



Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit District

General Manager's Report – December 2019

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LARKSPUR STATION RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY DECEMBER 13, 2019





Your SMART Team



Gary Phillips, Chair, SMART Board of Directors



Congressman Huffman



Judy Arnold, Chair, Transportation Authority of Marin



Barbara Pahre, President, Golden Gate Bridge



Catherine Way, Mayor, City of Larkspur



Jake Mackenzie, MTC Commissioner

Larkspur Station Opening Day







Congressman Huffman participated in the Band



Holiday Express Train at Larkspur Station

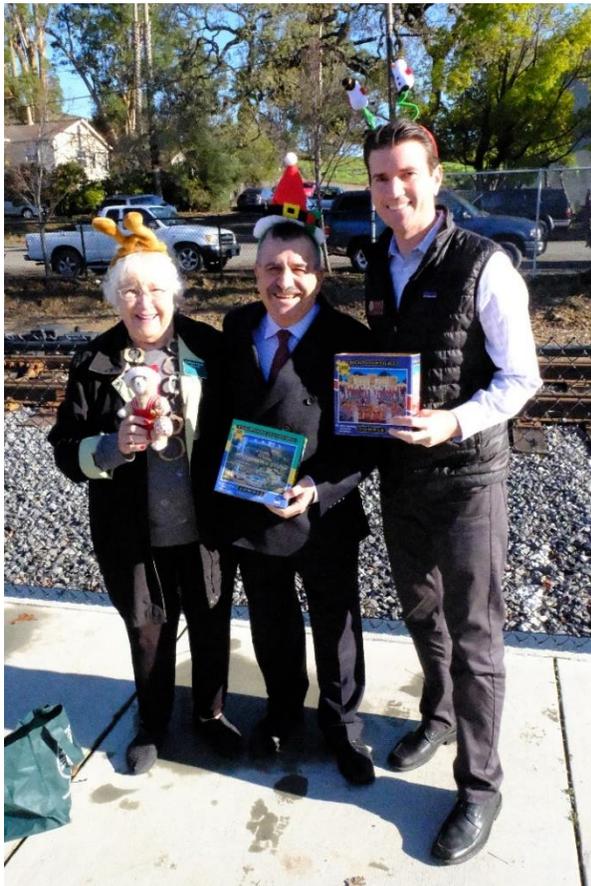
Larkspur Station Opening Day



2019 SMART HOLIDAY EXPRESS TOY DRIVE

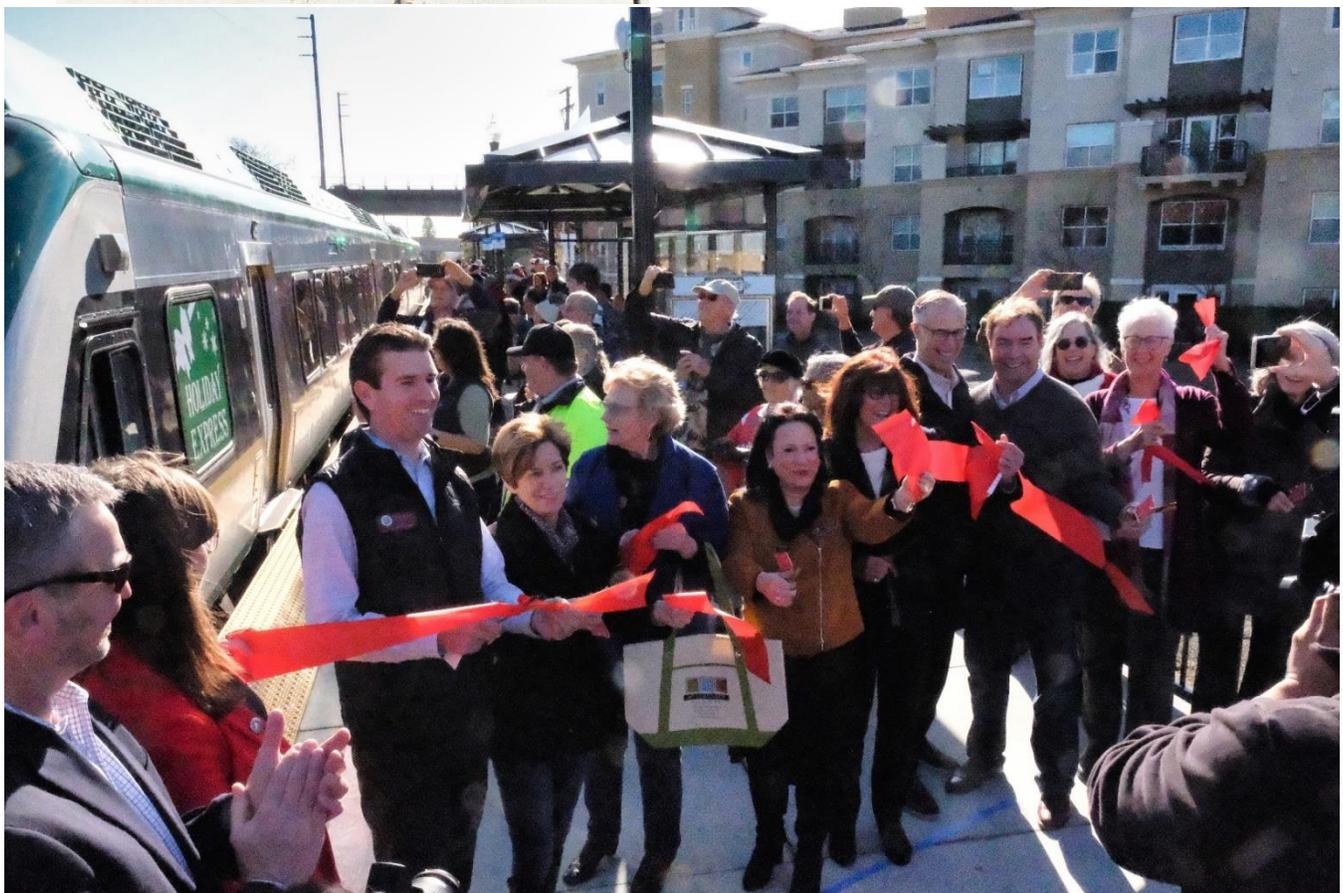






CITY OF NOVATO
CALIFORNIA

*Novato Downtown
Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
December 14, 2019*





Congressman Huffman, City of Novato Mayor Athas, and Supervisor Arnold



First Train stopping in Downtown Novato

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

SMART hosted the Larkspur Station Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Friday, December 13, 2019, to celebrate the commencement of passenger service to Larkspur that is coordinated with the ferry to provide an economical, climate-friendly and stress-free way to travel between the North Bay and San Francisco. The new Larkspur station will be a gateway to the Bay for commuters and visitors alike. Over 400 people attended the event, held at the new Larkspur station at 600 Larkspur Landing Circle. The event included light refreshments during the welcoming followed by speeches from SMART Board members and honorary elected officials. The ceremony included unveiling the Larkspur Station monument sign and was followed by a grand celebration at the Marin Country Mart, featuring live music, food and festivities.

The weekend of festivities continued with the fourth annual SMART Holiday Express Toy Drive on Saturday, December 14. Hundreds of unwrapped toys and gift cards were donated to help make the holidays bright for children in need, through our community partnerships with local non-profits, including Toys for Tots of Sonoma County, COTS, North Marin Community Service, and Petaluma People Services Center. Passengers boarded the festively decorated train and enjoyed complimentary holiday treats and eggnog from our partners at Clover Sonoma, served by student volunteers from Montgomery High School in Santa Rosa.

