

From: [Jennifer Palladini](#)
To: [Karina Garcia](#)
Subject: Re: Sonoma-Rohnert Park Route
Date: Saturday, February 18, 2023 11:14:58 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Proposal for Sonoma-Rohnert Park Direct Bus Service-2.pdf](#)

EXTERNAL

Hi Karina.

Can you please include this document in the Agenda packet for the March 8 meeting? We are hoping to get some other comments for inclusion in the packet but because of the holiday on Monday it may not be possible to get the statements from supporting institutions in on time.

Thank you!
Jennifer

On Fri, Feb 17, 2023 at 12:58 PM Jennifer Palladini <jennifer.palladini@gmail.com> wrote:
Thank you!

On Fri, Feb 17, 2023 at 11:44 AM Karina Garcia <Karina.Garcia@sonoma-county.org> wrote:

Jennifer,

We are waiting on confirmation for the date to be on the agenda.

We understand the challenges with in person meetings. Prior to Covid the MAC was meeting in person and we have made virtual meetings available until now. Again, we are working towards hybrid meetings and rely on technology to work. It will most likely be available for March 8 but we don't want to guarantee what is out of our control as the meeting will be at the school district and we depend on their equipment.

All public comments are welcomed. If you would like them to be part of the agenda packet, please submit by February 21 as the agenda will be posted on February 22.

Karina

From: Jennifer Palladini <jennifer.palladini@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 10:09 AM
To: Karina Garcia <Karina.Garcia@sonoma-county.org>
Subject: Re: Sonoma-Rohnert Park Route

EXTERNAL

Hi Karina.

When you say you are waiting for confirmation from SCT, is that in regards to the date when this will be on the Agenda, or the format of the meeting?

If at all possible, a hybrid or zoom meeting would be preferred as some of those who were planning to comment do not reside in the Sonoma Valley area and would not be able to participate at an in-person meeting, for example, representatives of the institutions that would be served by the proposed routes and families that use the mirror route that serves West County residents. It is also in general much easier for residents like myself who work and are caregivers to participate in remote meetings.

Finally, is it possible for statements of support from the institutions that would be served by the new route or other comments from interested parties to be included in the Agenda packet?

Thank you again,

Jen

On Fri, Feb 17, 2023 at 9:51 AM Karina Garcia <Karina.Garcia@sonoma-county.org> wrote:

Hi Jennifer,

We are waiting for official confirmation from SC Transit's participation for the March 8 meeting. When we first discussed, the meeting was via zoom, but we are now going back to in person so it might change staff availability. We are looking into a hybrid option but can't guarantee thus not promoting it. If it is available it will be listed on the

agenda and announced at the beginning of the meeting. Are you on our distribution list?

You are welcomed to submit public comment and ask that it be read at the meeting. When you send the comment please add: Public Comment March 8 meeting in the subject and ask it be read during public comment in the body.

Karina

From: Jennifer Palladini <jennifer.palladini@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 8:04 AM
To: Karina Garcia <Karina.Garcia@sonoma-county.org>
Subject: Re: Sonoma-Rohnert Park Route

EXTERNAL

Hi Karina.

So this is confirmed on the agenda for March 8? I have to work until 7:00 in Santa Rosa that day teaching at SRJC. Is there opportunity for written comments to be read at the meeting or any remote participation?

I had also received this same information from Bryan Albee in discussion about the proposed new route in November. I explained to him that, like other routes from the Sonoma Valley, these routes aren't practical, which is why they don't attract much ridership. For example, route 40/44 requires riders to leave at 6:15 am to arrive for class at 8:30, while riders from other parts of the county have direct routes timed to arrive for their school day. What we are looking for is equity in access to services.

Thank you again,

Jennifer

On Thu, Feb 16, 2023 at 10:01 PM Karina Garcia <Karina.Garcia@sonoma-county.org> wrote:

Dear Jennifer,

I wanted to share with you an update received from SC Transit.

We currently have service from Sonoma Valley that serves both the SRJC in Santa Rosa via Route 30 and SSU via the routes 40 and 44.

The link below illustrates the seven-day service between Sonoma Valley and SRJC:

https://sctransit.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/SCTSchedule_30-34.pdf

With schedule changes introduced on Sunday (12/11), we have a morning Route 40 bus that departs from the Sonoma Plaza that connects with a Route 44 northbound trip from the Petaluma Transit Mall. It arrives at Sonoma Mountain Village (Credo HS) at 7:42am. The afternoon is served by a new Route 44X trip that picks up at Credo HS and operates express service south to the Petaluma Transit Mall. At the Transit Mall, the same bus continues to the Sonoma Plaza at 4:25pm. Upon its arrival at the Sonoma Plaza, the same bus continues as a westbound Route 30 at 5:20pm.

