

From: The Santa Rosa Junior College Transit Access Club

To: District Transportation Team

The mission statement of Santa Rosa Junior College affirms the institution's commitment to *"setting the standard in cultivating an accessible, **open, barrier-free, sustainable environment** for students, employees, and the community," and to providing "equitable, impactful, transformative, enriching, and holistic learning opportunities that inspire our students to thrive."*

However, like much of Sonoma County, many SRJC students and employees lack access to reliable and efficient public transportation that would allow them to travel to and from District locations. Currently, 32% of SRJC students rely on alternatives to driving alone—whether due to financial constraints, health limitations, or a preference for more sustainable modes such as transit, walking, biking, or carpooling.

SRJC students clearly demonstrate the importance of transit access through their financial commitment: all students pay a mandatory transportation fee (\$1 per unit, up to \$10 per semester and \$5 in summer) to fund free, unlimited rides on Sonoma County Transit, Santa Rosa CityBus, and Petaluma Transit.

To better align with the college's mission to meaningfully reduce transportation barriers and advance sustainability goals, we respectfully request that, as the Transportation Team begins discussions for the 2026–27 transit contracts, the college advocates for improvements in two key areas:

1. Coordination of Transit Schedules with Student and Staff Demand (with emphasis on evening service)

Transit schedules should better reflect when students and employees actually need to travel. We recommend the following, in order of priority:

- Schedule transit arrivals approximately 30 minutes before the first major concentration of classes each day.
- Schedule departures approximately 30 minutes after the final major concentration of classes.
- As funding allows, add additional arrivals and departures timed to high-demand class periods throughout the day. [Attached is an analysis](#) of course schedules

across the Santa Rosa, Petaluma, and Roseland* campuses and sites, identifying peak times of student travel demand.

*Still awaiting data to be shared

2. Improved Connectivity Between the Petaluma and Santa Rosa Campuses

Currently, traveling between the two primary campuses via transit can take approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes, with significant wait times for transfers, particularly at SMART rail connections. This creates a substantial burden for students without access to private vehicles and encourages single-occupancy vehicle travel along Highway 101—counter to shared goals around climate action and congestion reduction.

Improved intercampus connectivity could be achieved through:

- Establishing direct, frequent transit routes between Petaluma and Santa Rosa campuses, particularly during peak academic hours.
 - Providing reliable shuttle connections between SMART train stations and both campuses to reduce transfer delays.
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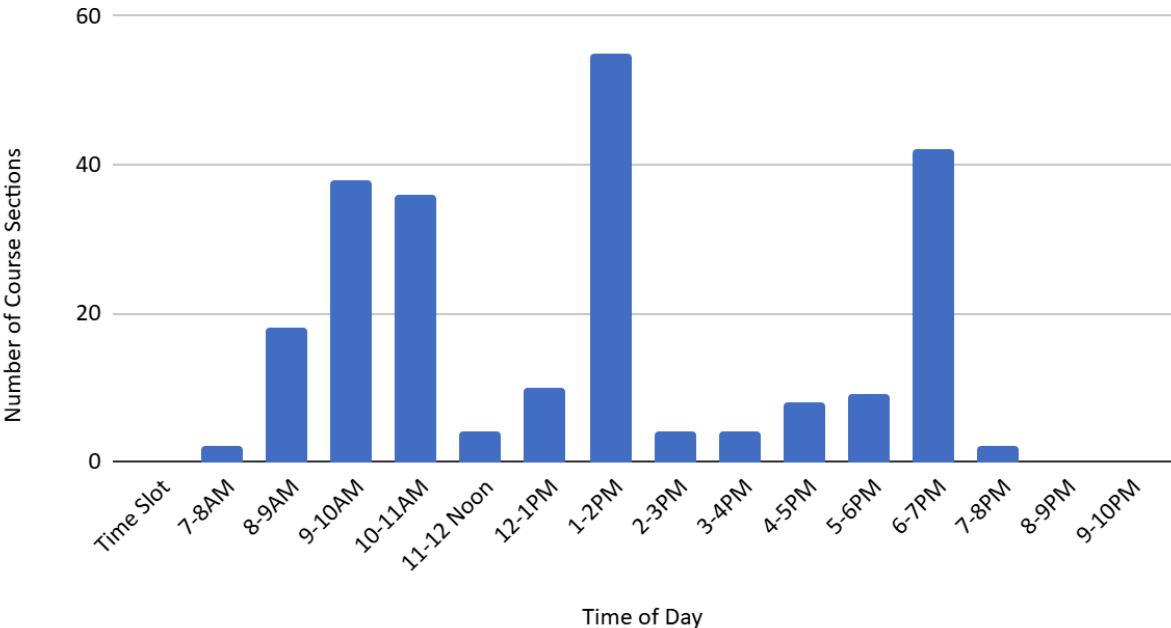
By aligning transit service with the demonstrated needs of the Sonoma County Junior College District community, local transit agencies have a meaningful opportunity to expand educational access, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and increase overall ridership. Improved schedule coordination and stronger intercampus connections would significantly enhance mobility for students and employees, reduce reliance on single-occupancy vehicles, and reinforce the District's leadership in advancing sustainable transportation solutions across Sonoma County.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to continued collaboration to ensure that student needs are effectively represented in these negotiations.

