

Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit District



General Manager's Report – February 2021

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www.SonomaMarinTrain.org

Free Rides for Vaccine Appointments

for Marin and Sonoma County residents



SMART is offering free rides to and from all COVID-19 vaccination sites for Marin and Sonoma County residents. Riders can tell the conductor they are traveling to a vaccination appointment when asked for payment. SMART is helping to reduce cost barriers and transportation limitations for community members to receive the COVID-19 vaccine



ANNOUNCEMENT



**For Immediate Release
February 24, 2021**

SMART, Marin Transit, and Golden Gate Offer Free Rides to COVID-19 Vaccine Appointments

Starting today, Marin Transit, SMART, and Golden Gate Transit and Ferry will provide free transit trips to and from vaccination sites for community members with appointments. All three agencies are offering free rides by bus, train, and boat in both directions to mass vaccination sites, hospitals, or anywhere else that is offering vaccinations.

To receive a free ride, customers should be ready to show physical or digital confirmation of their same-day vaccine appointment at time of boarding. This joint effort by Marin County transit agencies is aimed at reducing transportation and cost barriers for community members to receive the vaccine.

A new drive-through clinic is now operating at the Larkspur Landing Ferry Terminal, which opened on Sunday, February 21. The site is expected to provide 200 COVID-19 vaccinations per day the first week of operations and could provide up to 2,000 vaccinations per day as vaccine supply increases. Marin Transit will offer a shuttle to and from the Larkspur SMART station to the Ferry Terminal vaccine site for those with mobility issues. Riders can follow the directional signage at the exit of the platform leading to the shuttle pickup area. Those who prefer to walk from the station are permitted to access the site on foot or by bike.



More information on additional vaccination sites and appointment availability in Marin County can be found on the Marin County Health Department's [vaccination options webpage](#).

SMART operates regular service Monday through Friday. View the train schedule online at [SonomaMarinTrain.org/schedules-fares](#). For questions or trip planning assistance, contact the SMART Customer Service Center at 511 or (707) 794-3330, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, except holidays.

Marin Transit operates adjusted schedules seven days a week. For schedules and trip-planning assistance, customers may visit [marintransit.org](#) or call 511 and say "Marin Transit."

Golden Gate Transit operates adjusted schedules seven days a week and Golden Gate Ferry operates adjusted service Monday through Friday. For schedules and trip-planning assistance, customers may visit [goldengate.org](#) or call the Golden Gate Customer Service Center at 415-455-2000. Customer service representatives are available weekdays from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND MARKETING

Lights - Camera and Action

In February, SMART staff supervised a commercial film shoot for a Silicon Valley tech company on board the train and at the San Marin station platform. The film production company followed and enforced a strict COVID-19 testing and safety protocol while filming, and successfully filmed their commercial during the mid-day service window.



Media | January News Coverage

- February 22, *Great Redwood Trail to stretch from San Francisco Bay to Humboldt Bay, enters planning phase* (The Press Democrat)
- February 17, *SMART to begin upgrades for freight operations with California grant* (North Bay Business Journal)
- February 17, *SMART to begin upgrades for freight operations with California grant* (The Press Democrat)
- February 13, *Dick Spotswood: Change toward remote work a challenge for North Bay transit agencies* (Marin Independent Journal)
- February 6, *Editorial: Fireman's Fund campus brings hope to Novato* (Marin Independent Journal)

- February 6, *Dick Spotswood: Marin's cycling boom during pandemic deserves recognition* (Marin Independent Journal)
- February 5, *SMART awarded grant for Black Point Rail Bridge project* (Progressive Railroading)
- February 4, *SMART delays completion of \$65 million Windsor extension to 2022* (North Bay Business Journal)
- February 4, *SMART delays completion of \$65 million Windsor extension to 2022* (The Press Democrat)
- February 3, *SMART forecasts \$20M budget boost* (Marin Independent Journal)
- February 3, *Editorial: SMART must build trust to survive pandemic ridership dip* (Marin Independent Journal)
- February 2, *Work starts on final phase of 20-year \$750 million Highway 101 project in Sonoma-Marín counties* (The Press Democrat)
- January 31, *Marin Co. supervisors to consider quiet zones along SMART train line* (San Rafael Patch)
- January 30, *Supervisors to consider quiet zones along SMART train line* (SF GATE)
- January 29, *State awards SMART \$1.45M for freight rail improvements* (Petaluma Patch)
- January 29, *New owners of former Fireman's Fund office campus eye 63-acre Novato site for housing, retail* (North Bay Business Journal)
- January 29, *Novato leaders upbeat about Fireman's Fund campus purchase* (Marin Independent Journal)
- January 21, *SMART appoints new board chair* (KSRO Radio)
- January 20, *SMART selects David Rabbitt as chair, plans steps for 'brighter' future* (The Press Democrat)
- January 12, *Powerful ultraviolet lights installed on SMART trains to kill coronavirus* (KMIZ TV – Columbia MO)

