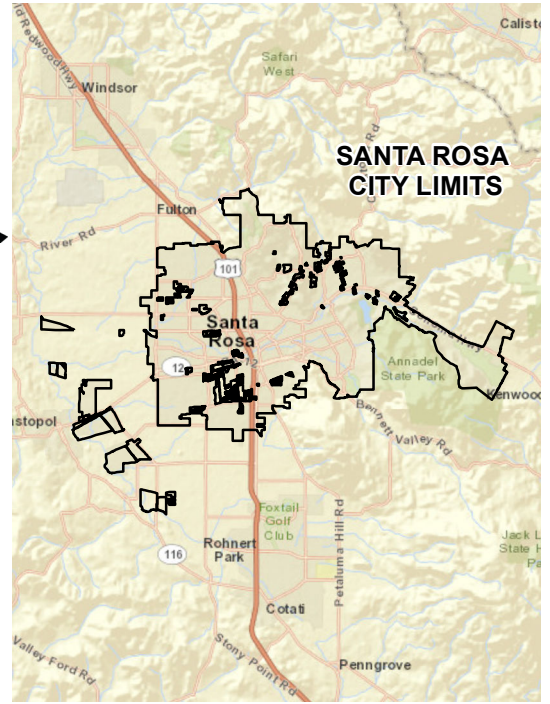


Due to the time limits mandated by state law, comments on the Draft EIR must be received no later than December 1, 2014. A Public Hearing will be held during the review period on Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at or after 5:00 p.m. at the Santa Rosa Council Chamber, City Hall (100 Santa Rosa Avenue). Please refer to the Council agenda for specific times, which is available at: <http://ci.santa-rosa.ca.us/government/council/Pages/councilmeetingarchive.aspx>

Oral comments, as well as written comments, will be taken at the Public Hearing meeting. Written comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on December 1, 2014 to:

City of Santa Rosa  
Attn: Jessica Jones, Senior Planner  
Community Development Department  
100 Santa Rosa Avenue, Room 3  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404  
Email: [jjones@srcity.org](mailto:jjones@srcity.org)

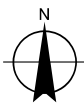
Signed:  Date: 10-9-14  
Jessica Jones, Senior Planner  
Santa Rosa Community Development Department



Paper Size ANSI A

0 0.225 0.45 Mile

Map Projection: Mercator Auxiliary Sphere  
Horizontal Datum: WGS 1984  
Grid: WGS 1984 Web Mercator Auxiliary Sphere



City of Santa Rosa  
Jennings Avenue Pedestrian and Bicycle Rail Crossing EIR

Job Number 8410868  
Revision A  
Date 22 Jul 2014

Regional Map

Figure 1