



October 24, 2024

Marin Transit District Board
Submitted via info @marintransit.org

Dear Marin Transit Chair Colbert:

As the elected Mayor of San Rafael, I am writing on behalf of the City of San Rafael, and not the City Council, to address the ongoing discussions regarding Marin Transit's acquisition of 1075 E. Francisco Boulevard. The City places great importance on the public process involved in any land use acquisition, and while we acknowledge that Marin Transit is not obligated to adhere to the City's standard procedures, the City has concerns regarding the proposed project.

Since my last letter in August, City staff has determined that the proposed use of the property as a bus parking and electrification facility does not align with the current "Commercial" zoning designation. Marin Transit's response suggests the Board may be prepared to proceed by invoking a rarely used provision, Government Code Section 65402, to bypass the City's General Plan - a plan developed through years of effort and the input of hundreds of residents. This is concerning for the City, as we had hoped the Board would either modify the project to comply with existing zoning or pursue a General Plan Amendment.

However, we are encouraged that there may be another way forward: the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Such an agreement would formalize the commitment to collaboration and ensure that a public process is followed, allowing for meaningful input from the City and its residents. This MOU would not only celebrate the federal funding that supports Marin Transit's climate goals but also honor the importance of public engagement in shaping projects of this magnitude. While the details remain to be worked out, the City's primary focus is fostering a shared commitment between Marin Transit and San Rafael to collaborate constructively.

I would like to thank the Board for listening to the City's concerns and for considering this innovative solution. I am confident that the MOU will pave the way for a project that can be embraced by Marin Transit, the City of San Rafael, stakeholders, and our residents alike. I look forward to working together on the next steps in developing this important agreement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Colin".

Kate Colin
Mayor, City of San Rafael