



## Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit District

### General Manager's Report – April 2019

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**SMART**

|| SONOMA-MARIN AREA RAIL TRANSIT

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

### Community Outreach | Presentations and Community Events

SMART partnered with the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) for the first-ever national Get on Board Day on April 25. More than 200 transit agencies across the country worked together to promote public transit awareness and ridership. The Communications and Marketing department kicked off the campaign on social media, with information about SMART's passenger rail service and the extensive network of public transit systems available to SMART passengers to help them make their connections to jobs, education centers, retail hubs and housing along the Sonoma-Marín corridor. To raise awareness, SMART's team got on board to host speed rounds of Transit Trivia on the train, giving out SMART prizes to riders who participated and answered questions about SMART and our public transit connections.









This month, SMART kicked off the start of another engaging event season with Petaluma's Butter and Egg Days Parade and Festival. More than 30,000 people are expected to attend the festival in the heart of downtown Petaluma on Saturday, April 27. SMART's outreach booth attracts hundreds of festival attendees, who come to learn about passenger rail service, schedules, and to take home some SMART giveaways. With the Petaluma station just blocks away from the event, many travelers are expected to leave their cars at home and take the train to the celebration.

In April, SMART's outreach events and presentations include:

- April 30 | School Safety Presentation: Loma Vista Immersion Academy (Petaluma)
- April 27 | Petaluma Butter and Egg Days Festival (Petaluma)
- April 27 | Disabilities and Legal Services Center ADA Expo (Santa Rosa)
- April 26 | Group Trip: Petaluma Youth Commission (Petaluma)
- April 25 | National Get on Board Day (Petaluma)
- April 23 | Earth Day at the Marin Civic Center (San Rafael)
- April 22 | Sonoma State University Earth Day Fair (Rohnert Park)
- April 5 | North Bay Sustainable Enterprise Conference (Rohnert Park)

### Community Outreach | Safety Education and Awareness

The warm spring season is bringing out many new SMART train riders, including school field trip groups. SMART has expanded the group trip platform safety briefing program to include school safety presentations before the date of the trip. Students are presented with important safety information at school before their platform briefing at the SMART train station. This approach gives students an opportunity to use the information they learned during the presentation and practice safe behavior near tracks, trains, and at the station platforms.

Each member of SMART's Communications and Marketing staff is an authorized volunteer for Operation Lifesaver, the leading national rail safety education and awareness organization. In spring, Operation Lifesaver partners with Sonoma County Safe Routes to Schools and local law enforcement to host bike rodeo safety training at local elementary schools. Children are taught basic bicycle safety, which includes railroad crossing safety. SMART volunteers operate the mock gate arms on the safety course and teach students how to safely cross the railroad tracks at designated crossings.