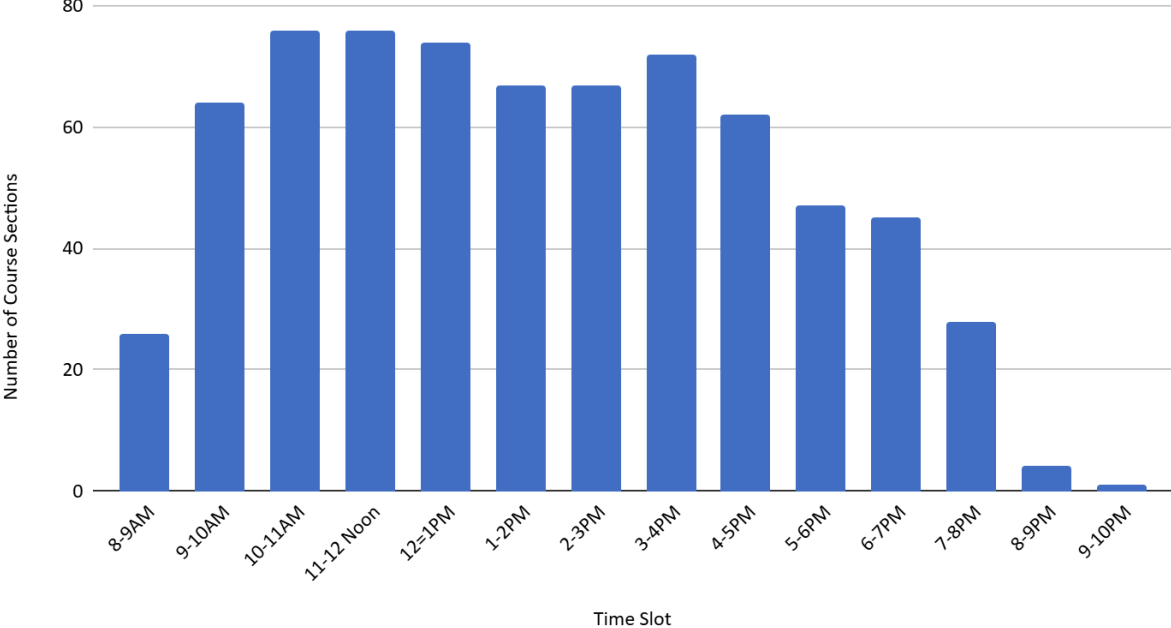
Sincerely,

Santa Rosa Junior College Transit Access Club

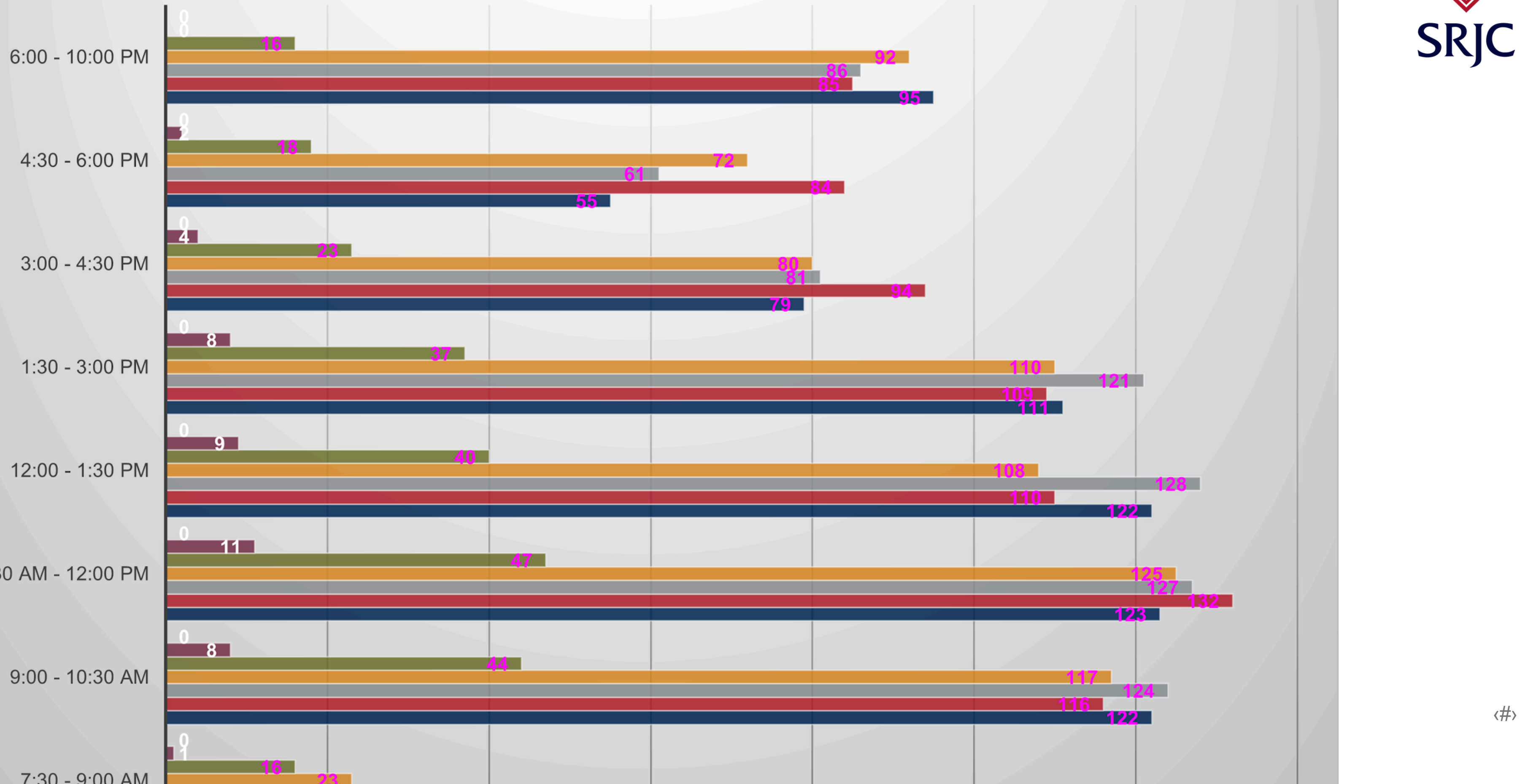
Petaluma Campus: Course Section Number



Santa Rosa Campus: Course Section Numbers



Concentration of classes per Hour by Day of the Week Santa Rosa



Concentration of classes per Hour by Day of the Week Petaluma

