

**From:** [Steve Birdlebough](#)  
**To:** [CityCouncilListPublic](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Jennings Bike Boulevard & At-Grade Crossing of the SMART Tracks  
**Date:** Monday, February 12, 2024 5:05:01 PM

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Greetings Mayor Rogers and members of the City Council

I hope to be present at 2pm. tomorrow to share my perspective in **support** of the negotiations with SMART for construction of the Jennings Crossing.

This project plays a key role in development of the Jennings Bicycle Boulevard that will provide a more-safe west-east route for cyclists and pedestrians.

Currently, people are exposed to autos moving a high speeds on College Avenue and Guerneville Roadhwys.

The VisionZero data shows collisions about every 8 months over the last several years.

We appreciate efforts to move this project forward.

Steve Birdlebough



**From:** [Richard Heinberg](#)  
**To:** [CityCouncilListPublic](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Jennings Crossing  
**Date:** Monday, February 12, 2024 9:58:46 PM

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Dear Santa Rosa City Council members,

We understand that, during Closed Session on February 13, the Council will be considering an application to the CPUC for an extension of time to build the approved Jennings railroad crossing. We urge you to make this application.

For nearly a decade, pedestrians, wheelchair users, parents with strollers, dog walkers, and cyclists have been required to take the "Jennings detour" along highly trafficked N. Dutton and Guerneville Road or to walk an even longer distance to cross at West College, simply to access services and businesses on either side of the tracks.

It is riskier and takes much longer to walk the detour than it would be to cross at a safe, at-grade rail crossing complete with gates, signals, and a clear line of sight at Jennings. The current detour adds an additional 20 to 30 minutes to what used to be a convenient, car-free stroll over the tracks. Residents in the apartments on the east side of the tracks now drive their kids to school or to the health clinics on Dutton, or Safeway, UPS, and Dollar Drug on the west side of the tracks.

There are many good reasons to build the at-grade crossing at Jennings. Unfortunately, SMART has delayed this project for years. We urge you to seek an extension from the CPUC so that the approved crossing can finally be built.


Richard Heinberg  
Janet Barocco  
Jennings Avenue  
Santa Rosa


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**From:** [Alexandria F](#)  
**To:** [City Council Public Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Jennings Ave At Grade Crossing  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 13, 2024 12:59:04 PM

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Dear Councilmembers,

I urge you to restore an at grade crossing at Jennings Ave.

I am a SMART commuter and I genuinely love SMART, but I think they are making a mistake here.

The lack of an at grade crossing at Jennings adds miles to each trip, causing an unnecessary division in what would otherwise be a fairly walkable area. SMART should be working to improve bike and pedestrian access (crucial SMART riders!), not dragging this out any longer.

The CPUC approved an at grade crossing at this location almost ten years ago now. Let's get this done!

Thank you for your consideration,

Alexandria

Rec'd at Meeting	2/18/2024
Item No.	3.1
From:	

I am James Duncan. I have lived a short walk from the Jennings Crossing since 1978. I have been a party in support of the CPUC Application for the Crossing since it was first filed.

The City has had to file for an extension of time to build the approved crossing. Although there is no opposition, the CPUC's Judge has ruled that the City must file a status report on March 1st on any agreement with SMART to construct the crossing. If no agreement is reached, a Hearing will be set for the City to justify the extension. Otherwise, the approval will expire and it could be a very long time, if ever, before it is approved again.

The crossing is important by itself but it is also a key component of the Jennings Bicycle Boulevard which will eventually connect to the planned pedestrian and bicycle overcrossing of 101. The impending development of the very large property at Lance Drive and Guerneville Road with up to 800 new units will create considerable additional traffic. The Jennings Crossing and Bicycle Boulevard and the 101 overcrossing will provide an active transportation alternative which will help alleviate traffic congestion and greenhouse gases.

The City Council has always acted in the public interest to keep the crossing open. If SMART had honored its commitment to build the crossing it would have been reopened years ago. But it did not.

This City Council is urged to honor the actions of earlier City Councils as well as the public interest by directing staff to take all necessary steps to obtain the extension and reopen the Jennings Crossing.