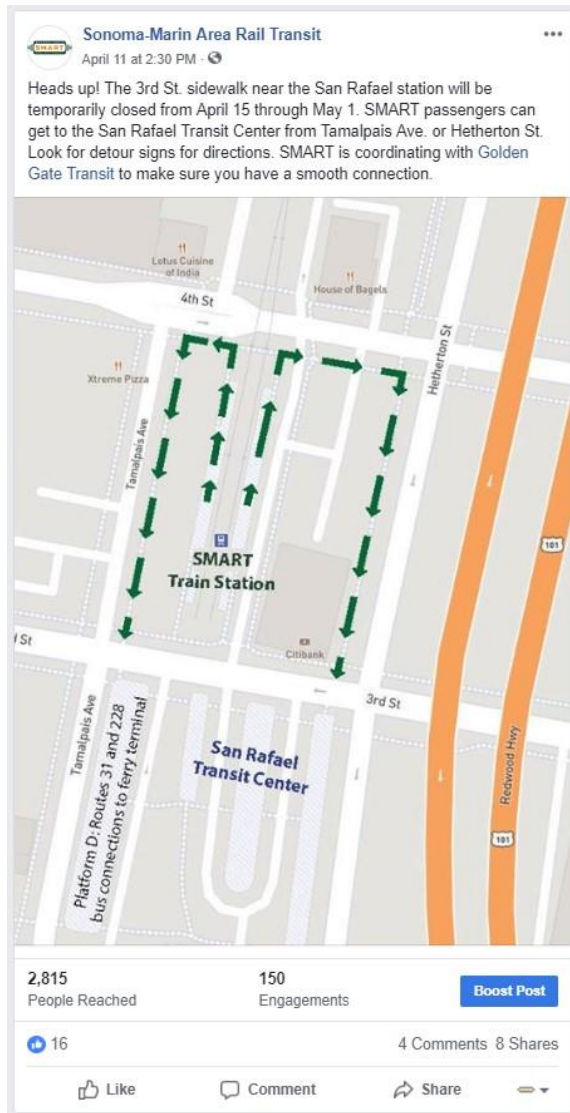


*Students at McNear Elementary in Petaluma learn railroad crossing safety as part of SMART's safety outreach program.*

## MARKETING

### Digital Programs | Social Media

SMART's social media channels are important platforms to provide information to our followers regarding train service updates, construction notifications, and safety information. The most popular post during April was the notice of the sidewalk closure in San Rafael due to construction



for the extension to Larkspur. Our social media followers were also interested in the progress of the Larkspur extension construction.

Communications and Marketing staff monitor all social media accounts for comments and feedback, addressing concerns and answering questions as they arise.

During the week leading up to Get on Board Day, SMART shared information promoting the various transit agencies that connect to SMART stations. This included connections and services provided by Golden Gate Transit and Ferry, Sonoma County Transit, Santa Rosa CityBus, Petaluma Transit, and Marin Transit. Facebook followers also had the option to show their support for Get on Board day with a custom profile frame featuring the Get on Board logo.

### Media | News Coverage

- April 25, *Sonoma County officials consider 2020 renewal of sales tax for road upgrades* (Santa Rosa Press Democrat)
- April 25, *Compromise legislation will help spur apartment building near North Bay train stations* (North Bay Business Journal)

- April 24, *Lawmakers' deal pushes housing near Santa Rosa, Petaluma SMART stations* (Petaluma Argus Courier)
- April 23, *Traffic and train delays in Rohnert Park after SUV crash near train tracks* (Santa Rosa Press Democrat)
- April 23, *Driver Injured in crash into train signal structure on Rohnert Park Expressway* (SF Gate)
- April 22, *SMART to offer free rides for youth during summer* (Petaluma Patch)
- April 20, *Smart Train Board approves free rides for youth during summer* (SF Gate)
- April 19, *SMART Train Board may put sales tax extension on 2020 ballot* (KPIX Channel 5)
- April 18, *SMART to seek early renewal of voter-approved sales tax in 2020* (Petaluma Argus Courier)
- April 17, *SMART to seek early renewal of voter-approved sales tax in 2020* (Santa Rosa Press Democrat)
- April 17, *SMART board seeks renewal of sales tax in face of rising costs* (Marin Independent Journal)
- April 15, *SMART train station access altered by station construction* (SF Gate)
- April 8, *San Francisco judge clears way for Bay Area bridge toll hikes for regional transportation upgrades* (Santa Rosa Press Democrat)
- April 8, *CA: SMART mulls early renewal of sales tax, reduction in fares for low-income riders* (Mass Transit Magazine)
- April 6, *SMART mulls early renewal of sales tax, reduction in fares for low-income riders* (Santa Rosa Press Democrat)
- March 25, *North Bay Cyclists Feel Let Down By SMART Bike Project* (KCBS Radio)
- March 25, *Cyclists upset over SMART's delays in completing bike path* (Petaluma Argus Courier)
- March 25, *CA: With only 16 miles finished, cyclists upset by SMART's delays in completing promised bike path* (Mass Transit Magazine)
- March 24, *With only 16 miles finished, cyclists upset by SMART's delays in completing promised bike path* (Santa Rosa Press Democrat)
- March 23, *Railroad repairs force closure of Highway 37 in Sonoma County* (KRON TV Channel 4)
- March 23, *Railroad repairs force closure of Highway 37 in Sonoma County* (KRON TV Channel 4)



