



# SMART

Your train has arrived.

## Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit District

### General Manager's Report – November 2019

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**SMART**

|| SONOMA-MARIN AREA RAIL TRANSIT

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

### Community Outreach - Free Rides to Assist Those Impacted by the Kincade Fire

SMART offered free train service to assist those in the area who needed transportation options during the period of the Kincade Fire and PG&E Power Safety Shut-off. Thousands of riders got on board each day during the free period, from October 30 through November 6. SMART trains operated on a modified schedule for several days due to the power shut-off in the northern portion of Santa Rosa, but resumed the full-service schedule promptly.

SMART also offered free rides during the Thanksgiving holiday and weekend, as a continuation of the free service the SMART Board of Directors approved in October 2019 to assist residents displaced during the Kincade Fire. The testing of the railway and crossings for the new Novato Downtown station during the weekend of November 8 and 9 resulted in the Board approving to roll some of the earlier fare-free days into this Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

### Community Outreach - Construction

The Communications and Marketing Department experienced a busy month, with several steps towards the opening of the Larkspur extension and Novato Downtown station taking place in November. During the weekend of November 8 and 9, SMART closed a portion of the railroad between the Petaluma Downtown and Novato Hamilton stations to accommodate testing for the new Novato Downtown station. A bus bridge shuttled passengers between the Petaluma Downtown, Novato San Marin and Novato Hamilton stations. Trains operated on a modified service schedule during that weekend. The outreach team was joined by additional SMART staff and Ambassadors to inform and assist passengers.



On November 17, SMART announced the beginning of simulated service to Larkspur: the final step before the station is fully operational. This included several changes that the outreach team need to communicate to passenger, such as the switching of northbound and southbound platforms in San Rafael. During operational testing for the Larkspur station, trains travel to Larkspur and no longer wait at the San Rafael station. All passengers are required to exit the train in San Rafael. The Communications and Marketing Department worked with the Operations crew to create banners and message boards for the San Rafael station to inform passengers about the changes.





## Media - News Coverage

- December 3, *CA: SMART passengers offer opinions of rail service as key ballot measure looms* (Mass Transit Magazine)
- November 30, *SMART passengers offer opinions of rail service as key ballot measure looms* (Santa Rosa Press Democrat)
- November 30, *San Rafael drivers grapple with SMART complications* (Marin Independent Journal)
- November 30, *Editorial: SMART train tries to get it right* (Marin Independent Journal)
- November 26, *SMART providing free service on Thanksgiving through Dec. 1* (Santa Rosa Press Democrat)
- November 25, *Expanded SMART train schedule slated for new year* (Novato Patch)
- November 25, *SMART train announces new service schedule* (KSRO/Radio 1350 AM)
- November 24, *SMART district announced upcoming service changes* (KNTV/NBC Bay Area)
- November 24, *SMART district announces upcoming service changes for North Bay commuter* (KTVU/Fox TV)
- November 21, *All aboard! SMART trains expand service adding new stations* (WABC TV/ABC 7)
- November 21, *Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) announces new train schedule effective on January 1, 2020* (Sonoma County Gazette)
- November 21, *More trains, new stops, no more 90-minute waits with expanded schedule* (Petaluma Argus Courier)
- November 20, *SMART to begin train service to new Larkspur and Novato stations in mid-December* (Santa Rosa Press Democrat)
- November 20, *SMART pitches new train schedules, announces Larkspur opening* (Marin Independent Journal)
- November 19, *SMART train begins simulated service to Larkspur station* (sfbay.org)
- November 19, *San Rafael gains nonprofit for disabled adults* (Marin Independent Journal)
- November 18, *Simulated SMART train service starts at new Larkspur station* (Larkspur-Corte Madera Patch)

