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June 9, 2021

City of Santa Rosa
Adam Ross, Interim Senior Planner
100 Santa Rosa Avenue, Room 3
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Re: Downtown Station Project Review, PRJ20-013

Dear Adam,

The Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit District (SMART) has completed review of the proposed Downtown Station project, PRJ20-013, located at 34 6th Street, adjacent to the SMART rail line. We offer the following comments:

1. The Phase 1 multi-use pathway appears to terminate at what would be a new crossing at Fourth Street. If it is intended to cross the tracks, this connection will require permission from California Public Utilities Commission (General Order 88-B) as well as a private crossing agreement with SMART. All crossings must meet SMART's standards and be approved by SMART.
2. The project plans do not indicate a connection to Third Street. How will the proposed Multi-Use Trail tie in with the grant-funded Prince Greenway pathway extension to Third Street and signalized crossing?
3. The grading sheet shows a connection across one track to connect to the existing SMART station access to the platform at 6th Street; however, this is not shown in the higher-level graphical representation of the project. This proposed connection will require permission from California Public Utilities Commission (General Order 88-B) as well as a private crossing agreement with SMART. Adding this connection also increases the likelihood of this becoming a shortcut between the development and downtown, introducing additional safety concerns.
4. The Multi-use pathway moves from the west side of the SMART line to the east side at 6th street. There is currently no pedestrian crossing on the south side of 6th street and a crossing is inhibited by the existing street barrier required for quiet zone compliance. In order to provide a safe connection for bicyclist and pedestrians to follow the pathway across 6th street, pedestrian improvements should be made, including replacing the rail panels with ADA compliant panels and barriers or pedestrian gates, as well as CPUC GO88 compliance.

SMART appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on this project. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at 707-794-3324 or EBetts@sonomamarintrain.org.

Sincerely,

Emily Betts
Principal Planner