RIDERSHIP INFORMATION

Passenger Ridership

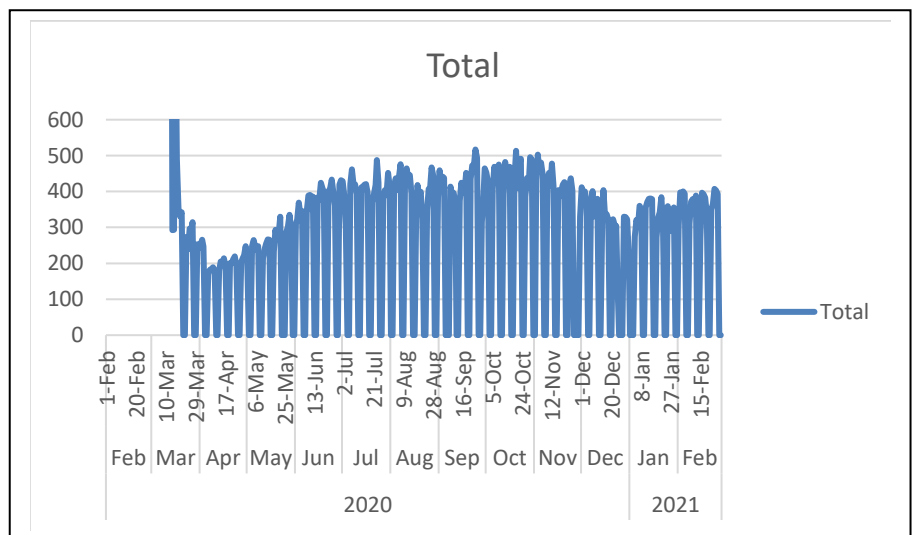
Daily Riders	Sum of Ridership
2020	175985
2021	14100
Jan	6728
Feb	7372
1-Feb	302
2-Feb	398
3-Feb	391
4-Feb	400
5-Feb	394
6-Feb	0
7-Feb	0
8-Feb	311
9-Feb	372
10-Feb	379
11-Feb	338
12-Feb	389
13-Feb	0
14-Feb	0
15-Feb	272
16-Feb	397
17-Feb	392
18-Feb	382
19-Feb	337
20-Feb	0
21-Feb	0
22-Feb	350
23-Feb	365
24-Feb	407
25-Feb	403
26-Feb	393
27-Feb	0
28-Feb	0
Grand Total	190085

Bike Ridership

Weekly Riders	Sum of Bike Ridership (Weekly)
2020	27129
2021	2849
Jan	1366
Feb	1483
1-Feb	385
8-Feb	341
15-Feb	343
22-Feb	414
Grand Total	29978

ADA Ridership

Weekly Riders	Sum of ADA Ridership Weekly
2020	679
2021	18
Jan	10
Feb	8
1-Feb	1
8-Feb	3
15-Feb	3
22-Feb	1
Grand Total	697



WINDSOR EXTENSION PROJECT

- Coordination with the Town of Windsor and County of Sonoma is on-going.
- Winterization of the Project site is complete.
- Paving and striping of SMART's Airport Parking Lot is complete
- Airport Boulevard widening work for the County of Sonoma is close to completion:
 - Concrete work including curb, gutter, medians, and sidewalk work is complete.
 - Paving and striping of the roadway is complete.
 - Traffic signal and grade crossing foundations have been constructed with installation of the traffic signals planned for March 2021.
 - Trackwork through Airport Boulevard is complete.
 - Fence installation along the SMART Airport station parking lot is scheduled to be complete this month.