- November 18, *SMART's cost to reach Windsor rises to at least \$65 million* (Petaluma Argus Courier)
- November 18, *SMART's cost to reach Windsor rises to at least \$65 million* (North Bay Business Journal)
- November 17, *Simulated service to new SMART station starts Sunday* (SF Gate)
- November 16, *SMART's cost to reach Windsor rises to at least \$65 million* (Santa Rosa Press Democrat)
- November 16, *SMART to sound horn in San Rafael during simulated trips to Larkspur* (Marin Independent Journal)
- November 14, *Criticized SMART station area plan back before Petaluma planners tonight* (Petaluma Argus Courier)
- November 14, *Santa Rosa man ID'd as motorcyclist who died in SMART train collision* (Santa Rosa Press Democrat)
- November 14, *Motorcyclist killed in collision with SMART train in Santa Rosa* (Marin Independent Journal)
- November 13, *Motorcyclist killed in collision with SMART train in Santa Rosa* (Santa Rosa Press Democrat)
- November 13, *SMART completes tests at downtown Novato station* (Marin Independent Journal)
- November 11, *CA: SMART approves sales tax extension measure for March 2020 ballot measure* (Mass Transit Magazine)
- November 8, *Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit to test crossing warnings, train control systems* (KNTV/NBC Bay Area)
- November 8, *New round of safety testing, more horn noise from North Bay's SMART* (KTVU/Fox TV)
- November 7, *SMART to close stations, sound train horn for Novato testing* (Marin Independent Journal)
- November 6, *SMART places sales tax measure on March ballot* (Marin Independent Journal)
- November 6, *CA: SMART set to finalize sales tax renewal March ballot measure* (Mass Transit Magazine)

- November 5, *SMART set to finalize sales tax renewal March ballot measure* (Santa Rosa Press Democrat)
- November 5, *Dick Spotswood: Addressing the myth that Marin leaders didn't want BART here* (Marin Independent Journal)
- October 30, *SMART offers free rides as full-service returns* (Marin Independent Journal)
- October 30, *SMART trains resume full-service Thursday* (SF Gate)
- October 29, *Sheriff: nearly all fire evacuees can go home* (Santa Rosa Press Democrat)
- October 29, *SMART train service running on limited schedule Wednesday through Nov. 6* (SF Gate)
- October 29, *SMART to resume full, free service from Sonoma County Airport* (Petaluma Patch)

## LARKSPUR EXTENSION PROJECT

- Work at the Larkspur Station is substantially complete.
- Pre-Revenue operations started on November 17<sup>th</sup>.
- The Novato Downtown Station construction is well underway with the installation of fencing, lighting, clipper card reading machines and other amenities.
- The testing of the Novato Downtown train control systems was completed in November.



Larkspur Station





Larkspur Station- Clipper Card Readers and shelter



Bettini Transit Center – Pedestrian Safety channelization along 3<sup>rd</sup> St.





Novato Downtown Station - Train Testing



Novato Downtown Platform – Ticket Vending Machine Installation





Novato Downtown - Bike Lockers



Main St. in Penngrove – Sidewalk Construction

- The grade crossing improvements at Main Street in Penngrove are on-going.



## WINDSOR EXTENSION PROJECT

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- The Civil Design-Build Contract was awarded in November.
- Coordination with Windsor and Sonoma County is on-going.
- Environmental permitting is underway.



Windsor Extension – Pool Creek Bridge



## PAYRAN TO SOUTHPOINT MULTI-USE PATHWAY - PETALUMA

- Site cleanup and punch list items started in November.
- Tree planting was completed in November.



Payran Pathway – Mitigation Tree Planting



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. 5<sup>th</sup> St. (San Rafael)

The following locations are under designed:

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)





East Cotati Ave., Cotati- Pedestrian Channelization Fence



6<sup>th</sup> St., Santa Rosa - Pedestrian Channelization Fence





Grant Ave., Novato - Pedestrian Channelization Fence

## SAFETY AND SECURITY

Code Compliance contacted a male who was passed out at the Petaluma station. The man had too much to drink and fell asleep. He was escorted off the property.