[SCTSchedule_40.pdf \(sctransit.wpenginepowered.com\)](#)

[SCTSchedule_44-48.pdf \(sctransit.wpenginepowered.com\)](#)

While the morning service arrives early for Credo HS which starts at 8:30am, it does provide an alternative from Sonoma Valley. The afternoon trip works much better for Credo's 3:30pm dismissal time as the new Route 44X picks up at 3:45pm. We seldom get requests from Sonoma Valley for trips to SSU.

SC Transit will be monitoring the use of the new trips, especially the afternoon trip from Credo HS, and will discuss at the Springs MAC March 8th meeting. Please note

this will be an in person meeting and take place at the SVUSD boardroom.

Karina



Karina Garcia

Field Representative to Supervisor Susan Gorin
Sonoma County Board of Supervisors
575 Administration Dr., Room 100A
Santa Rosa CA, 95403
Phone: (707) 565-1776
Email: Karina.Garcia@Sonoma-County.org

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Sonoma-Rohnert Park Direct Bus Service

OVERVIEW

We propose a new direct bus route from the Sonoma Valley to Rohnert Park with an emphasis on serving educational institutions: Petaluma SRJC, Credo High School, and Sonoma State University. In addition to serving students, this route would also serve employees of these educational institutions and nearby businesses.

The proposed route would be the equivalent of existing route 26 (Sebastopol, Rohnert Park, Cotati) that brings students from Mirabel Park, Forestville and Sebastopol to Credo HS and SSU in the morning and returns in the afternoon.

This proposed route would increase equity in access to public transit and educational access for residents of the Sonoma Valley compared to other parts of the County such as West County.

DETAILED ROUTE PROPOSAL:

Morning: The proposed route is 28 miles, comparable in mileage and timing to route 26 (22 miles). The route would begin in Glen Ellen at Glen Ellen Market (stop code 7733700) and proceed south on Arnold Drive and Highway 12 with limited stops in Agua Caliente, Boyes Hot Springs, and El Verano. The bus would then leave the Sonoma Valley, taking Highway 116 W to Old Adobe Road, turning onto E Washington and then Sonoma Mountain Parkway to serve Petaluma SRJC. The bus would then continue to Ely Road, Old Redwood Highway N, and Petaluma Hill Road, turning on Valley House to serve Credo HS, continuing from there to SSU. See map on following page.

Afternoon: The bus would run the same route in reverse in the afternoon.

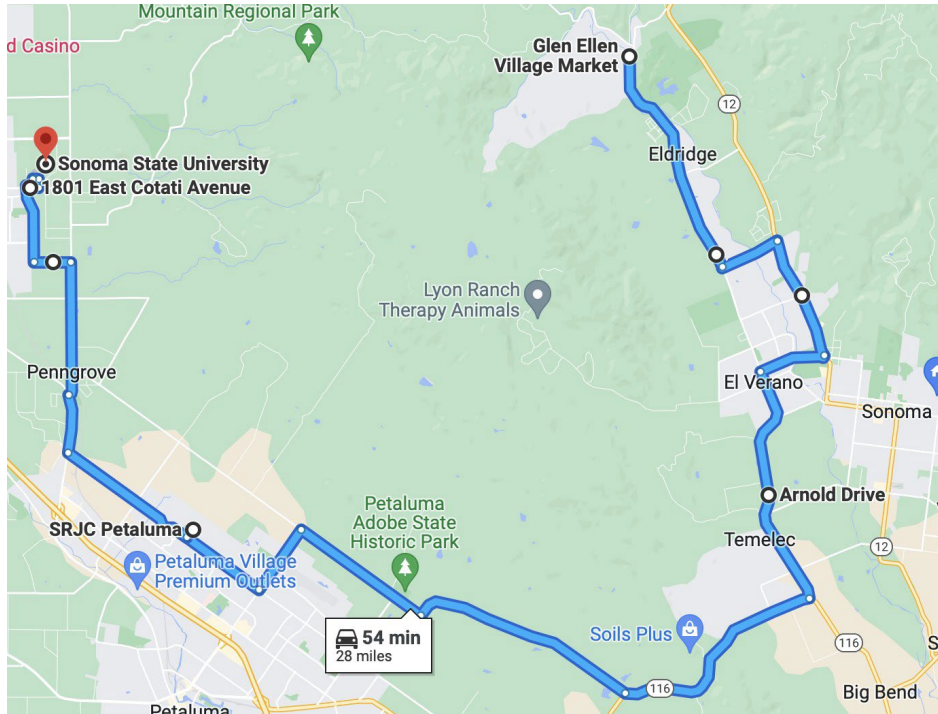
ROUTE TIMING:

Morning: It would likely need to depart Glen Ellen at 7:15 or 7:20 am, arriving at Petaluma SRJC at approximately 7:55-8:10,, Credo High School at 8:15-8:25, and Sonoma State at 8:20-8:30. This schedule will allow Petaluma SRJC students to arrive in time for 9:00 am class times, Credo High School students to arrive for their 8:30 start time, and SSU students to arrive in time for 9:00 am class times.