Airport Boulevard Crossing – Street Striping Being Installed



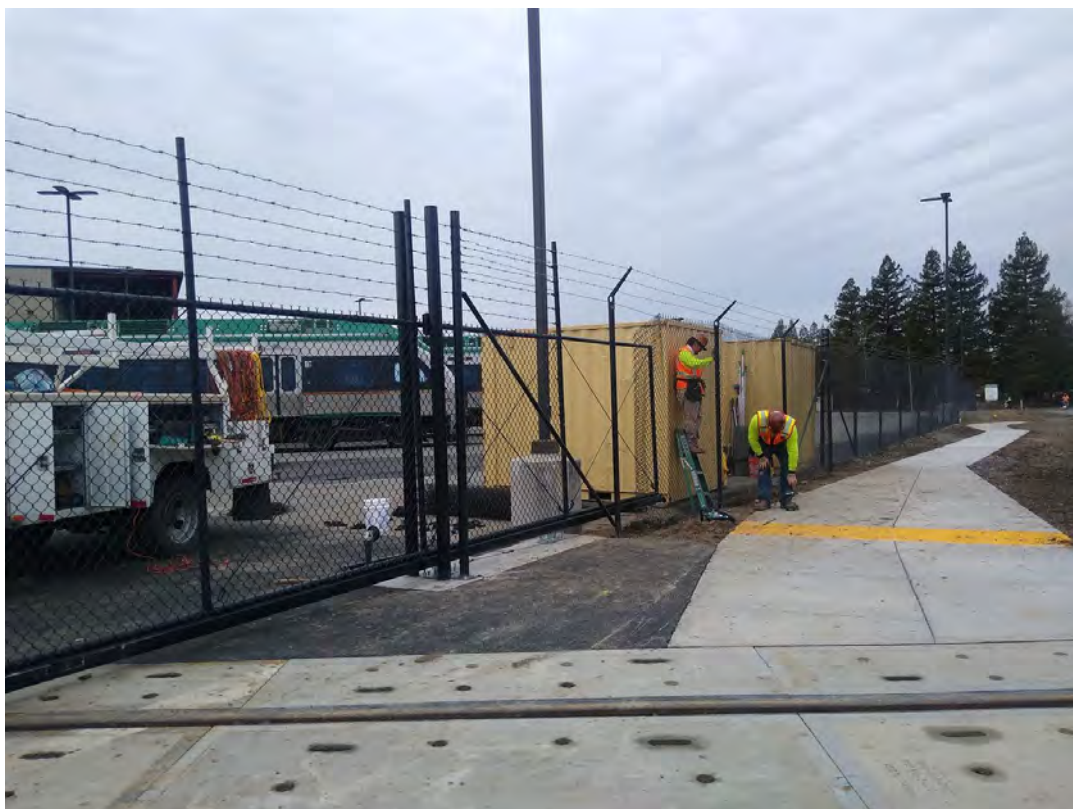
SMART Airport Station Parking Lot Paving



Airport Boulevard - Constructing Roadway Medians



Site Walk Inspection with SMART Staff and the Contractor



Airport Boulevard - Installing New Fence adjacent to the SMART Operation Center

MULTI-USE PATHWAY PROJECT

Sonoma County Pathway Gap Closure Project - \$13.5M

- South Point Boulevard in Petaluma to Main Street in Penngrove (2.9 mi)
- Golf Course Drive in Rohnert Park to Bellevue Avenue in Santa Rosa (2.8 mi)

The 75% design submittal is currently under review. The design team is focusing on:

- Evaluating utility conflicts and impacts to environmental features along the pathway alignment.
- Advancing the design of the pedestrian at-grade crossing in preparation for the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) field diagnostic review meeting.
- Finalizing the environmental permit applications prior to submitting them to the regulatory agencies.



Corona Road Looking North - Future Pathway Location in Petaluma

OPERATIONS

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE:

- Replaced Brake Cylinder Indicator on Diesel Multiple Unit 111. Indicator was reported as intermittently leaking. Upon further inspection it was determined the indicator was leaking and the replacement corrected the issue.
- Inspected the automatic vehicle locator on Diesel Multiple Unit 115. Upon further inspection it was determined the internal battery was defective. The automatic vehicle locator was replaced
- Inspected the Communication Control Unit on Diesel Multiple Unit 104. Upon further inspection it was determined the Communication Control Unit was not responding causing interference with the onboard camera system. The Communication Control Unit was changed out and the camera system was working properly
- Performed annual maintenance on 1 Diesel Multiple Unit
- Performed mid-year maintenance on 2 Diesel Multiple Units
- Performed 500-hour oil change on 3 Diesel Multiple Units
- Automatic Train Control maintenance performed on 2 Diesel Multiple Units. This maintenance keeps us compliant with Federal Regulatory Association regulations regarding Positive Train Control
- Performed data downloads on the fleet. The Diesel Multiple Units have many subsystems that are integrated. Downloading the systems data provides SMART an opportunity to investigate different occurrences that may not show during our normal inspections
- Replaced ditch light and housing on Diesel Multiple Units 102, 108, 115, and 116 due to turkey strikes

