

# What to Expect with the SMART – Larkspur Ferry Connection

SMART touts its new operations to Larkspur Landing as “convenient connectivity” to the ferry, promoting this new connection as generating significant increase in rail ridership. **This assertion seems dubious with 7-10 minute walks to/from the ferry and 20 or more minutes waiting? We shall soon see.**

Current GG Bus Connections from Downtown San Rafael provide a 10-Minute Convenient Service directly to Ferries four times a day and direct service from the Larkspur Ferries four times a day during the peak commute hours (Route 31). **Route 31 trips are timed to SMART and Golden Gate Ferry schedules.**

Bus trips meet SMART trains and take about 10 minutes to deliver riders directly to ferries.

- Return trips to San Rafael 3rd St. take 12-15 minutes.
- Ridership averages about 100 riders each weekday and about 30 riders on weekend days.

Route 31 will be Eliminated When SMART Rail Service Begins to Larkspur Landing (a 7-10 minute walk away from the ferry dock).

**However:**

- SMART trains will arrive at Larkspur Landing 20-70 minutes before ferries depart for SF and rail riders must walk 7-10 minutes to get to the ferry dock.
- In the afternoon commute hours, rail riders again will face a 20-40 minute transfer delay from ferries to trains.
- **Overall, SMART train service appears to consume much more time than current bus schedules.**
- **Will ferry commuters find SMART attractive or will the hassle from train to ferry prove too much?**
- **Weekend ferry users will likely find it much quicker and cheaper to drive and park directly in the ferry parking lot**
- **Was \$55M for SMART TO LARKSPUR A PRUDENT INVESTMENT? Seems dubious but time will tell.**