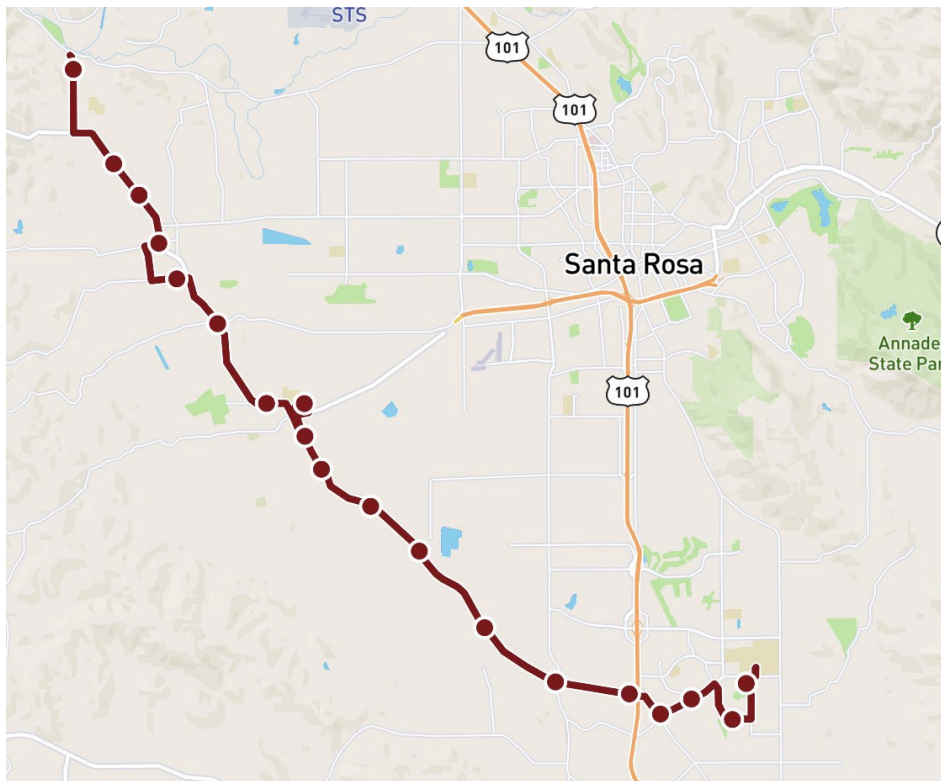
Afternoon: The route would reverse itself, departing SSU around 3:35, picking up at Credo at 3:45, and picking up at Petaluma SRJC at 3:50. This corresponds to SSU students completing classes at 2:50, Credo HS dismissal at 3:30, and students taking early afternoon courses at Petaluma SRJC.

Possible Evening Route: An additional evening return route could begin at 6:10 at Sunrise Park/Callinan Sports and Fitness Center to serve Credo HS students participating in athletic programs taking place there or on campus, and SSU and Petaluma SRJC student with late-afternoon classes.

Proposed Sonoma-Cotati-Rohnert Park Route (28 miles):



Existing Sebastopol-Cotati-Rohnert Park Route (22 miles):



BENEFITS OF PROPOSED ROUTE:

Population Size and Equity:

Residents of the Sonoma Valley should be equally served by publicly-funded Sonoma County Transit to those in other regions of the County, including West County. Below are population estimates of regions in West County served by route 26 compared to the Sonoma Valley areas that would be served by the proposed route. Note, these do not include those living outside of the designated areas; there are estimated to be over 42,000 people living in the Sonoma Valley (source, [Sonoma Valley Fund](#)).

Sonoma Valley		West County	
Glen Ellen	1200	Guerneville	5000
Fetters Hot Springs-Agua Caliente	4100	Forestville	3700
El Verano	4000	Graton	1700
Boyes Hot Spring	6600	Sebastopol	7600
Sonoma	11,000		
Total	=26,900	Total	=18,000

In addition to the current residents, proposed plans for the Sonoma Developmental Center will add hundreds of additional homes and thousands of new residents at Eldridge, between Glen Ellen and Boyes Hot Springs. This proposed route will serve those future residents as well.

Currently, Sonoma is disproportionately underserved by Sonoma County Transit. All intercity trips from Sonoma to another city require stopping at transit malls in Petaluma or Santa Rosa, lengthening the time required for travel. If we use a student traveling to Credo High School from Mirabel Park on existing route 26 as an example, and compare to a student from the Sonoma Valley, departing from the Sonoma Plaza, we see that the Mirabel Park student leaves one hour and 8 minutes prior to the start of school, while the Sonoma Valley student must leave for school 2 hours and 12 minutes prior to the start of school, at 6:15 am, over one hour earlier, despite traveling the same distance. **This is not a viable route and the lack of ridership on this route should not be interpreted as lack of interest.**

Students seeking higher educational opportunities at Petaluma SRJC and SSU, or those wishing to attend Credo HS, a school currently serving over 50 Sonoma Valley students, deserve access on public transit equal to that provided to students from West County communities. Likely more students would attend these campuses if viable public transit routes existed.