## LARKSPUR EXTENSION PROJECT

- Francisco Boulevard West roadway construction is wrapping up and the roadway is planned to open in April.
- The track construction is underway between Andersen Drive and Rice Rive.
- Work at the station is resuming now that the rainy season is mostly over. Work at the station consists of constructing concrete walkways and curbs, grading for paving and constructing track.
- Modifications to the Bettini Transit Center continue with work on Platform C.
- Construction of the City of San Rafael Multi Use Pathway from Rice Drive to Andersen Drive is wrapping up.
- Train control and communications systems installation work is ongoing with the installation of pedestrian gates, signal houses and signals.



Larkspur Station- Sidewalk Construction at the Parking lot



Striping at Francisco Boulevard West to Rice Drive



Bettini Transit Center – reconstructing Platform C





Track construction between Larkspur Platform and Cal Park Tunnel



Multi Use Pathway-Pathway construction near Andersen Drive





Installation of traffic signal foundation at 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.



Signal foundation installation at near Rice Drive



## WINDSOR EXTENSION PROJECT

- Preliminary 30% design plans completed
- Environmental permit applications are being prepared



Future Windsor Station platform location



## PATHWAY

### Payran to Southpoint Multi-Use Pathway

- Favorable bids were received and contract award is anticipated in May 2019.
- Preparations are being made for SMART's oversight of the work in environmentally sensitive areas, and for the Caltrans Local Assistance oversight process.
- For this project all environmental mitigation is on-site and will be completed as part of the construction work.



Looking south from Southpoint Boulevard along the pathway route



## VEHICLE ENGINEERING

SMART is in the process of final review of the testing documentation for the 4 new cars. Once the review is complete the cars will begin a “burn in” period where the cars are running regularly in order to work out any issues prior to introducing the cars to revenue service.



The front mask of DMU 110 has been preliminarily installed and Alstom continues to repair wiring caused during the car's incident.

## OPERATIONS

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### MAINTENANCE OF WAY:

- All Maintenance of Way groups began vegetation abatement in earnest in April. Our mowing and weed eating programs are occurring throughout the alignment and at our stations.
- We held a Roadway Worker Protection (RWP) training class for about 30 contract employees working on the Larkspur Extension Project.

### TRANSPORTATION:

- March on time performance was 98%
- Interviews continued to fill one open position as a Controller Supervisor.
- 1 Conductor is currently in training to become an Engineer-Conductor

### VEHICLE MAINTENANCE:

- Commissioning Diesel Multiple Units 115, 116, 117, 118 to prepare them for revenue service
- Repaired end door push plate on Diesel Multiple Unit 106. The push plate was damaged and would not open the door when it was pressed.
- Performed annual maintenance on 2 Diesel Multiple Units.
- Performed 500-hour oil change on 8 Diesel Multiple Units.
- Automatic Train Control maintenance performed on 6 Diesel Multiple Units.
- Performed under car inspection on 2 Diesel Multiple Units.
- Performed engine swap, reverse gear replacement and transmission replacement on Diesel Multiple Unit 103.
- Repaired center wiper arm on Diesel Multiple Unit 102. The center screw was missing and prevented the wiper arm to function properly.
- Replaced windows on Diesel Multiple Units 102 and 113. These windows were cracked from an object thrown at the Diesel Multiple Units.



## REAL ESTATE

### PROPERTY ACQUISITIONS

*Downtown Santa Rosa Station Property* - Staff is working with the developer and Union Pacific Railroad to finalize the location for a fiber optics easement. Staff is continuing to work with the developer on due diligence issues.

*Larkspur Extension Project* - Staff is working to complete a Land Exchange Agreement with a private property owner that has been fully executed. Staff has finalized all the documents with the title company and is working to record the transfer of properties in the Land Exchange Agreement by the end of May. All the utility property rights have been granted and recorded.

*Pathway* - Coordinating with the local municipalities regarding securing any necessary land rights to accommodate the construction of the pathways and interim access and laydown area needs.

### PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

#### Special Event Requests:

Kiwanis Club of Windsor – Windsor Day Parade – May 4, 2019

Ironman Race – Santa Rosa – May 11, 2019

Race for Equality – Fund Raiser Race – May 19, 2019

Ironman Race – Santa Rosa – July 27, 2019

#### Right of Entry Permits Issued:

Devcon Construction – Road widening at 8<sup>th</sup> Street – Sonoma

PG&E – Vegetation trimming/removal

PG&E – Gas Line Work – Rush Creek Place, Novato

D&M Utility Services – Pot holing for new pathway crossing at Hearn Avenue – Santa Rosa

City of Santa Rosa – Sanitary sewer line rehab work – Santa Rosa

City of Cotati – Repaving of East Cotati Avenue

PG&E - Installation of new gas line – San Miguel Road for the Coffey Park Restoration, Santa Rosa

#### Staff is continuing working on issuing Right of Entry Permits/License with:

Replay Destinations – Soil borings – Healdsburg Station Property

West Coast Solar Company – Solar Project – Lagunitas Brewing – Petaluma

Sonic – Numerous Access Permits issued for work on fiber optics lines

Metro-MCI – request to connect to Sonic fiber line

COMCAST – Staff is still working to finalize outstanding license agreement fees. Fiber Optic installation verifications in 7 locations. Agreements to be revised.

Marin County Flood Control/City of San Rafael – Clearing of vegetation – Drainage Channel

PG&E – Vegetation trimming/removal

## HUMAN RESOURCES

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### CURRENT OPEN RECRUITMENTS:

- Engineer-Conductor
- Controller Supervisor

### NEW HIRES:

Operations hired one Vehicle Maintenance Technician on April 8, 2019.

### LABOR CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS:

- Labor Negotiations with the SMART Engineers Conductors Association will began on March 29, 2019. The current contract is set to expire on June 30, 2019.
- Labor negotiations with the Teamsters Union, representing Maintenance of Way and Bridge Tender staff began on April 19, 2019. The current contract expires on June 30, 2019.



## SAFETY AND SECURITY

During a morning patrol on the pathway in Santa Rosa, a homeless camp was removed.



Another camp located in Santa Rosa along the pathway in Santa Rosa





SMART partnered with California Highway Patrol to conduct a cleanup and area in Santa Rosa. This has been a problem area with many reported trespassers and a large homeless camp.





A couple was contacted near the Hean Ave crossing sleeping. The male was on probation, had drugs, a large knife and an active arrest warrant. CHP assisted and booked the male for the warrant.



The below group of trespassers is a daily issue along the pathway in Santa Rosa. Not only does this create a trash issue, but it creates an uninviting path for the public to use and enjoy.





Another camp along the pathway, obstructing public use. This camp had a wire strung across the pathway to hang a tarp for privacy.



Cinnabar Bridge in Petaluma continues to be an issue for trespassing and homeless camps. With the help of CHP, a male subject was sleeping and was moved along in the early morning hours.



Cinnabar Bridge in Petaluma trespassing and homeless camps.



SMART partners with Department of Homeland Security, Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to conduct audits. TSA spent the day on SMART trains testing our security systems, process and response. SMART works routinely with TSA on safety related matters.

SMART is partnering with Petaluma Police Department for a rail safety grant they received. PPD will be messaging train safety messages and working with our outreach staff for a rail safety campaign.

Novato Fire received updated training on SMART safety and operational issues. Two trainings were held for four fire shifts.





Several planning meetings have taken place for the upcoming full-scale exercise with the opening of the Larkspur extension. This exercise will include first responders from San Rafael Fire, San Rafael PD, Central Marin Police and Larkspur Fire. A pre-exercise walk-through.



## GRANTS, LEGISLATION, PLANNING AND REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

### LEGISLATION

*AB 147 (Burke & McGuire):* This legislation updates existing law regarding retailers engaged in business in California to comply with the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Wayfair v. South Dakota*. The bill passed the State Legislature and was presented to the Governor on April 15. The SMART Board support position on this bill was transmitted via letter from the Board Chair to the Governor on April 16. The Governor signed the bill on April 25, 2019.