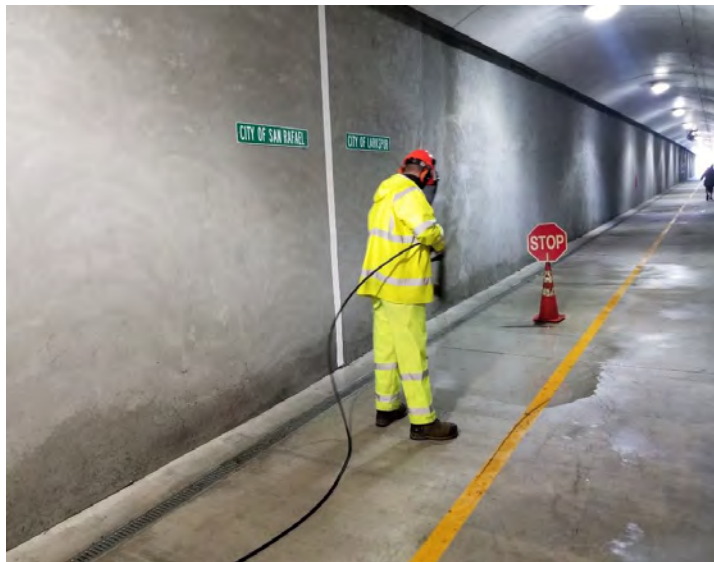
TRANSPORTATION:

SMART Transportation Department Training:

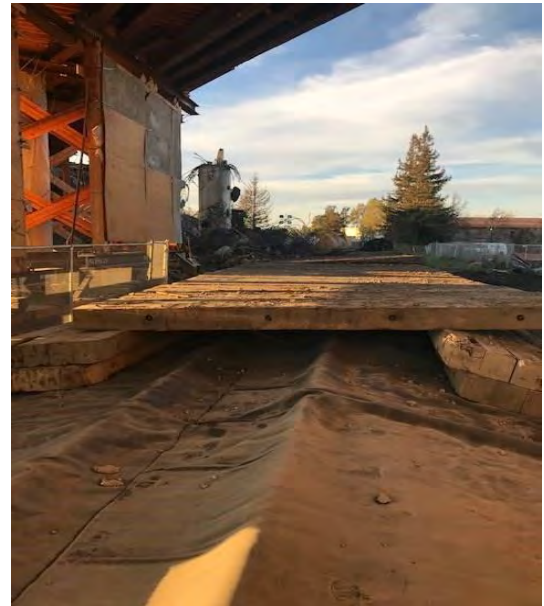
- Currently uploading online training programs for 2021 in the new Learning Management System (Biz Library).
- Training New Engineer-Conductors
- Training New Dispatcher
- Semi-Annual First Aid, CPR, AED and Trauma Bag review for all Transportation employee's
- Annual Rules Training has started on SMART's new LMS (Biz-Library) for all Transportation Employees

MAINTENANCE OF WAY:

- Signal team completed 6 annual Highway grade crossing inspections this month, along with 2-year interlock inspections at multiple locations.
- Signal team completed switch repairs at Hopper Street in Petaluma from unknown vehicle trespasser damage.
- Signal trainee applicant interviews have been completed.
- Signal team completed Bucket truck training, and certification.
- Track team supported overnight flagging for Bridge demolition at 101 Petaluma that Ghilotti construction performed.
- Track team completed crossing panel repairs at Hearn Avenue this month.
- Track team along with Sperry Rail Service completed annual Rail inspection.
- Facilities Maintenance Supervisor interviews have been completed
- Facilities team completed power washing inside the Cal Park tunnel walking path.

SIGNAL, TRACK AND FACILITIES TEAM

Cal Park Tunnel



Bridge Demolition - Petaluma

FREIGHT SERVICE

On January 28, 2021; California Transportation Commission approved \$1,455,850 for SMART. In this statewide competitive grant process, SMART asked for and received funding to construct the following projects starting Summer 2021:

Freight Rail Improvements:

- 1) Repairs on Black Point Bridge over Petaluma River in Novato;
- 2) Rehabilitation and modernization of two existing freight rail spurs in Windsor and Southwest Santa Rosa;
- 3) 3) Construction of a new modern freight spur in Windsor.