Ongoing group of trespassers in Santa Rosa were moved along. This group continually loiters on the pathway and is moved many times a week.





Another group of trespassers on the right of way in Santa Rosa. These two mothers were walking with strollers inside the right of way close to the tracks. They were advised of the safety and trespassing concerns and left the area.



A male was contacted sleeping behind a signal house in Santa Rosa, he was contacted by code compliance and moved along.





Another early morning contact by Code Compliance in Santa Rosa. This man slept behind the signal house and was moved along



Staff has been preparing for the training exercise in coordination with Larkspur area police, fire and EMS agencies. This drill will be focused in the tunnel and a coordinated response with outside agencies and SMART.

## REAL ESTATE

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### PRIVATE CROSSINGS

Staff drafted and sent a license for a private crossing at the request of a property owner on the Brazos Branch that is immediately adjacent to the tracks. The agreement will need to be negotiated with the private owner. Staff has completed research of the property records for private crossings at the request of a large developer south of the Cloverdale Station and immediately adjacent to the tracks.

### PROPERTY ACQUISITIONS (IN PROCESS)

*Downtown Petaluma Station Property:* Staff is continuing to work with the proposed purchaser of the property on a final Purchase and Sale Agreement. Part of the agreement includes working the Union Pacific Railroad on determining the location of a fiber optics easement. Staff will continue to work with the proposed buyer to finalize details of the property sale.

*Downtown Santa Rosa Station Property:* Staff continues to work with the developer on due diligence issues. One of the due diligence items is the clearing a Deed of Trust that SMART holds on the adjacent property which needs to have documents signed to remove the encumbrance. The request is on the SMART Board's December 4, 2019 agenda.

*Larkspur Extension Project:* Staff is continuing to finalize a Land Exchange Agreement with the City of San Rafael. City Staff are working to take the item to City Council for approval in December. Staff is continuing to work with Century Theatres on an agreed upon access route to the Non-Motorized pathway to access the new Larkspur Station.

*Track work:* Research continues on 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

#### *Special Events Completed:*

Asti Tour De Vine – Cloverdale – October 12

2019 Ragnar Napa Valley Relay Race – Sonoma and Marin Counties – October 25

#### *Special Event Requests:*

Penngrove Parade – Penngrove – December 15

*Right of Entry Permits Issued:*

PG&E – Gas Line Work – Steele Lane, Santa Rosa Hopper Street, Petaluma  
PG&E – Gas Line Work – Los Ranchitos Road  
PG&E – Pole Replacement – Hamilton & Redwood Blvd., Novato  
PG&E – Gas Line Work – Smith Ranch Road, Novato  
PG&E – Vegetation trimming/removal extension – 1 year  
City of San Rafael – MUP lighting – San Rafael

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

PG&E – Pole Replacement – West Robles, Santa Rosa  
PG&E – Gas Line Work – Hopper Street, Petaluma  
PG&E – Gas Line Work – Piner Road, Santa Rosa  
PG&E – Pole Replacement – Rohnert Park Expwy, Rohnert Park  
PG&E – Gas Line Work – Olive Street, Novato  
PG&E – Gas Line Work – Windsor Road, Windsor  
Clearheart Drilling – Pot Holing – Windsor River Road  
Subtronic Corporation- Boring Activities Windsor Road  
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  
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## VEHICLE SYSTEMS

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On Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> DMU 116 was involved in an incident at Guerneville Rd. in Santa Rosa. Substantial damage was done to the vehicles sanding system which assists in traction, air plumbing, and engine air intake. Current estimates for a repair timeline is 3 months.

SMART has received 2 newly built wheel sets which were funded from the 2018/2019 budget.