The Holiday Express train arrived at the Novato Downtown Ribbon Cutting, hosted by the City of Novato, and was met with great excitement, marking the official start of passenger service to the new Novato Downtown and Larkspur stations.

The Community Outreach and Marketing team has been coordinating the launch of the new full-service schedule for January 1, 2020, featuring expanded service and connections to regional transit. The schedule roll-out includes a redesigned brochure and pocket schedule, new station signage, website updates, and a large-scale marketing and education campaign. To view the new schedule, visit: <http://SonomaMarinTrain.org/node/346>.

Media | News Coverage

- November 21, *Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) Announces New Train Schedule Effective on January 1, 2020* (Sonoma County Gazette)
- December 3, State assemblyman solicits public's ideas for Richmond Bridge replacement (Marin Independent Journal)
- December 4, *SMART announces start date for train service to Larkspur, downtown Novato* (Santa Rosa Press Democrat)
- December 4, *SMART Train to open stations in Larkspur, Novato* (Pacific Sun)
- December 5, *SMART train to open Larkspur Station near ferry terminal next week* (San Francisco Chronicle)
- December 5, *SMART announces start date for trains to Larkspur, \$12 deal to San Francisco* (The Argus Courier)
- December 5, *Marin emergency crews prep for 'worst possible scenario' before SMART Larkspur opening* (Marin Independent Journal)
- December 6, *Marin County, Calif., Responders Preparing for Rail Transit Disaster* (Gov Tech)
- December 7, *Editorial: Carpool lanes key for Novato Narrows freeway commuters* (Marin Independent Journal)
- December 8, *Ribbon Cutting Scheduled At Two Smart Train Stations Next Week* (SF Gate)
- December 8, Ribbon cutting scheduled at two SMART train stations next week (KTVU)
- December 9, *Marin submits transportation wish list for mega tax measure* (Marin Independent Journal)
- December 9, SMART to soon launch service to Larkspur, Novato stations (Progressive Railroading)
- December 9, *SMART train's soon-to-open station links North Bay commuters to San Francisco* (San Francisco Business Times)
- December 9, *Editorial: SMART train part of problem and the solution in San Rafael traffic mess* (Marin Independent Journal)
- December 9, *Marin County businesses hope for higher sales from new SMART train service to Larkspur ferry terminal* (North Bay Business Journal)
- December 10, *Dick Spotswood: SMART train management pushing to live up to its promises* (Marin Independent Journal)
- December 12, *SMART launches passenger train service at new \$55 million Larkspur station* (Santa Rosa Press Democrat)

- December 12, *SMART withholds daily and weekly ridership records as train seats go unfilled* (Santa Rosa Press Democrat)
- December 13, *SMART marks opening of new \$55 million Larkspur station, with service starting this weekend* (Santa Rosa Press Democrat)
- December 13, *SMART Train Larkspur expansion opens, now goes to the Golden Gate Ferry* (KTVU)
- December 13, *'New chapter': SMART opens Larkspur train station to fanfare* (Marin Independent Journal)
- December 13, *Weekend Brings Football, Seasonal Celebrations, SMART Train Developments* (KCBS Radio)
- December 13, *SMART Celebrates Larkspur Extension* (Streets Blog SF)
- December 14, *Sonoma-Marin train line debuts Larkspur Station and easier trips to and from city* (San Francisco Chronicle)
- December 14, *Editorial: Are voters finally weary of road taxes and tolls?* (Marin Independent Journal)
- December 14, *Dick Spotswood: SMART is here to stay, so here's how to maximum its value* (Marin Independent Journal)
- December 16, *Service Starts At New Larkspur, Novato SMART Stations: PHOTOS* (Novato Patch)
- December 19, *Man struck, killed by SMART train in Novato* (Marin Independent Journal)
- December 19, *Pedestrian struck by SMART train in Novato, condition unknown* (San Francisco Chronicle)
- December 20, *Man, 71, killed by SMART train in Novato* (Santa Rosa Press Democrat)

CAPITAL PROJECTS

- Passenger service began on December 13, 2019.
- Passenger service to the Novato Downtown Station began on December 14, 2019 with limited weekend service.
- The grade crossing improvements at Main Street in Penngrove was completed on December 7, 2019.