Sonoma Plaza to Credo HS and SSU		Mirabel Park to Credo HS and SSU	
Distance traveled	18 miles	Distance traveled	18 miles
Depart	6:15 am	Depart	7:22 am
Arrive Credo HS	7:42 am 87 minutes	Arrive Credo HS	8:15 53 minutes
Time spent waiting for class start	48 minutes	Time spent waiting for class start	15 minutes
Total travel time	132 minutes	Total travel time	68 minutes

Residents of the Sonoma Valley have no viable public transit access to these institutions, thus those unable to drive a car for financial or physical reasons are unable to access higher education and or choose to attend Credo or Tech high schools. The lack of public transit is a strain on the students and families of the 55 students attending Credo HS from the Sonoma community relative to those coming from Sebastopol, Santa Rosa, Petaluma, Novato, etc..who are able to take a direct bus or train to campus, and it prevents prospective students from being able to attend who might wish to otherwise.

Reductions in Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Traffic Congestion:

The proposed route would reduce the number of cars driven to Petaluma SRJC, Cotati and Rohnert Park. While we do not have numbers of students attending Petaluma SRJC and SSU from the Sonoma Valley, 55 students attend Credo High School. Many of these students are driven by parents who make round trip drives both in the morning and the afternoon. A public bus would eliminate the number of cars on the road, thus helping the County achieve its greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals. It will not be possible for the County to achieve these goals without improved inter-city public transit routes such as the proposed Sonoma-Cotati-Rohnert Park route. This route will also reduce traffic in an already overburdened transportation corridor of vehicles that wouldn't have to drive.

Likelihood of High Ridership:

The proposed route is similar to existing route 26 that has been successful with high ridership including many high school students. College students currently have free ridership through the Subsidized Fare Program for College Students, while SRJC students can currently obtain free Clipper Cards as well. Free and fast public transit increases ridership among college students (J. Palladini, anecdotal), thus Petaluma SRJC and SSU students would also likely take advantage of the proposed route.

Ease of Adoption and Announcement of New Route:

The proposed route would utilize existing SCT bus stops, including those on Arnold Drive in Glen Ellen, Highway 12 and Verano Avenue in the Sonoma Springs region, and existing stops at Petaluma SRJC, Credo HS (Camino Colegio), and SSU.

The educational institutions served by the proposed routes have established ways of communicating the start of the new route to ensure that prospective riders know about and can plan to take the new bus once it is established.

From: [Anna](#)
To: [Karina Garcia](#)
Subject: Proposal for bus route Sonoma/ Rohnert Park/ Credo High School
Date: Monday, February 20, 2023 9:05:10 PM

EXTERNAL

Hello, I am a parent of an incoming freshman (fall 2023) student who will be attending Credo High School, in Rohnert Park. My family and I live in the town of Sonoma. The drive to Credo High School from our home is approximately 35 minutes one way. My husband and myself would greatly benefit from the proposed bus route from Sonoma to Rohnert park/ Credo High School and back, as we both work 8 to 4pm jobs, making it impossible for us to get our daughter to and from school each day. There are a number of other students/families from Sonoma that find themselves in a very similar predicament. My daughter would use this service everyday if it were an option, and I know many other families whose children are/or will be attending Credo High School would use this service as well. I truly hope that this proposal is accepted as it would help my family and so many others tremendously. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Anna Som

Sent from my iPhone

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From: [Andrea Akmenkalns](#)
To: [Karina Garcia](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Sunday, March 5, 2023 1:32:56 PM

EXTERNAL

Dear Sonoma County Supervisors, Sonoma County Transit Authority, and Springs Municipal Advisory Council,

I am writing to you as the Executive Director of Credo High School in support of a new direct bus route linking the Sonoma Valley with educational institutions in Cotati, Petaluma, and Rohnert Park, including Credo High School.

Credo High School is a tuition-free, college-prep, Public Waldorf independent charter school authorized by the Cotati Rohnert Park Unified School District. We offer a rigorous academic curriculum that exceeds the University of California admission requirements and includes a full complement of enrichment subjects, including printmaking, sculpture, media arts, blacksmithing, woodworking, farming, theater, American music, orchestra, world percussion, eco robotics, and more. In 2021, Credo was recognized as a California Distinguished School.

