



FRIENDS OF **SMART**

5555 Montgomery Drive #L209
Santa Rosa, CA 95409

April 30, 2024

U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Support for the City of Santa Rosa's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Application for a Highway 101 Pedestrian and Bicycle Overcrossing

Dear Evaluation Panel Members:

The Friends of SMART organization supports the application by the City of Santa Rosa to help fund a pedestrian and Bicycle Overcrossing of Highway 101 between College Avenue and Steel Lane under the SS4A grant program. Pedestrians and cyclists who wish to use the Guerneville Road rail station will find that the overcrossing makes it safer and more convenient to ride the train, to get to and from work, the Junior College, or home.

Pedestrian and Bicycle travel across Highway 101 near the Santa Rosa Junior College is currently hazardous because of the fast-moving traffic on Steele Lane and on College Avenue. A bicycle-pedestrian crossing at this location is essential for the safety of people who currently are at risk of being struck by vehicles on College Ave. and Steel Ln.- Guerneville Rd. The data gathered by the Sonoma County Vision Zero project shows that a cyclist or pedestrian is frequently injured near Highway 101 by a fast-moving vehicle. The overcrossing is part of the City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan 2018 to make active transportation more attractive and safer. This project as an important element in efforts by SMART and the City of Santa Rosa to reduce reliance on driving, and to deal with the climate crisis.

The Friends of SMART urge the Department to provide funding for this important bicycle-pedestrian overcrossing which will improve safety for the residents of Sonoma County. The overcrossing is an important and worthwhile investment of Federal dollars. We appreciate your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

Jack Swearengen, Chair

Friends of SMART

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