Larkspur Station Opening Day – Ribbon Cutting!

WINDSOR EXTENSION PROJECT

- Design work is underway.
- Coordination with Windsor and Sonoma County is on-going.
- Environmental permitting is underway.



Windsor Extension – Windsor Creek Bridge

PAYRAN TO SOUTHPOINT MULTI-USE PATHWAY - PETALUMA

The Pathway project near completion.



Payran Pathway - Fencing installed along the Pathway

ADDITIONAL PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Pedestrian channelizing fence installation has been completed at the following locations:

1. San Miguel Rd. (Santa Rosa)
2. Piner Rd. (Santa Rosa)
3. W. Steele Ln. (Santa Rosa)
4. Guerneville Rd. (Santa Rosa)
5. College Ave. (Santa Rosa)
6. 9th St. (Santa Rosa)
7. 8th St. (Santa Rosa)
8. 7th St. (Santa Rosa)
9. 6th St. (Santa Rosa)
10. 3rd St. (Santa Rosa)
11. Sebastopol Rd. (Santa Rosa)
12. Hearn Ave. (Santa Rosa)
13. Bellevue Ave. (Santa Rosa)
14. Golf Course Dr. (Rohnert Park)
15. Southwest Ave. (Rohnert Park)
16. East Cotati Ave. (Cotati)
17. Southpoint Blvd. (Petaluma)
18. W. Payran St. (Petaluma)
19. Lakeville Rd. (Petaluma)
20. Washington St. (Petaluma)
21. Caulfield Ln. (Petaluma)
22. Grant Ave. (Novato)
23. Roblar Dr. (Novato)
24. Civic Center Dr. (San Rafael)
25. 5th St. (San Rafael)

The following locations are under design:

26. Main St. (Penngrove)
27. North San Pedro Rd. (San Rafael)
28. Pacheco St. (San Rafael)
29. Paloma Ave. (San Rafael)
30. Mission Ave. (San Rafael)





Payran Street, Petaluma - Pedestrian Channelization Fence



Roblar Drive, Novato - Pedestrian Channelization Fence



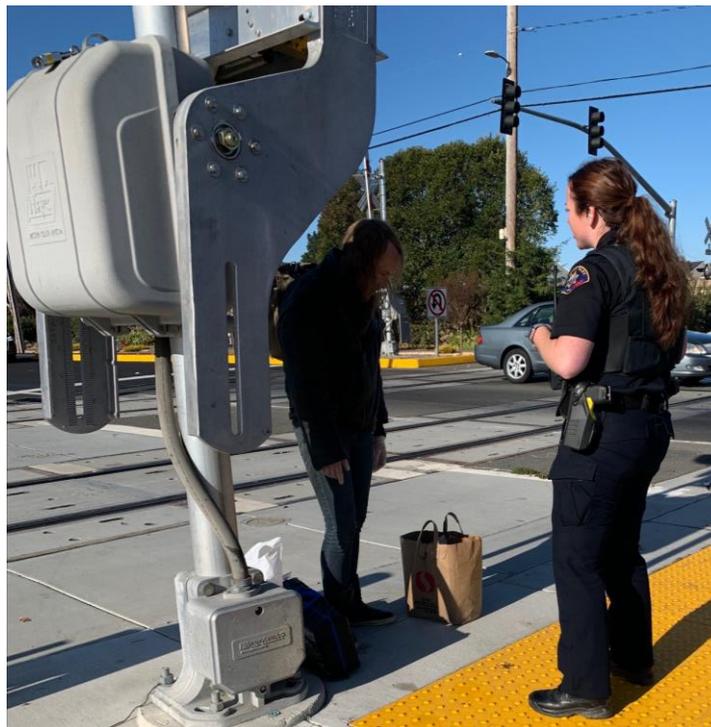
San Miguel Road, Santa Rosa - Pedestrian Channelization Fence

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Ongoing issues with trespassers in Santa Rosa. The below photo demonstrates once again, trespassers ignore the fencing and signage SMART has posted to keep people away.



