



# Purpose & Need

## Project Purpose\*:

- Provide improved transit connectivity and ease of use in and around downtown San Rafael.
- Enhance local and regional transit use by bringing together multiple modes of the transportation network--including the SMART-bus connection--into a hub which affords transit users the safest, most efficient means of using bus and rail services.
- Efficiently accommodate transit users and services and reduce operating costs and improve transit desirability.
- Design a functional, attractive, cost-effective facility that can meet long-term projected service levels and be implemented in an expeditious manner, so as to minimize the period of use of the interim facility.
- Provide a transit facility that is readily accessible to individuals with disabilities, transit users, and transit dependent populations, including those with low incomes.
- Provide a secure, safe, and inviting space for transit patrons.
- Create a more accessible transit facility for all users by reducing vehicular, rail, bicycle, and pedestrian conflicts and improving safety.
- Provide convenient, pedestrian connections to surrounding land uses.

## The SRTC project is needed for the following reasons:

- To preserve and enhance the functionality and effectiveness of the transit center following the implementation of the SMART Phase 2 line to Larkspur and the resulting loss of some of the transit center facilities.
- A new transit center solution in downtown San Rafael would address near-term and long-term transit needs while improving the desirability and usability of transit for both local residents and regional commuters.
- It would also, to the extent feasible, minimize traffic congestion and facilitate smooth transit operations while also promoting pedestrian safety.

\*A Purpose & Need statement is required as part of the environmental process. A project's "need" is an identified deficiency or problem. A project's "purpose" is the set of objectives that will be met to address that deficiency.