

# **Pulling Out All the Stops**

CTA Fall Conference November 13, 2019

Rachel Ede Santa Rosa CityBus



#### Santa Rosa, California

- 55 miles north of San Francisco
- 175,000 residents
- County seat for Sonoma Co. and regional hub for services, employment, and education
- CityBus is Santa Rosa's municipal transit system
  - 25 bus peak pull-out
  - 2M annual passenger trips





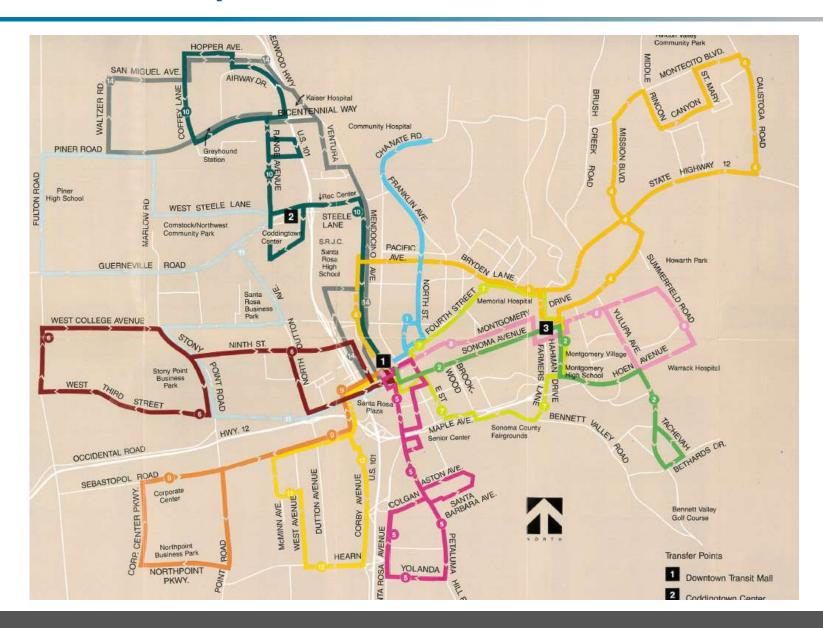




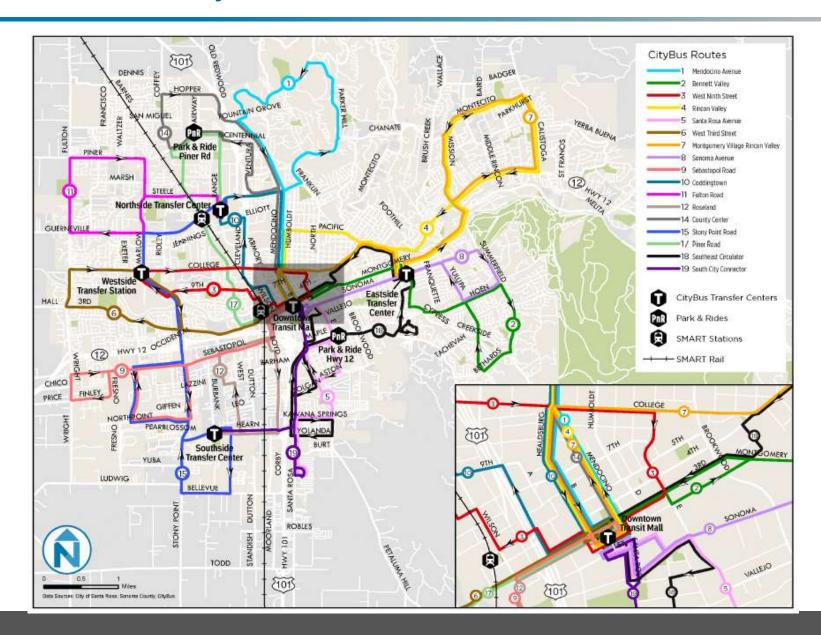
# What's up in Santa Rosa

- First system restructuring in over 25 years
  - Implemented in 2017 following 18 month planning process
- Several related improvements, including "organic" rebranding
- Working towards multi-operator integration/seamlessness
- Staying relevant through resiliency

# Santa Rosa CityBus, c. 1990



# Santa Rosa CityBus, 2016



# **Key Actions Along the Way**

- Built internal consensus around the scope of work
- Assembled a data set that people could trust
- Engaged staff from throughout the organization
- Established Service Design Guidelines based on rider input and industry best practices
  - Adopted by City Council to guide service planning
  - Established route typology to differentiate services
- Conscious effort to re-align transit and land use planning
- TONS of outreach over three phases of public engagement

# "I want you to talk to everyone."







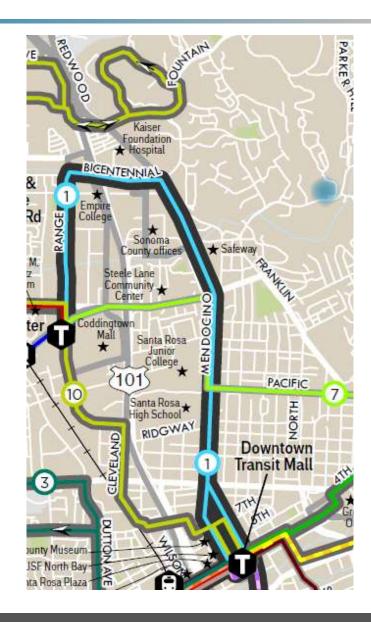


# **Service Planning Outcomes**

- Direct, frequent, two-way service in areas with high ridership,
   balanced with maintaining neighborhood coverage
- New frequent routes (all-day 15 minute service)
- Systemwide improvements:
  - More bi-directional service throughout system
  - More direct routes
  - System that is easier to understand and navigate
  - Better connections to major destinations
- Improved coordination with regional transit services
- Nearly all riders still within ¼ mi. of new bus routes