Another trespasser reported in Santa Rosa area walking south. The subject was eventually located in the Rohnert Park area and contact was made by Rohnert Park Department of Public Safety.



The below subject was contacted in Santa Rosa walking near the tracks despite the paved pathway several feet away. The subject has been contacted numerous times by code compliance officers yet he still trespasses in the area.



SMART hosted an exercise with the San Rafael Fire, Central Marin Fire, Kentfield Fire, Marin County Fire, Mt. Tam Fire Crew, Central Marin Police Authority, Marin CHP, Marin County EMS, Marin County Communications, Marin General Hospital Emergency Department, Southern Marin and Mill Valley Fire Departments, plus federal partners from Department of Homeland Security. The exercise was held in the Larkspur tunnel just prior to opening day. The scenario was smoke and fire in the tunnel and evacuations and injuries to riders. Over 75 participants were present for the exercise.



VEHICLE SYSTEMS

SMART continues sourcing services and parts for the repairs to DMU 116 damaged in an incident in November.



7 Wheel Sets arrived at the Rail Operations Center

OPERATIONS

MAINTENANCE OF WAY:

- Signal team had to replace a crossing gate that was run over by a truck at Washington Street in Petaluma
- Facilities team completed installation of new platform pylon signs and wayfinding maps at all SMART Stations in conjunction with the opening of the Larkspur and Novato Downtown stations.
- Facilities team had a walkthrough and turnover with Marin County Parks for SMART to take over maintenance of the Cal Park Tunnel and pathway.
- Interviews were conducted with 3 Signal Tech applicants, all of whom were selected to move forward in the hiring process.
- Track team hosted inspections by a Federal Railroad Administration and California Public Utility Commission inspector for 2 days. No significant issues were found.
- Staff took receipt of two new pieces of equipment (track loader, mini excavator) and received vendor supplied safety training for both.
- Annual Roadway Worker Protection training was completed in December for Staff employees.

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE:

- Performed fly wheel change out on Diesel Multiple Units 108, 109 and 112. This is an engine modification, that is caused by the fatigue level of the metal being low
- Performed mid-year maintenance on 3 Diesel Multiple Units
- Performed 500-hour oil change on 11 Diesel Multiple Units
- Automatic Train Control maintenance performed on 9 Diesel Multiple Units. This maintenance keeps us compliant with Federal Regulatory Association regulations in regards to positive train control. We also performed an Automatic Train Control maintenance on Northwest Pacific locomotive NWP 2009
- Performed under car inspection on 18 Diesel Multiple Units
- Performed annual inspection on 2 Diesel Multiple Units

TRANSPORTATION:

SMART Transportation Department Training: SMART's engineers/conductors finished all required training for 2019.

HUMAN RESOURCES

CURRENT OPEN RECRUITMENTS:

- Engineer-Conductor
- Chief of Police
- Controller Supervisor
- Signal Technician
- Rail Information Systems Specialist
- Assistant Engineer – Rail Systems
- Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor
- Vehicle Maintenance Technician

INTERVIEWS:

- Assistant Engineer – Rail Systems
- Rail Information Systems Specialist
- Signal Technician

NEW HIRES:

One Laborer was hired.