This grant requires participation by private parties. SMART staff have reached out to the private sector partners where these projects are proposed.

SMART has now received total of \$6M from the State of California, as part of SB 1029 to be used for specific freight activities.

SAFETY AND SECURITY



Trespassers - Novato



Bike Path Trespasser - Novato



Trespasser - Penngrove



Trespasser - Santa Rosa



Trespasser - Novato



Bike Path Trespasser – Santa Rosa



Trespasser - Rohnert Park

REAL ESTATE

PRIVATE CROSSINGS

Staff is finalizing a Private Crossing Agreement with a property owner that is immediately adjacent to the tracks on the Brazos Branch.

PROPERTY ACQUISITIONS

Downtown Petaluma Station Property: The Agreement for the sale of the Downtown Station Property with the developer has been terminated. The developer did not exercise his option.

Windsor Extension Project: Staff is working to finalize a transfer of property to the County for the redesigned and rebuilt bus pullout on Airport Boulevard in Santa Rosa. Staff is continuing to research property rights that were granted to third parties on or along the new extension. Staff is working to finalize work with utility companies on a variety of tasks on the new extension property.

North Coast Rail Authority (NCRA): Staff is reviewing documents from NCRA on the properties to be transferred if the agreement is approved by all the authorizing agencies.

Track work: Research continues property rights for both SMART and property owners regarding the location of track.

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

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Staff is continuing to research SMART's ownership, property rights of ingress and egress easements and current and necessary agreements along the Brazos Branch.

Staff is undergoing title work for the proposed Multi-Use Path Project and continuing to address a variety of requests from adjacent property owners. Staff is also managing licensing agreements or current Master agreements for utility and telecommunications companies that are crossing SMART property.

Special Event Requests:

Bike Monkey- Levi's GranFondo Bike Ride/Race, Windsor/Healdsburg/Cloverdale- May 29, 2021

Right of Entry Permits Issued:

Betty Films- Filming on SMART train- Petaluma,
Natalie Carey- Pathway Tree clean up Los Ranchitos/ Las Gallinas- San Rafael

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

Cats 4u Inc.- Las Gallinas Sanitary District- Sewer Regulator Maintenance- San Rafael
 PG&E- Electrical Pole Maintenance- Greenbrae Boardwalk- Larkspur
 PG&E- Electrical Pole Maintenance – Railroad Avenue- Brazos Branch
 PG&E- Gas Pipeline Maintenance- Manuel Drive- Novato
 Phoenix Development Company of Minneapolis, LLC- Pullman Lofts Project- Santa Rosa
 PG&E- Yearly Vegetation Management for Electrical Division
 Danco Group of Companies- 80 College Avenue- Santa Rosa
 County of Marin- Simmons Slough Water Management System
 Fredric C. Divine Associates- 826 State Access Road/ 1385 N. Hamilton Pkwy- Novato
 Marin County Flood Control – Installation of 3 pumps – Hwy 37
 Sonoma Land Trust- Erosion Control and Dirt hauling on Brazos branch- Sonoma
 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

On-Going Property Management Activities:

Quitclaim deed research and request with Caltrans.
 Records research for all road and track intersection – continued data base development.
 Records research on Brazos Branch (Napa County – real estate records)
 Records research for Healdsburg.
 Work on Appraisal values for various Healdsburg properties and PG&E easements.
 Work with Accounting to get any past due Lessee’s accounts up to date.
 Finalized Right of Entry process with Accounting and Operations
 Review and evaluation of requests to lease SMART properties.
 Records Management
 Research of records for old Petaluma, Santa Rosa Rail line spur in Petaluma – downtown trestle
 Research of records for Healdsburg Station – environmental records researched
 Research of records for sidewalk at Santa Rosa Downtown Station.
 Working on access protocols with Sonoma County Water Agency.
 Staff is continuing to work with Pacific Gas & Electric Company to refine access issues and update Master Agreement with after discovered facilities.
 Refinement of maintenance and insurance issues.
 Research of title issues regarding property rights.
 Consulting with Engineering on costs.
 Consulting with Permitting Agencies on mitigation issues.
 Continue to handle property management issues from adjacent landowners.
 Continue to support construction by doing property research for discovered property issues.
 Research on title issues to clarify property ownerships and survey as necessary.
 Continue working with property owners to remove encroachments.
 Title reports ordered and being reviewed.
 Meetings held with private property owners.
 Field work visiting SMART owned properties

FINANCE

SMART Bond Rating Change

On Friday, February 5, 2021, Standard and Poor's (S&P) revised the outlook for SMART from negative to stable and affirmed its 'AA' long-term rating on the Measure Q Sales Tax Revenue Bonds.

S&P states in its summary, "The outlook revision reflects our view of SMART's improved general credit quality resulting from the application of our updated criteria "Global Not-For-Project Transportation Infrastructure Enterprises," published Nov. 2, 2020, on Ratings Direct."

They also mention that they expect the economy to continue to recover in 2021 and although there are near term issues related to COVID-19 and lower ridership levels it is unlikely to be so severe that it would force the ratings on SMART's bonds to go lower.

Larkspur Extension

On February 18, 2021, SMART was notified by Federal Transportation Administration that they had processed our request for closure of the San Rafael to Larkspur Rail Extension grant.

HUMAN RESOURCE

CURRENT OPEN RECRUITMENTS:

- Track Supervisor
- Laborer

NEW PROMOTIONS/HIRES

- The Security and Safety Division hired Safety and Compliance Officer.

INTERVIEWS

The District held interviews for the following positions:

- Controller Supervisor
- Facilities Maintenance Supervisor
- Track Maintainer
- Administrative Assistant
- Signal Technician Trainee
- Signal Technician

GRANTS, LEGISLATION, PLANNING AND REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

REGIONAL AND LOCAL LANNING ACTIVITIES

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. In 2020 staff received and reviewed 29 different notices through February and in 2021 SMART has received and reviewed 7 different notices.

State Route 37 – Planning Processes Underway:

- SR37 Policy Committee (Resilient SR37);
- SR37 Caltrans Planning and Environmental Linkages Study (SR37 PEL Study);
- SR37 Caltrans Comprehensive Multi-Modal Corridor Plan
- US 101 TO SR 121 Environmental and Design Alternative Analysis.
- Sears Point to Mare Island (Congestion Relief) – Environmental Impact Report Scoping.

The most recent SR37 activities included SMART staff participating in a one-on-one meeting with Caltrans staff on February 10 regarding their SR37 Comprehensive Multi-Modal Corridor Plan process underway. This plan is a required pre-requisite for applications for state SB1 Solutions for Congested Corridors funding. Policy Committee (Resilient 37) took place on January 7, 2021. The SR37 PEL Study meetings are taking place approximately quarterly, with a Stakeholder meeting, online survey and staff interview occurring in late 2020 and a next PEL meeting anticipated in early 2021. The US101 to SR121 environmental and design process meetings scheduled as Technical Advisory Committee meetings through Summer 2021. SMART staff attends and participates in these meetings as staffing levels allow.

Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan: SMART participates in a coordinated effort related to the Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan. The plan reporting dashboard can be found here: <http://dashboard.healthytransitplan.com/> . The regional page has a direct link to SMART’s COVID Response web location here: <http://www.sonomamarintrain.org/Covid-19>

SYSTEM ACCESS PLANNING ACTIVITIES:

Bike Share: The Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA) and Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) are implementing a Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) funded bike share system around several SMART stations as a First/Last-Mile access solution. SCTA and TAM have selected Bolt Mobility (formerly known as Gotcha Mobility) as the operator of the Bike Share Pilot Program. The pilot program will roll-out 300 GPS-enabled electric bicycles for three years centered around SMART stations. Due to COVID-19, the program implementation timeline has been impacted by community outreach and manufacturing limitations, with launch anticipated in Summer or Fall 2021.

SMART staff participates in a Bikeshare Working Group. The most recent meeting took place February 23, 2021, covering an inter-agency coordination agreement and a coordinated Board/Council package for upcoming operational approval.

An online survey has been released by SCTA and TAM to request public feedback on possible bike share pod locations for this initial pilot program and beyond in order to gauge market demand for both private and public bike share pods along the corridor. The survey is open until March 19, 2021, and can be found at the following link [HERE \(TAM/SCTA Bike Share Survey Site\)](#).

TRANSIT COORDINATION MEETINGS:

- **February 3, 2021** - Staff participated in the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) monthly **Transit Finance Working Group** meeting. Discussions included several standing item updates: legislative updates, funding notices, Transportation Improvement Program update, Cap and Trade Update, the TNC Access for All Act, Regional Transit Capital Priorities process, and Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force.
- **February 10, 2021** – Staff participated in Sonoma County Transportation Authority’s monthly **Transit Technical Advisory Committee** meeting. Standing items were discussed including transit operator updates, Sonoma County’s Future of Transit Ad Hoc Committee status, the Blue Ribbon Transit Task Force updates, and the annual Coordinated Claim for transit operator funding (Transportation Development Act and State Transit Assistance).
- **February 22, 2021** – Staff attended the **Blue-Ribbon Transit Task Force** meeting virtually. The agenda included detailed discussions on transit **Network Management and Governance**.
- **February 9 & 23, 2021** – Staff attended the **Blue-Ribbon Transit Task Force – Planning and Operations Subcommittee** meetings virtually. The agenda included preparation of presentations on Network coordination for the Blue Ribbon Transit Task Force and discussion of Regional Hub Transfer Coordination at El Cerrito Del Norte, Schedule Coordination Update, and school re- opening transit service.
- **February 2, 9, 16 & 23 - 2021** – Bay Area Transit Operator ongoing coordination meetings. SMART staff met with the Bay Area’s smaller transit operators, defined as any except the seven largest transit operators, weekly to coordinate comments and activities associated with COVID-19 response, the MTC Blue Ribbon Transit Task Force Public Transit Transformation Action Plan, Clipper 2.0 and other topics of regional significance.

GRANT ACTIVITIES:

Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSSA): The Federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 was passed on December 27, 2020. The Federal Transit Administration posted the apportionment table for the Section 5307 funds for distribution to Urbanized Areas across the nation for transit use. The Bay Area will receive \$802,669,615 from CRRSSA, directed to the multiple urbanized areas that comprise the Bay Area, of which \$15,435,820 is appropriated to the Santa Rosa Urbanized Area.

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) has begun the first of two cycles of apportioning these funds to transit operators in the Bay Area. The first distribution will total \$179,601,678, or 22% of total available funds, to five of the region's 25 recipients, including \$20.3 million to the Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District (GGBHTD). This first distribution round has been approved by MTC in January and a future second round of distribution of the balance of the funds is anticipated by March 2021.

On February 17, MTC released a staff proposal that would result in the second distribution of CRRSSA funds to transit operators throughout the region from several designated urbanized areas in the region. MTC will be negotiating with transit operators through early March, with the final recommended CRRSSA proposal coming to the Commission for approval in March.

Metropolitan Transportation Safe and Seamless Mobility Quick Strike Program (Quick Strike): The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) has established a one-time grant program of approximately \$50 million in federal funds region-wide to fund Safe and Seamless Mobility projects. Projects funded with these grants must have funding obligated by September 2022 and are focused on bicycle/pedestrian safety and mobility, connections to transit, and projects that advance equitable mobility.

MTC has requested county-level transportation agencies, Transportation Authority of Marin and Sonoma County Transportation Authority in SMART's case, receive initial application submissions with an eye towards county-level programming targets. MTC will consider regional and multi-county priorities for the final program of projects, possibly resulting in the adjustment of county-level programming targets. Marin's target is 2.8% or \$1.4 million, and Sonoma's target is 7.2% or \$3.6 million. SMART has two ready-to-go SMART Pathway segments, one in Marin and one in Sonoma and has submitted each to the respective county agency.

In Sonoma, the Payran to Lakeville pathway segment in Petaluma has environmental clearance, is 75% designed and has begun the regulatory permit process, all with local funds. SMART is seeking \$806,000 in Quick Strike funds to complete construction of this segment.

In Marin, the McInnis to Smith Ranch pathway segment in San Rafael, connecting between the Marin Civic Center and McInnis Regional Park over Las Gallinas Creek, has had environmental clearance and engineering design completed with local funds. SMART is seeking \$2.16 million in Quick Strike federal funds to complete the construction of this segment, which would be combined with an additional \$235,000 in local funds for permits and mitigation costs, for a total remaining cost to complete of \$2.4 million.

TAM and SCTA have until March 30 to submit letters of interest to MTC nominating projects. Prioritization discussions will take place in April and May between MTC and project sponsors, with Commission adoption of approved projects at their June 23rd meeting.