



SIERRA CLUB

SONOMA GROUP

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February 28, 2022

Hon. Toks Omishakin, Secretary
California State Transportation Agency
915 Capitol Mall, Suite 350B
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Sonoma Regional Bus and Rail Connectivity Improvements Project
Application for 2022 Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program grant

Dear Secretary Omishakin:

The Sierra Club strongly supports the application by the Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA) grant application requesting \$24.85 million in funding for the Regional Bus and Rail Connectivity Improvements Project for Sonoma County. This project results from a partnership between SCTA, Petaluma Transit, Santa Rosa CityBus, Sonoma County Transit, Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART), and the Mendocino Transit Authority.

The future of our transportation network depends upon improved bus transit and passenger rail services. Funding for these improvements is essential to realize the climate and health goals of communities throughout Sonoma County. The proposed projects will improve connections for residents and visitors traveling to and from locations in the County and elsewhere.

The proposed project is essential to provide the following benefits for travelers and the climate:

Procurement of 30 zero-emission buses, with associated charging infrastructure

Improved rider amenities for Petaluma Transit

Construction of the SMART Petaluma North commuter rail station.

Reduced air pollution, GHG emissions, and VMT. Improving options for mode shifts to transit are essential to meet the goals of SCTA's 2050 Comprehensive Transportation Plan.

Network integration planning and implementation components to build on existing integration efforts between Petaluma Transit, Santa Rosa CityBus, Sonoma County Transit, and improve connections to SMART, the Mendocino Transit Authority, and other transit operators within Sonoma County

The Sierra Club strongly supports this application for overdue improvements in passenger rail and bus transit. The project is critical to give residents healthy options that will reduce congestion, improve the quality of life, promote transit-oriented development, improve access to equity priority communities, and pursue a comprehensive and more sustainable transportation network for our future.

Thank you for considering the SCTA grant application.

Sincerely,

Shirley Johnson, Chair
Sierra Club, Sonoma Group