GRANTS, LEGISLATION, PLANNING AND REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

REGIONAL AND LOCAL PLANNING ACTIVITIES

Faster Bay Area Technical Advisory Group: The FASTER Bay Area Steering Committee, comprised of staff from the Bay Area Council, the Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group, and SPUR, have established a Technical Advisory Group comprised of each County Transportation Agency, each of the Bay Area's transit operators, and regional bodies such as the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, to provide feedback on the FASTER Bay Area proposed voter initiative in support of significant regional transit investments. The FASTER initiative is intended to "make the Bay Area's transportation system seamless, faster, reliable and predictable." According to the FASTER Steering Committee, these investments will "help provide more affordable transportation options, reduce climate pollution and improve access to jobs and economic opportunity for low- and middle-income residents." SMART is participating in the FASTER Technical Advisory Group and several of the group's subcommittees, with meetings several times per week through the end of 2019 and less frequently in 2020.

State Route 37 Project (MOU between TAM, SCTA, NCTPA, and STA) - The Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM), Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA), Napa County Transportation and 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 Thursday, December 5th in Napa.

Local Planning Department Notification and Coordination Tracking: SMART Planning Staff also 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 168 different notices.

Planning Coordination Meetings:

- Nov. 3, 2019 - Staff attended the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) monthly Transit Finance Working group meeting.
- Dec. 10, 2019 – Clipper Means Based Fare Discount Working Group meeting was held to further the regional pilot program offering fare discounts based on household income. SMART staff participates in the meetings though SMART has not been selected as a one of the regional operators for the pilot implementation.
- Dec. 11, 2019 – Staff attended the MTC Regional Equity Working Group Workshop to discuss how equity is addressed in the Plan Bay Area 2050 strategies.
- Dec. 19, 2019 – Staff attended the monthly Sonoma County Transportation Authority Planning Advisory Committee meeting.

SYSTEM ACCESS PLANNING ACTIVITIES*Transit Coordination Meetings:*

- Nov. 3, 2019 - Staff attended the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) monthly Transit Finance Working group meeting.
- Dec. 11, 2019 – Sonoma County Transportation Authority’s next monthly Transit Technical Advisory Committee meeting (October and November meetings were canceled).

GRANT ACTIVITIES

Affordable Housing Sustainable Communities: The State of California has created the Affordable Housing Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program to “build healthier communities and protect the environment by increasing the supply of affordable places to live near jobs, stores, transit and other daily needs. AHSC reduces these emissions by funding projects that make it easier for residents to get out of their cars and walk, bike, or take public transit.” The program is open for applications for the fifth programming cycle, with \$550 million available statewide and applications due February 11, 2020. Proposals can fund housing projects, transit capital projects and programs to support walk, bicycle and transit choice. Awards will be announced in Summer 2020.

SMART has been solicited for partnerships with two applicants from Santa Rosa, the Roseland Village project (75 affordable housing units) and the Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC) campus student housing project (364 student housing units). For the former application, if successful, SMART and the City of Santa Rosa would receive resources to complete the SMART Pathway from Joe Rodota Trail across 3rd Street, connecting to the Downtown Santa Rosa Station. SMART would also receive necessary funding towards the completion of the Windsor extension project. For the second application, if successful, the City of Santa Rosa would receive funding towards the completion of the pedestrian overcrossing of Highway 101 between the SRJC and the Santa Rosa North SMART Station area. In addition, if successful, the SRJC would expand their SMART Eco Pass program to include a monthly pass for each resident of the new housing for 3 years. SMART would also receive resources to expand the training partnership with the SRJC’s newly created Diesel Mechanic and Signal Technician certification programs by funding several one-year apprenticeships for each position.

Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program: The State of California issued a Call for Projects in October 2019 for applications for the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP). This 2020 TIRCP grant cycle will program projects starting with the 2020-21 fiscal year and ending with the 2024-25 fiscal year and will add \$450-500 million of new money into the program from Senate Bill 1 and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds. SMART has drafted a request for \$20.9 million of TIRCP funds for the Russian River Bridge Rehabilitation and Healdsburg Station project. Applications are due January 16, 2020, and awards will be announced April 2020.