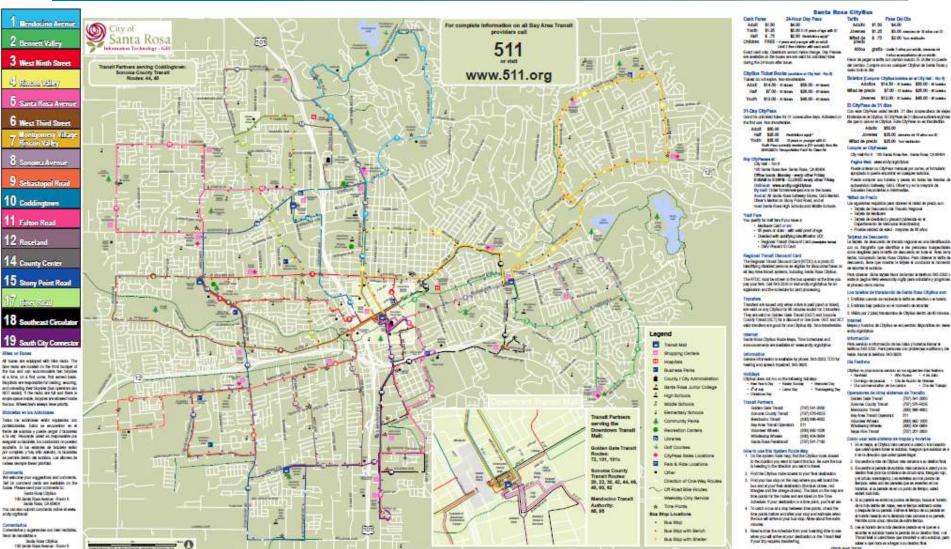
#### **Mendocino Corridor: Before and After**





# **Updating System Map**

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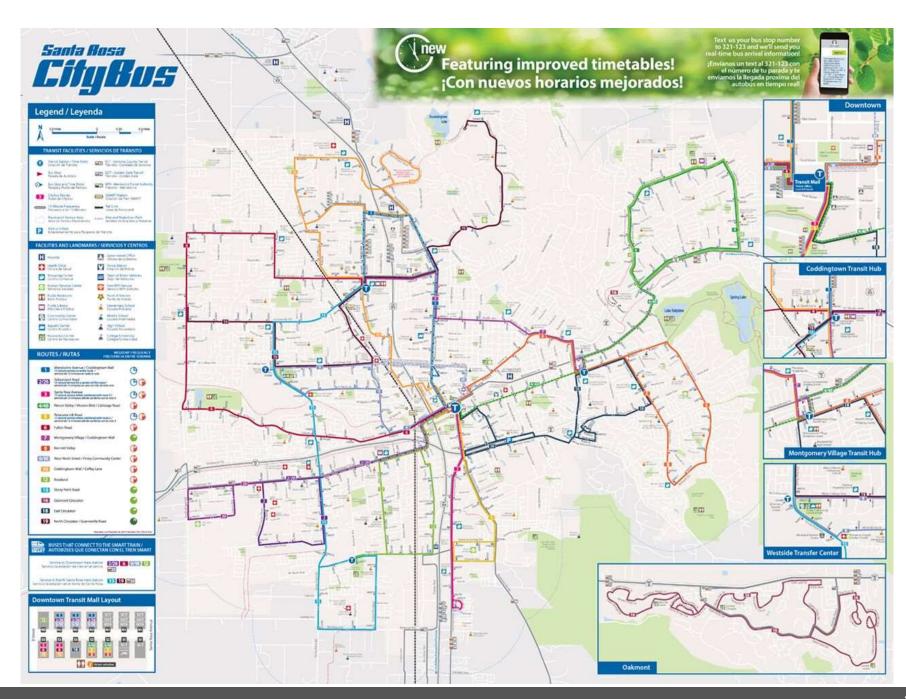
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# Signage at bus stops and Downtown Transit Mall





# New signage







# Redesigned fare media, marketing collateral, buses









#### **Selected Outcomes**

- Strong ridership on high-frequency corridors
- Ridership down following Tubbs
   Fire in 2017, but has rebounded to near pre-fire levels
- On-time performance up: near 90%\*
- Land use-transit coordination;
   CEQA streamlining opportunities
- Basis for negotiating new partnerships:
  - SRJC unlimited pass program
  - Residential unlimited pass programs



#### **Sonoma County Transit Integration and Efficiency Study**

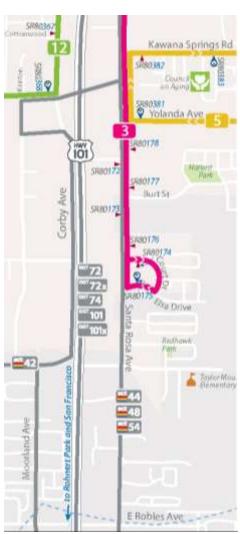
# SonomaCounty Transit





#### Potential areas of integration:

- Fare policy
- Marketing
- Customer service
- Service planning
- Paratransit service delivery
- More unified brand?



# Relevance through resiliency

"Pulling out all the stops" includes making sure we are there for our community, no matter what:

- Evacuations, shelter transportation, personnel deployment
- Continuity of operations
- Multi-operator/regional coordination



# Rachel Ede, Deputy Director Santa Rosa TPW-Transit Division 707-543-3337 rede@srcity.org