Because of our strong academics and unique enrichment offerings, we attract students from across Sonoma County and beyond, including 55 students in the Sonoma Valley. Many of our students who live along the 101 corridor are able to travel to and from school on SMART, while students from West County use SCTA route 26. I support the proposed route because it will ease the disproportionate burden transportation poses on our families from the Sonoma Valley relative to other parts of the County. This new route would also increase the accessibility of our program to youth from the Sonoma Valley for whom travel via private automobile is not an option, due to time, mobility, financial or other constraints. The lack of safe and convenient public transportation options to and from our school from the Sonoma Valley is a barrier that prevents many interested students from enrolling.

I also support this route because it will help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Credo High maintains a commitment to sustainability and climate action, and we encourage our students to travel to school by low-carbon transport, including walking, cycling, and public transportation. The adoption of this proposed route is in line with this commitment.

More broadly, I urge you to consider the needs of our local youth in the design of public transit routes in general. Teens want to connect with their community and need access to opportunities available in different parts of the County. Low-cost public transit access to the 101 corridor from more isolated regions like the Sonoma Valley would provide its youth increased opportunities to engage, socialize, recreate, and learn.

Sincerely,

Andrea Akmenkalns, Executive Director, Credo High

Andrea.Akmenkalns@credohigh.org
707-664-0600

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From: [Alexa Forrester](#)
To: [Karina Garcia](#)
Subject: Public comment, agenda item 8, March 8
Date: Sunday, March 5, 2023 10:08:05 AM

EXTERNAL

March 4, 2023

Dear Springs Municipal Advisors,

Thank you for taking time to seriously consider the possibility of creating a bus line to serve local residents and help increase equitable access to educational opportunities for all in the county.

I am writing to support a one- or two-year pilot of a route connecting Glen Ellen, through Sonoma, to SRJC Petaluma, SSU, and Rohnert Park high schools. The detailed proposal is [here](#).

As a Sonoma County transit rider, mother of school children, and instructor at SRJC, I regularly see how limited transit options directly translate into limited opportunity for county families and kids.

This new pilot line can be modeled off of the already well-used line 26. From an equity perspective, it is unfair that families in West County are being afforded these resources and support from the County when the families in the Springs community and Sonoma are not.

Further, there is no way to truly gauge demand (or lack thereof) for this route without actually creating the route and letting it run for one or two years. The county may claim that they already have bus service, but the current routes are so burdensome in terms of travel times that most families cannot consider them as a practical option.

In light of the county's equity and climate goals, we need to be willing to experiment with solutions like these, that will open educational opportunities equitably for the county's students, release busy parents from chauffeuring duties, and help reduce vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse emissions.

Thank you for working to make this pilot possible,

Dr. Alexa Forrester
Instructor, Santa Rosa Junior College

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From: [Elizabeth Griego](#)
To: [Karina Garcia](#)
Cc: [Jennifer Palladini](#)
Subject: Public Comment 3/8 : Please acknowledge this comment from the Earth Care Alliance at the meeting
Date: Saturday, March 4, 2023 1:58:47 PM

EXTERNAL



TO: Members of the County Board of Supervisors, Sonoma County Transit Authority and the Springs MAC:

FR: Elizabeth Griego, Co-chair, Sonoma Valley Earth Care Alliance

I am writing on behalf of the 35 members of the Sonoma Valley Earth Care Alliance to support the proposal for a new Sonoma Valley direct bus route to Cotati/Rohnert Park. The proposal under review focuses on a population that should be better served by public transit; specifically, the students, faculty and staff of the following educational institutions: Petaluma SRJC, Sonoma State University, and the two free public charter schools that enroll 55+ Sonoma Valley students. This proposal is particularly pertinent because the Sonoma Valley is currently underserved by public transportation compared to other parts of the County along the 101 corridor that have more bus service and access to SMART. The disparity in access to public transportation for Sonoma Valley residents needs to be rectified for reasons of equity in access to education.

There is an additional reason for supporting this proposal, however; one that is particularly important to the members of the Earth Care Alliance: the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Our organization is committed to effecting reductions in Greenhouse Gas emissions wherever possible. The Sonoma County Board of supervisors adopted the Climate Emergency Resolution in 2019. To be faithful to that intention, the Board of Supervisors must recognize that growing congestion in automobile transportation along our crowded roadways is the leading source of greenhouse gas emissions. Enabling the use of more and better public transit will reduce the number of cars on the road at key times of the day, notably along Highway 12 and other congested transit streets, so that the intention behind the Climate Emergency Resolution might be addressed directly.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We would welcome your support.

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From: [Jennifer Palladini](#)
To: [Karina Garcia](#)
Subject: Letters of Support, updated
Date: Saturday, March 4, 2023 8:32:56 AM
Attachments: [SEC, Dale.pdf](#)
[GB Letter of Support Sonoma-Petaluma.pdf](#)
[Morell Support Letter, Sonoma-Cotati Bus Route.docx](#)

EXTERNAL

Hi Karina.

Here is the correct set of letters of support with the updated letter from Richard Dale..

