

San Rafael Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee

April 19, 2021

San Rafael City Council
1400 Fifth Avenue
San Rafael, CA 94901

Re: Recommendation for City Council advocacy for SMART Pathway Gap Closure in North San Rafael

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers:

We encourage the Council to act immediately to urge SMART's Board of Directors to include full funding, or seek grants for the full funding, for the environmental review, 30% preliminary engineering design, permitting, and full construction of the segment of the SMART Pathway from Puerto Suello Hill to North San Pedro Road in North San Rafael. The SMART Board is currently planning Capital Projects, which include construction and expansion of pathway systems, as part of its goal-setting and budgeting process for 2021.

This gap closure in North San Rafael's portion of the North-South Greenway is an important link to meet the goal of providing safe and comfortable access along the full length of the Greenway for all ages and abilities. It is listed as a proposed project in San Rafael's 2018 Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan and its completion will serve as an important connection in the County's and the region's bicycle and pedestrian transportation network. The current alternative routes do not meet the needs of most abilities of bicyclists (1) because there is constrained space and visibility around curves along Los Ranchitos with no room for expansion due to slopes on either side of the roadway, and (2) because an uncomfortably steep slope exists on Merrydale heading down from Puerto Suello Hill toward Point San Pedro Road.

In our advisory capacity, we urge you to use this opportunity, while SMART funding is available, to move environmental review, design and time-sensitive construction preparation forward in a cost effective and timely way. We hope you will agendaize this action for your next Council meeting.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Kate Powers
Chair, San Rafael Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee