

Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit District



General Manager's Report – January 2021

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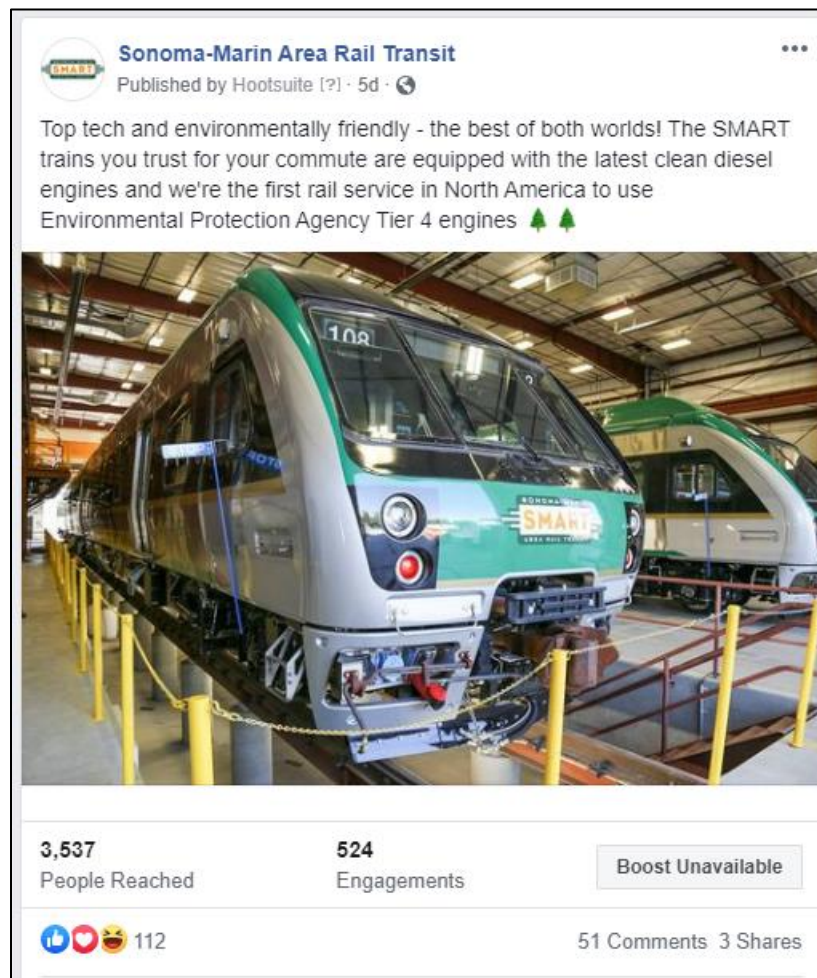
SMART

|| SONOMA-MARIN AREA RAIL TRANSIT

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND MARKETING

Marketing | Digital Programs

SMART has cultivated a large audience across all of our social media platforms. To enhance our messaging and continue to grow our following, SMART has been working with Civic Edge Consulting to create social media content that addresses a new narrative. Civic Edge will be working to dispel misunderstandings and untruths about SMART while bolstering general public appeal. Other goals include presenting the residents of Sonoma and Marin counties with a broader understanding of SMART's benefits to their community, and finally, they will provide stakeholders and leaders with information they need to become SMART champions.



As part of the project, Civic Edge will produce fresh, new assets, like photo and video, that aligns with the new narrative constructed on social media. Our social media channels are already experiencing an increase in engagement on content that resonates with the community.

Community Outreach | Clipper

Communications and Marketing staff have been participating in weekly meetings with regional Clipper partners to review the design progress on the next-generation Clipper customer portal. The new design will allow Clipper card holders to have more control over their accounts. Users will be able to login online and make changes to their account, including applications for discount

Clipper cards for seniors and youth. SMART is looking forward to integrating this new system with our in-house customer service team. More information on the new system will be provided as it becomes available.

Media | December News Coverage

- January 21, *SMART plans for future after coronavirus pandemic* (Marin Independent Journal)
- January 16, *George Russell: SMART train sheds light on extra precautions against Covid-19* (Marin Independent Journal)
- January 12, *Powerful ultraviolet lights installed on SMART trains to kill coronavirus* (KCTV TV)
- January 11, *Newly installed high-powered ultraviolet lights will kill Covid-19 on SMART trains* (KPIX TV)
- January 11, *CA: SMART looks to ultraviolet light as coronavirus blocker* (Mass Transit Magazine)
- January 10, *SMART looks to ultraviolet light as coronavirus blocker* (Marin Independent Journal)
- January 7, *Second SMART station, affordable housing blocked by new Petaluma City Council* (The Press Democrat)
- January 7, *Second SMART station, affordable housing blocked by new Petaluma City Council* (Petaluma Argus Courier)
- January 5, *After 10-month wait, Chris Coursey takes his seat on the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors* (The Press Democrat)
- January 4, *SMART to install UV light sterilization on trains* (Sonoma West Times & News)
- January 4, *SMART to conduct in-house training of signal techs* (Progressive Railroading)
- January 3, *New Marin Supervisor faces full plate of issues* (Marin Independent Journal)
- December 30, *Bay Area transit agencies asking for vaccine priority* (KCBS Radio)
- December 30, *California commuter operator seeks vaccine priority for transit workers* (Trains)
- December 29, *SMART seeks vaccine priority for transit workers* (Marin Independent Journal)
- December 28, *North Bay transit agencies counting on next round of federal assistance* (The Press Democrat)

RIDERSHIP INFORMATION

Passenger Ridership

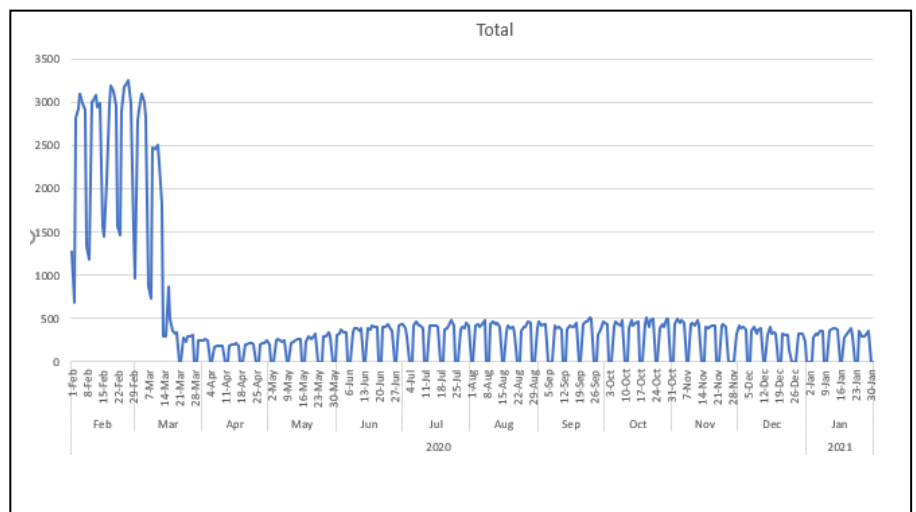
Daily Riders	Sum of Ridership
2020	175985
2021	6728
Jan	6728
1-Jan	0
2-Jan	0
3-Jan	0
4-Jan	275
5-Jan	321
6-Jan	304
7-Jan	360
8-Jan	351
9-Jan	0
10-Jan	0
11-Jan	356
12-Jan	371
13-Jan	380
14-Jan	381
15-Jan	379
16-Jan	0
17-Jan	0
18-Jan	273
19-Jan	327
20-Jan	342
21-Jan	384
22-Jan	308
23-Jan	0
24-Jan	0
25-Jan	359
26-Jan	290
27-Jan	302
28-Jan	309
29-Jan	356
30-Jan	0
31-Jan	0
Grand Total	182713

Bike Ridership

Weekly Riders	Sum of Bike Ridership (Weekly)
2020	27129
2021	1366
Jan	1366
4-Jan	308
11-Jan	422
18-Jan	352
25-Jan	284
Grand Total	28495

ADA Ridership

Weekly Riders	Sum of ADA Ridership Weekly
2020	679
2021	10
Jan	10
4-Jan	1
11-Jan	3
18-Jan	5
25-Jan	1
Grand Total	689

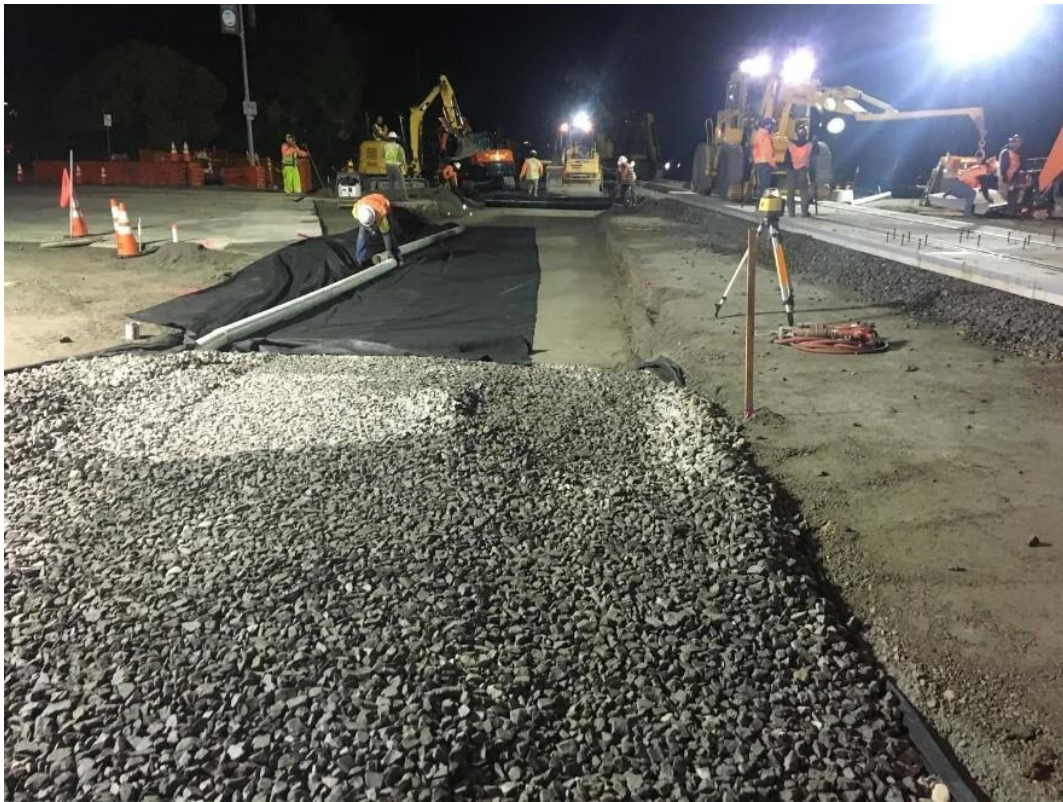


WINDSOR EXTENSION PROJECT

- Coordination with the Town of Windsor and County of Sonoma is on-going.
- Winterization of the Project site is complete.
- Airport Boulevard widening work for the County of Sonoma is close to completion with the construction of the grade crossing, paving, curb, gutter, and installation of most of the traffic signal and grade crossing gate pole foundations.
- Utility relocations are complete.



Airport Boulevard Crossing – Removing the old track at night during the weekend road closure



Airport Boulevard - Installation of Conduits for Train Control during weekend road closure



Airport Boulevard - Installation of Grade Crossing Panels



Airport Boulevard - Roadway Paving at the grade crossing



Airport Boulevard - Concrete form boards for new roadway curb and gutter



Airport Boulevard - Crossing at the Rail Operations Center - Aerial Photo Before Paving

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 design team is preparing 75% complete design submittal with a focus on path of travel across roadways, bridge and retaining wall designs. The team is also evaluating utility conflicts and impacts to wetlands along the pathway alignment.



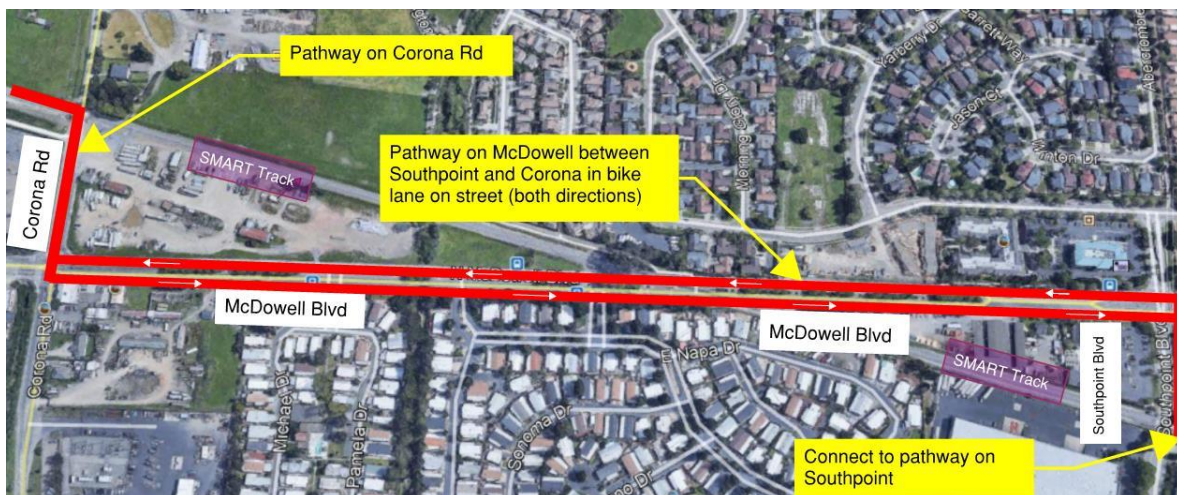
Ely Road - Looking South-Future Pathway location in Petaluma

DESIGN CHALLENGES:

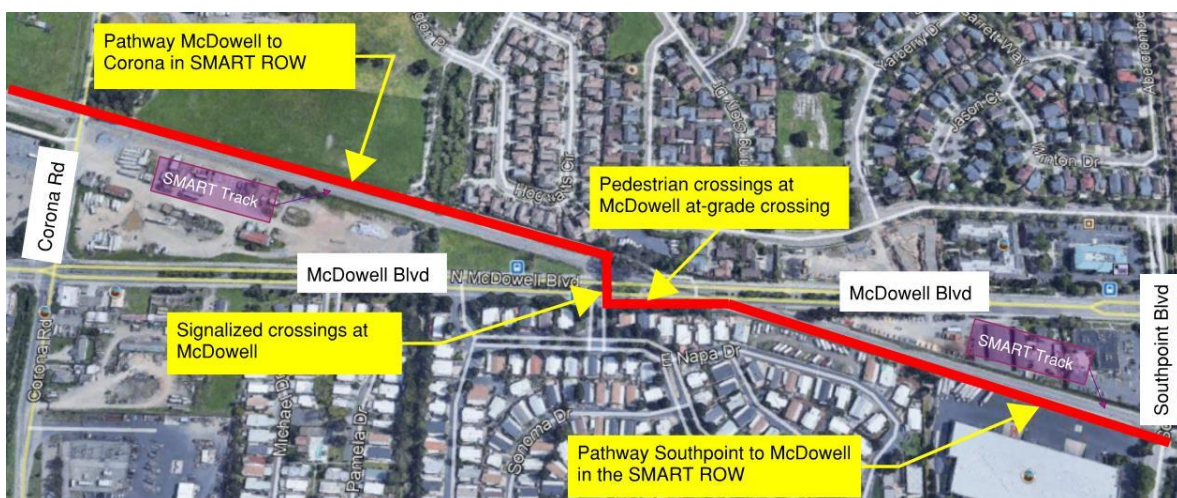
During the planning stage of a project, various options are evaluated for feasibility, practicality, environmental impacts and other factors. Once we get into design, we often run into technical challenges pertaining to safety, available space, and minimizing environmental impacts. In Petaluma, we have both a technical challenge and an environmental clearance challenge to overcome for the pathway.

- Technical Challenge: Creating a safe crossing of McDowell Boulevard – a four lane high-speed roadway where the railroad crosses at a “skewed” angle.
- Environmental Clearance Challenge: We have two different options to get from the path at South Point Boulevard to Corona Road. One has State (CEQA) clearance and the other federal (NEPA) clearance.

I. Federal NEPA Clearance – developed a roadway segment from South Point to Corona



II. SMART EIR (State Environmental Clearance) – pathway planned to be in the SMART right-of-way without detailed solution to crossing McDowell



Ultimately, the source of funding (state vs. federal) will determine which solution is implemented. Thus, we are currently carrying two designs for this location.

OPERATIONS

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE:

- Installed hand sanitizer dispensers in the Diesel Multiple Units restroom
- Inspected the automatic vehicle locator on Diesel Multiple Unit 107. Upon further inspection it was determined the converter had power coming in but no power going out. The automatic vehicle locator was replaced
- Inspected the Communication Control Head in Diesel Multiple Unit 114. The Communication Control Head is comprised of two components, the liquid-crystal display screen which provides the engineer interface with the interface module. This provides power and input/output interface capabilities. It was determined the auto feature on the Communication Control Head was intermittent. The communication control head was replaced, and the system works correctly.
- Performed mid-year maintenance on 3 Diesel Multiple Unit
- Performed 500-hour oil change on 2 Diesel Multiple Units
- Automatic Train Control maintenance performed on 2 Diesel Multiple Units. This maintenance keeps us compliant with Federal Regulatory Association regulations with regards to 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

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

MAINTENANCE OF WAY:

- Maintenance of Way annual high rail vehicle inspections were completed this month for the vehicles that were due.
- Signal team completed 5 annual Highway grade crossing inspections this month.
- Signal trainee applicants to be tested in early February as part of the hiring process.
- Signal team completed software update campaign for track modules at all crossing locations.
- Track team completed crossing panel repairs at three locations. Caulfield lane (Petaluma), Southwest Blvd. (Rohnert Park), and Todd Road, (Santa Rosa).
- Track team completed vegetation project South of Gulf course to help prevent trespassing.
- Facilities team completed Graffiti removal at the Healdsburg Bridge, Cinnabar Bridge, and all of the Multi use pathways
- Facilities team along with the information Technology department completed repairs on the emergency phone system at the Puerto Suello tunnel.

Signal, Track and Facilities Team



Crossing Panels



Graffiti Clean Up

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.

SAFETY AND SECURITY



Payran Street, Petaluma - Trespasser



Novato - Trespasser



Novato - Trespasser



9th Street, Santa Rosa - Trespasser



6th Street, Santa Rosa – Trespassers



Petaluma - Trespassers



Cotati – Trespassers



Petaluma - Trespasser



4th Street, Santa Rosa - Trespassers



Abusing Emergency Phone - Santa Rosa Downtown Platform

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: Staff executed an extension of time until February 19, 2021 to close the sale of the property. Staff is continuing to work with the developer on access requests to the property. Staff is continuing to work with the City of Petaluma on the new entrance to the station parking lot.

Windsor Extension Project: Staff is working with the County of Sonoma on the 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.

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:

PG&E- Gas Pipeline Construction Laydown area- Civic Center Drive- San Rafael
PG&E- Abandoning gas service uninstallation of High-Pressure Regulator- Windsor
PG&E- Electrical Pole Maintenance- Petaluma
PG&E- Electrical Wire Replacement and Maintenance- Larkspur
St. Francis Electric LLC for City of Santa Rosa- Hearn Avenue Project- Santa Rosa
PG&E- Gas Vent Maintenance- Lakeville Street- Petaluma
PG&E- Tree Trimming for Electrical Division- Hamilton Drive- Novato
Precision General Commercial Contractors- Burbank Housing- Petaluma
Caltrans- Graffiti Removal on Second Street- San Rafael

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

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.

HUMAN RESOURCE

CURRENT OPEN RECRUITMENTS:

- Controller Supervisor (Internal)
- Facilities Maintenance Supervisor
- Track Maintainer II

NEW PROMOTIONS/HIRES

- The Transportation Division hired three new Engineer-Conductor staff in January.
- An Engineer-Conductor was promoted to Controller Supervisor.

INTERVIEWS

The District held interviews for the following positions:

- Safety and Compliance Officer
- Engineer-Conductor

Applicant screening is currently underway for the following positions:

- Administrative Assistant
- Signal Technician Trainee

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 16 different notices through January and in 2021 SMART has received and reviewed 4 different notices.

State Route 37 – Planning Processes Underway:

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

The most recent SR37 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 & 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.

SMART staff participates in a Bikeshare Working Group. The most recent meeting took place January 27, 2021, covering updated implementation timeline, public survey distribution, inter-agency coordination agreement, and a coordinated Board/Council package for upcoming operational approval.

TRANSIT COORDINATION MEETINGS:

- **January 6, 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, new regional funding through the Safe and Seamless Mobility Quick-Strike Grant Program, Regional Transit Capital Priorities process, and Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force.
- **January 12, 2021** – Staff participated in the Northern California Rail Working Group quarterly meeting with rail operators and the State of California. The discussion included the 2022 State Rail Plan update, a project update on the Dumbarton Crossing, and the Caltrans Intercity Bus Study and Salinas Extension projects.
- **January 13, 2021** – Staff participated in Sonoma County Transportation Authority’s monthly **Transit Technical Advisory Committee** meeting. Standing items were discussed including transit operator updates and Sonoma County’s Future of Transit Ad Hoc Committee status.
- **January 25, 2021** – Staff attended the **Blue-Ribbon Transit Task Force** meeting virtually. The agenda included the Transformation Action Plan Goals of Advancing Equity, Update on Current Regional Initiatives (**Fare Integration Task Force; Regional Transit Mapping & Wayfinding; Bus Prioritization Project**) Transit Operator Network Management and Transit Network Manager Roles and Responsibilities.
- **January 12 & 26, 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 MTC Climate Initiative on Mobility Hubs, amongst other topics.
- **January 5, 12, 19 & 26 - 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.
- **January 28, 2021** – SMART staff and Board Vice Chair participated in the Blue Ribbon Transit Task Force meeting held to discuss Task Force goals and regional small transit operator feedback on those goals. A similar meeting was held on February 1, 2021, with the Task Force and the region’s seven large transit operators.

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.