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Dear Members of the Springs Municipal Advisory Committee,

I am writing in support of the proposed direct bus route linking the Sonoma Valley with Cotati and Rohnert Park, including direct service to Petaluma SRJC ([See Proposal](#)).

As a parent, I have greatly benefited from the direct services connecting Sebastopol to Sonoma State and Credo High School (Line 26). This critical transit allows my child to access quality education at both Credo and Sonoma State, while removing costly burdens for my family and the planet. This service is widely utilized, daily, by many students traveling from West County to the Rohnert Park-Cotati area. My child also takes this line to connect with other important services in Rohnert Park and with her friends from other parts of the county.

In addition to allowing our family greater access to educational institutions and support services, the process of taking public transit itself has been a beneficial learning opportunity for our children. Students from an early age how to navigate public transit, rely on and understand municipal services, and gain independence in a safe and sustainable way. Riding the bus has also encouraged my child to take other public transit instead of relying on me or other parents, including the SMART train and city transit services.

As an urban planner, I understand the complexity aligning transit services with educational schedules, locations, and events. When I was at Santa Monica College (SMC), I helped to create three new lines that connected students from all over Los Angeles County to the SMC. These lines were highly successful and had remarkably high utilization rates and rider satisfaction. Surprisingly, the Santa Monica Big Blue Bus saw a significant increase in ridership across multiple other lines as well. As a result of increasing access, familiarizing and onboarding riders, and reducing costs, students began taking public transit to meet other transportation needs throughout the week. We also saw an increase in student engagement and enrollment.

Personally and professionally, I have witnessed shifts in behavior, increases in ridership, and improvements in environmental impacts. I cannot emphasize strongly enough the importance of providing public transit that is connected to and informed by students, parents, and educational services as outlined in the Sonoma-Petaluma Transit Proposal.

I strongly encourage the Springs Municipal Advisory Committee and Sonoma County Transit to support the addition of this new route and continue to explore ways to increase access to convenient, safe, and sustainable ways for residents to access educational programs and county-wide events and services.

Sincerely,
Genevieve Bertone, M.A., Ed.D.

March 2, 2023

Dear Members of the Springs MAC, County Board of Supervisors, and SCTA Board of Directors,

I write to you as Chair of the new City of Sonoma Climate Action Commission and as President of the Board of Directors of Sonoma Ecology Center; while this letter reflects my own views rather than those of either organization, I note my positions to suggest my knowledge of and commitment to effective climate action now in our home area. From this perspective, I am convinced that it is imperative for Sonoma County to take every opportunity to aggressively respond to the climate emergency increasingly unfolding around us – from fires to drought and beyond. As you are well aware, transportation is far and away the leading source of our county's greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore, improved public transportation is critical to meeting our climate goals.

I am pleased to express my strong support for creation of a new direct public bus service linking Sonoma Valley with the Cotati/Rohnert Park area. I understand that the success of Route 26 serving riders from West County into this area in recent years demonstrates that a similar route from the Sonoma Valley would similarly achieve high ridership, even with perhaps only two buses per day. Such a new route will considerably reduce carbon emissions and vehicle congestion; and it will allow increased access for our Sonoma Valley residents to important educational institutions, including the County's only four-year college. At present, Sonoma Valley is overall rather poorly served with public transit options as compared to many other parts of the County that are indeed better served by SCTA buses and the Smart Train.

Thanks so much for considering this request for expanded public transit, and for all that you do to improve the lives of our Sonoma County residents and our approach to effective climate action.

Sincerely,

David Morell, PhD



SONOMA ECOLOGY CENTER

Beautiful. Sustainable. Sonoma.

March 3, 2023

Dear Sonoma County Supervisors, Sonoma County Transit Authority, and Springs MAC,

Sonoma Ecology Center writes today in support of a new direct bus route providing service between Sonoma Valley and educational institutions in Cotati, Petaluma, and Rohnert Park.

Our programs reach about 1,100 students annually, including our teen internship program. We have seen how young people in Sonoma Valley feel isolated from the rest of the world. For young children, this may be a blessing, but for teens and young adults it can crush their sense of possibility for their lives. Free or low-cost public transit access to the busier parts of Sonoma County is needed so these young people can find their opportunities. Currently, transit access to SSU, Credo High, Tech High, and Petaluma SRJC is prohibitively time-consuming and unrealistic. A student with two working parents, or without access to a car, just cannot access those institutions.

There has to be a better way, one that is in line with Sonoma County's commitments to climate leadership and social justice.

Providing bus service for students to access more of the 101 corridor, where there are so many things for them to do, would help address the stark inequities in mobility, education, sports, and opportunity faced especially by kids who live in the Springs, and highlighted by the 2021 *Portrait of Sonoma County*.