### REGIONAL AND LOCAL PLANNING ACTIVITIES

*Regional Transportation Plan Update:* The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) has begun the process of updating the Regional Transportation Plan, currently named *Plan Bay Area 2040*. The updated financially constrained plan will be called *Plan Bay Area 2050*. MTC is also developing an unconstrained transportation vision plan called *Horizon* and has requested submittals of transit and roadway projects by June 30, 2019.

In conjunction with this regional plan update, each of the Congestion Management Agencies in the region are simultaneously updating their county-wide long-range plans. The Transportation Authority of Marin began reviewing a draft list of projects for submittal from Marin. The Sonoma County Transportation Authority has requested project sponsors submit projects to update their Countywide Plan and the regional plan at the same time, with submittals due to their staff by mid-June. That list of projects will subsequently be presented to their Board. As a multi-county transit district, SMART is asked to submit projects directly to MTC for the regional plan update after SMART Board review. Staff anticipates SMART Board review of any submittals by the end of May.

*State Route 37 Project:* The Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM), Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA), Napa County Transportation Planning Agency (NCTPA) and Solano Transportation Authority (STA) have entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to continue to jointly study needed improvements to State Route (SR) 37. The most recent meeting was held on Thursday March 7, 2019. Topics discussed included a presentation by the Napa Valley Transportation Authority on travel behavior and a transit feasibility study in the corridor, State Route 37 project coordination opportunities, and update on the Memorandum of Understanding status, an update on a Transportation Authority of Marin planning grant to study the Marin portion of SR 37, and updates on the other segments of SR 37. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday June 6, 2019.

*Local Planning Department Notification and Coordination Tracking:* SMART Planning staff tracks and reviews all notices sent by local jurisdictions for projects occurring adjacent to or nearby the railroad tracks. To date in 2019 staff has received and reviewed 55 different notices.



SYSTEM ACCESS PLANNING ACTIVITIES*Transit Coordination Meetings:*

- April 3, 2019 - Staff attended the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) monthly Transit Finance Working group meeting.
- April 10, 2019 – Staff attended Sonoma County Transportation Authority’s monthly Transit Technical Advisory Committee meeting.

*Transit Support Programs:*

*Means Based Fare Discount Working Group* – In 2015 MTC launched a study to determine if a transit fare program based on household income would be feasible and effective. SMART has been participating in the MTC-hosted Means Based Fare Discount Working Group, with monthly meetings and a recent launch of a Clipper-based means-based fare pilot program on selected regional transit operators. SMART staff attended the most recent working group meeting, held on April 9, 2019. Program participants are working to come to consensus on details regarding implementation, in particular on the third-party income verification process and any Federal Title VI program requirements. The next meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2019.

BICYCLE ACCESS AND PARKING

*Bike Share:* The Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA) and Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) submitted a joint application to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) to receive a grant to create a bike share system in close proximity to the SMART stations. SCTA & TAM recently released Request for Proposals from qualified vendors for professional services to develop, launch and operate the bike share system. The agencies received eight proposals in late March and are currently conducting initial reviews of them. Conservative estimates are that the program would launch by Spring 2020. SMART will continue to collaborate on program implementation moving forward.

*BikeLink™ Lockers:* Staff is working with the locker vendor, BikeLink, to procure and install four additional bicycle locker parking spaces, one locker “quad”, at the Novato Hamilton station to accommodate unexpectedly high demand at that station. Installation of the equipment is tentatively scheduled for June 20, 2019. Additionally, BikeLink is preparing to launch Clipper Card integrations with their lockers throughout the SMART system. Users will be able to enroll with BikeLink to use their existing Clipper Card to access bike lockers, instead of having to carry and use a separate BikeLink card. BikeLink staff began testing the Clipper enabled system on the SMART Station lockers the week of April 15 and anticipates launching the Clipper functionality Summer 2019.