

February 27, 2025

Subject: A Visionary Approach for the Marin Transit Electric Bus Parking Lot and Maintenance Facility

Dear Members of the Marin Transit Board,

I appreciate the opportunity to have met with you individually to discuss the Marin Transit electric bus parking lot project and to share ideas about how this investment can be leveraged for broader community impact. I value your openness and curiosity in considering a visionary approach that aligns with both transit priorities, shared climate goals and the needs of the Canal neighborhood.

As you review Marin Transit's community engagement plan, I urge the Board to take a more meaningful and transformative approach—one that goes beyond the limited scope currently proposed. The City of San Rafael is asking Marin Transit to enter into a formal agreement (such as an MOU or Collaboration Agreement) with the City to ensure a structured and authentic engagement process that results in a lasting community benefit. Without a formal agreement, Marin Transit's engagement remains informal and optional, lacking the accountability to deliver real outcomes for residents.

The City of San Rafael spent years engaging deeply with the community to update General Plan 2040 to ensure that future development reflects the needs and priorities of our residents and that future land use decisions are made in an equitable and sustainable way. However, when Marin Transit acquired the East Francisco site, the agency was legally able to override the City's land use regulations. While this decision was within Marin Transit's legal authority, it dismissed years of community feedback regarding how our residents wanted their community to develop in the future. It is important to the city that we continue to center community voices while also pursuing climate goals; through a formal agreement, this can be done.

I recognize that Marin Transit has secured a once-in-a-generation investment. And, how it is used, matters. A formal agreement with the City would allow Marin Transit to leverage this investment to not only meet transit needs but also align with broader community goals. With a collaborative approach, additional state, regional, and philanthropic funding could be secured to maximize impact.

Fortunately, at Marin Transit's October 2024 meeting, the Board adopted a one-page addendum outlining additional benefits from an agreement. I am deeply appreciative of this previous action taken by the Board but what is missing from that addendum, and I'm now requesting, is this clear language that formalizes the agreement: *To ensure transparency, accountability, and meaningful community input, Marin Transit and the City of San Rafael shall enter into a formal agreement (such as an MOU or Collaboration Agreement) outlining the structure of this engagement process and the integration of community-identified benefits into the final project plan.*

This additional language will ensure that the project serves as a model as to how transit agencies and cities can work together to create lasting community benefits. Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to continuing this important conversation and to working together to build a project of which we can all be proud.

Sincerely,



Kate Colin
Mayor, San Rafael