Reducing traffic and emissions created by the single-occupant or carpool vehicles currently traveling between Sonoma Valley and the Petaluma/Rohnert Park area is another reason for a new bus route. Since this route is for education access, it only needs to run twice or three times a day, which saves on cost, VMT, and emissions.

Please consider the size of the population of high school and college-age people in Sonoma Valley, compared to other parts of the county, and provide a new bus route that gives Sonoma Valley young people equal access to the life-changing power of mobility.

Sincerely,



Richard Dale, Executive Director

From: [Alynn Kjeldsen](#)
To: [Karina Garcia](#)
Cc: [Palladini, Jennifer](#)
Subject: Public Comment 3/8
Date: Monday, March 6, 2023 9:33:18 AM

EXTERNAL

Dear Council Members,

I am writing in support of creating a bus line that would connect Sonoma Valley to the educational facilities of Credo High School, Santa Rosa Junior College (Petaluma campus) and Sonoma State University.

I am the fortunate recipient of parents efforts to create Sonoma County Transit bus route 26. Knowing that this bus line existed, allowed us to consider Credo High School as a viable option for our two high schoolers. Currently the bus is full every morning and afternoon with Credo students and various other riders. Prior to the pandemic, two buses were necessary to accommodate the amount of students on the bus to and from the Sebastopol area. I have confidence that parents and students will support the bus option if given the opportunity.

I also have experience as a bus rider when I was a Sonoma State student traveling daily from Santa Rosa. I believe that our traditional car culture needs to end. Public transit is a positive improvement for the environment, social growth and skill building. We all understand the environmental benefits of taking (approx) 40 to 50 vehicles (parents/students) off the road. Other additional benefits include social time for young adults on the bus. High schoolers have surprisingly little time at school for social interaction and they are all still recouping lost social time/skills from the pandemic. Riding the bus encourages independence and responsibility (ie getting to the bus on time, having money, paying attention where to get off).

Please help advance this proposal to the next level of review so that we can get these students on the bus and (cars off the road) by the new school year, August 2023!

Thank you for you for your consideration,
Alynn Kjeldsen
448 Pleasant Hill Road
Sebastopol

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From: [Viola Palladini](#)
To: [Karina Garcia](#)
Subject: Re: Public Comment 3/8
Date: Monday, March 6, 2023 8:39:13 PM

EXTERNAL

I forgot to ask to have my comment recognized by the Chair at the meeting.

Thank you.

On Mon, Mar 6, 2023 at 8:38 PM Viola Palladini <violapalladini6@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear members of the springs MAC,

I am Viola Palladini, a freshman at Credo Highschool. I am writing to ask you to support a bus that goes to Rohnert Park from Sonoma. Many of my friends live in Sebastopol and they all take a public bus to school. It is unfair that there is not one from Sonoma. I have taken the bus to Sebastopol to go to friends' houses before and it is very helpful to be able to be more independent. It is hard to arrange carpools for everyone coming from Sonoma, and many people do not go to Credo because it is a challenge for parents to get them to school. If we had a bus like the other surrounding areas, many more people would have the option.

Sonoma is very isolated from other places, and it makes it very hard for teenagers. to Sonoma is a small town and there's not many things for us to do here. We are not able to go to other places because of lack of public transportation like my friends who live in other places. I hope you will make it easier for people to get to other parts of the county from Sonoma.

Sincerely,
Viola Palladini

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From: [Meredith Rebolledo](#)
To: [Karina Garcia](#)
Cc: [Jennifer Palladini](#)
Subject: Public Comment 3/8
Date: Monday, March 6, 2023 9:54:09 PM

EXTERNAL

Karina,

I would like to request that this public comment is acknowledged at the meeting.

My son is a Sophomore at Credo High School in Rhonert Park. For the last year and half now, we have had to organize a car pool every school year to get my son to school and back. He was at Woodland Star Charter School prior, and 1/3 of his 8th grade graduating class attends Credo High now. There is a real need to get the over 50-plus students, like my son, to school and back from Sonoma Valley.

Next year, in my daughters 8th grade Woodland Star Charter School class, around 15 out of 20 of the students will be going to Credo. So a lot more families will need to get their kids to school in the year to come. It would be a fantastic option to have these students take the bus to get safely to and from the valley to Rohnert Park.

Currently, there are Credo High students that take public transit 2 hours every afternoon from school to Santa Rosa, and then another bus in order to get home to Sonoma Valley everyday.

There is a dire need for a link to a bus line to that part of the county so these students can get to school safely. It has been proven successful in the Sebastopol area where a bus route for many years has been getting those students safely to Rhonert Park to school. I truly hope that we can add a line in Sonoma Valley too.

Thank you for your time.