# OPERATIONS

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## MAINTENANCE OF WAY (MOW):

- MOW installed a fence barrier at both ends of the Healdsburg bridge over the Russian River to prevent trespassing.
- Facilities team began installation of station signage and additional pavement markings at the Novato Downtown and Larkspur Stations.
- MOW began annual inspections of concrete and steel bridges joint with SMART Engineering Department.
- MOW Facilities team reallocated curb space at the Novato San Marin station to accommodate a new bus stop for Marin Transit.
- Two Signal Tech candidates were interviewed with one selected to move forward in the hiring process.
- The annual track Geometry Car test was performed with no urgent defects found. Overall the test showed improved results over the previous 2 years.

## VEHICLE MAINTENANCE:

- Performed fly wheel change out on Diesel Multiple Units 101 and 117. This is an engine modification, that is caused by the fatigue level of the metal being low
- Performed 500-hour oil change on 12 Diesel Multiple Units
- Automatic Train Control maintenance performed on 5 Diesel Multiple Units. This maintenance keeps us compliant with Federal Regulatory Association regulations in regards to positive train control
- Performed under car inspection on 14 Diesel Multiple Units

## TRANSPORTATION:

### *SMART Transportation Department Training:*

- SMART's engineers/conductors started operating on November 18, 2019 the Larkspur Extension using the current daily revenue operating schedule.
- SMART Meetings (November)
- Federal Transportation Authority Train trip with a tour of the Rail Operations Center on November 18, 2019
- Federal Railroad Administration Operating Practices Inspector inspected the operation of SMART system on November 22, 2019



# HUMAN RESOURCES

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## CURRENT OPEN RECRUITMENTS:

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

## INTERVIEWS:

- Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor
- Vehicle Maintenance Technician

## LABOR CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS:

Labor Negotiations with the Operating Engineers Local 3 are ongoing. The contract expired on June 30, 2019.

## 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, which is meeting every other week until the end of 2019.

*Solano Transportation Authority (STA) SMART Station and Solano Express Feasibility Study:* The 2018 California State Rail Plan identifies a 2040 vision that includes new east-west rail service along the Highway 37 and Highway 12 corridors that connects a Solano County hub with the SMART rail line. As a follow up to this Plan, SMART conducted an engineering feasibility study that concluded that the proposed service is feasible. As a follow up to the SMART engineering feasibility study, STA issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to conduct the SMART Station and SolanoExpress Feasibility Study in Solano County. This study calls for a consultant to provide a comprehensive analysis of the existing conditions in Solano County along the SMART corridor, including land-use, rail facility conditions, biological conditions and integration potential for SolanoExpress, regional thru way bus, and active transportation. A consultant has been selected to conduct the study and the first meeting was held Tuesday November 5<sup>th</sup> at the Solano Transportation Authority's Office. SMART staff attended the kickoff meeting and will provide technical assistance throughout the study.

*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 & 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 next meeting is scheduled for Thursday December 5th at 9:30am at the Napa Valley Transportation Authority offices.

*Sonoma County Vision Zero Project:* Vision Zero is a multi-national road traffic safety project that aims to achieve a highway and roads system with no fatalities or serious injuries involving road traffic. Sonoma County Transportation Authority and Department of Health Services are collaborating to engage the community in a comprehensive, countywide Vision Zero planning process, building upon the efforts and successes of the Safe Streets Coalition, Safe Routes to School, ECO2School Program, and other community-based efforts to make our roads safer. Sonoma County has requested SMART staff participate in the launch of the project, with a kick off meeting held December 3.



*Local Planning Department Notification and Coordination Tracking:* SMART Planning staff attends regional planning coordination meetings, including the October 17, 2019, SCTA Planning Advisory Committee. 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 **160** different notices.

#### 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 (Oct. & Nov. meetings were canceled).

*BikeLink™ Lockers* – Two new BikeLink quad lockers (8 spaces) were successfully installed at the Novato Downtown Station on Monday November 25<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, BikeLink is preparing to launch Clipper Card integrations with their lockers. Users will be able to use their Clipper Cards to utilize the electronic bike lockers, instead of using the separate BikeLink card. BikeLink currently anticipates the Clipper Implementation Program will launch with SMART’s lockers very soon.