Meredith Rebolledo
Glen Ellen Resident

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From: [Ziccone, Deborah](#)
To: [Karina Garcia](#)
Cc: [Palladini, Jennifer](#)
Subject: Public Comment 3/08/2023
Date: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 3:16:05 PM
Attachments: [SRJC Letter of Support-Sonoma Transit.pdf](#)
Importance: High

EXTERNAL

Karina Garcia,

We would like to request that this public comment is acknowledged at the March 8, 2023 meeting.

Please confirm receipt.

Much appreciated,

Deborah Ziccone

SRJCTransportation

Student Support Services

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SRJC PETALUMA

March 7, 2023

Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, Sonoma County Transit Authority, and Springs MAC

RE: A direct bus route linking the Sonoma Valley with SRJC Petaluma

Dear Board of Supervisors, SCTA, and Springs MAC,

My name is Dr. Matthew Long and I serve as the chief administrator of the Petaluma campus of Santa Rosa Junior College. We serve approximately 6,000 students a year, many of whom are first-generation college students and come from underserved communities.

On behalf of Santa Rosa Junior College Petaluma Campus (SRJC Petaluma), we would like to express our support for two items:

- 1) a new direct bus route linking the Sonoma Valley with SRJC Petaluma
- 2) a direct (no-stop) bus route from the SRJC Santa Rosa Campus to the SRJC Petaluma Campus

For many of our students, County bus transit represents the only option for transportation. Up to the current day, bus transit from Sonoma Valley to our campus has been extremely slow and problematic so as to make it simply not a choice anyone would make. Sonoma Valley is underserved, with direct service only to two cities. In addition, the route from SRJC Santa Rosa to SRJC Petaluma is lengthy and indirect.

The issue at hand is one of equity in access to education. These bus routes would provide direct access to the campus and its services and educational opportunities. Areas of Sonoma Valley house some of our most vulnerable potential students (see 2021 Portrait of Sonoma County). However, these routes would also further reduce GHG emissions and congestion on highways in support of Board of Supervisors Climate Emergency Resolution in 2019.

The SRJC is enthusiastic about the prospect for enhanced access to the campus via direct bus routes.

Sincerely,



Dr. Matthew Long
Executive Dean and Chief Administrator, SRJC Petaluma

From: [Liebman, David](#)
To: [Karina Garcia](#)
Subject: Public Comment 3/8
Date: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 4:03:24 PM
Attachments: [Sonoma-Petaluma SRJC letter of support \(2\).pdf](#)

EXTERNAL

Hello can you please acknowledge this public comment during the Springs Municipal Advisory Committee meeting.

David Liebman
Energy & Sustainability Manager
Capital Projects
Sonoma County Junior College District
Office (707) 522-2836
Cell (310) 430-2063

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February 22, 2023

Dear Members of the Springs Municipal Advisory Committee,

The Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC) Sustainability Committee is writing in support of the proposed direct bus route linking the Sonoma Valley with Cotati and Rohnert Park, including direct service to Petaluma SRJC.

Access to and success in all SRJC educational and extracurricular programs depends upon our community's ability to get to and from our campuses in a convenient, safe, and affordable way. As we seek to lower the carbon footprint and other negative impacts of our community's transportation to and from SRJC campuses, we support solutions that simultaneously help our community members overcome transportation insecurity, and increase mobility options for all residents. The Petaluma SRJC campus is geographically the closest institution of higher education to Sonoma residents, but transportation barriers prevent access by those that are unable to drive.

We encourage the Springs Municipal Advisory Committee and Sonoma County Transit to support the addition of this new route and continue to explore ways to increase access to convenient, safe and affordable ways for residents to access educational programs.

Sincerely,


David Liebman

David Liebman, Abigail Zoger
Co-chairs, Santa Rosa Junior College Sustainability Committee

From: [Alex & Cathy](#)
To: [Jennifer Palladini](#); [Karina Garcia](#)
Subject: Fwd: Public Comment 3/8
Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 10:35:02 AM

EXTERNAL

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Cathy Miller <cmiller@schsd.org>
Date: Wed, Mar 8, 2023 at 10:30 AM
Subject: Public Comment 3/8
To: Alex wilkens (acwilkens@gmail.com) <acwilkens@gmail.com>

Dear Karina,

I would like to request that this public comment is acknowledged at the meeting on 3/8/2023 regarding the Proposal for Sonoma-Rohnert Park Direct Bus Service.

We respectfully request consideration for this proposal for the reasons outlined clearly and succinctly within the document. Initially, when our daughter started at Credo High School in 2021, our family looked toward Sonoma County Transit as an option. However, due to the significant travel and wait time it would take for her on both routes in the mornings and afternoons, we quickly realized this was not viable with her school work and other extracurricular activities. We opted to locate carpooling with other families. While we were fortunate with this arrangement, we also want to advocate that allowing people from Sonoma Valley to have equitable access to various education institutions while reducing the greenhouse footprint is of great value. And, it likely aligns with Sonoma County goals for all its communities.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathy Miller and Alex Wilkens

--

Wilkens / Miller Family

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