

Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit District



General Manager's Report – November 2020

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SMART

|| SONOMA-MARIN AREA RAIL TRANSIT

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community Outreach | Presentations and Community Events



SMART
Holiday Express
Toy Drive

Help us make the holidays bright for children in need.

Drive Thru Drop-off

Donate a new, unwrapped toy
at one of our drive thru events and
get a ticket for a **free ride on the SMART train!**
Masks and social distancing are required.

Saturday, December 5, 2020

Santa Rosa Downtown Station 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.		Novato Hamilton Station 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.
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Thank you to our partners:



The SMART Holiday Express Toy Drive is here for the fifth year in a row! This year, we're partnering with organizations in Marin and Sonoma counties to collect unwrapped toys to help local families in need. Join community nonprofits, first responders and local organizations for a safe and festive way to serve those in need.

Donate a new, unwrapped toy at one of our drive thru drop-off events and get a ticket for a free ride on the SMART train! Take a stroll through the festively decorated Holiday Express Train display. Please note that passengers will not be able to ride the Holiday Express train during this event, but you can catch the decorated train during regular service through January 1! Masks and social distancing are required at this event.



On October 20, Matt Stevens and Joanne Parker made a presentation about the history of SMART at a virtual webinar on “Restoring Abandoned or Out-of-Service Rail Lines for Passenger Service” for DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois.

Community Outreach | Programs

In November, SMART began participating in the Clipper START program, joining the collection of ten Bay Area Transit agencies offering discounts to low-income riders. Clipper START is an 18-month pilot program, started by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Bay Area transit agencies using the Clipper fare collection system. Bay Area residents age 19-64 who meet certain income requirements that are 200% of the federal poverty level or less are eligible to participate in the program. Eligible riders can apply to participate in the Clipper START program online at www.clipperstartcard.com. Applicants must provide proof of identity and income, such as a copy of an Electronic Benefits Transfer card or Medi-Cal card, a county benefits eligibility letter, or a copy of their last federal tax return to demonstrate their eligibility. Once approved by Clipper, they will receive a personalized Clipper card that must be loaded with cash value before use. Clipper START participants receive a 50% discount on single ride fares on SMART. The discount will automatically be applied to participating transit agency fares with the Clipper START card. Visit www.clipperstartcard.com for more details on the pilot program.



**START SAVING with
Clipper START!**

**Up to 50% off transit
for eligible riders.**

Learn more at clipperstartcard.com **CLIPPER START ▶▶**

Media | News Coverage

- November 21, *Low-income riders eligible to ride SMART half-price* (Argus Courier)
- November 21, *Low-income riders eligible to ride SMART half-price* (The Press Democrat)
- November 21, *Great Redwood Trail to cost up to \$5 billion state report finds* (The Press Democrat)
- November 19, *Six transit agencies to join MTC's Clipper START program* (Mass Transit Magazine)
- November 19, *Low-income adults eligible for discount ride on SMART* (Sonoma West Times & News)
- November 19, *Low-income adults eligible for discount ride on SMART* (Sonoma West Times & News)
- November 15, *Editorial: San Rafael, SMART need to study safety at troubled crossing* (Marin Independent Journal)
- November 11, *Santa Rosa takes tentative step towards electric scooter system* (The Press Democrat)
- November 11, *SMART reviewing safety measures at San Rafael crossing after third collision* (The Press Democrat)
- November 8, *SMART hires new financial chief, reduces bond debt* (Marin Independent Journal)
- November 7, *SMART might alter San Rafael crossing after crashes* (Marin Independent Journal)
- November 6, *California transit agency names McKillop CFO* (Progressive Railroading)
- November 3, *Fitch withdraws Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit District (CA) IDR and series 2011A ratings* (Fitch Ratings)
- November 3, *Dick Spotswood: Plummeting bridge tolls leave no good options to protect transit workers* (Marin Independent Journal)
- November 2, *SMART set to hire Colorado transit executive as new finance chief* (The Press Democrat)
- November 2, *SMART set to hire Colorado transit executive as new finance chief* (The North Bay Business Journal)
- November 1, *SMART cuts costs by refinancing construction bonds* (Sonoma County Gazette)

RIDERSHIP INFORMATION

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Weekly Totals	
17-Feb	18-Feb	19-Feb	20-Feb	21-Feb	22-Feb	23-Feb	Bikes	ADA
2,081	2,961	3,196	3,124	2,959	1,568	1,456	1742	79
24-Feb	25-Feb	26-Feb	27-Feb	28-Feb	29-Feb	1-Mar		
2,901	3,174	3,227	3,256	2,986	1,522	969	2067	72
COVID-19 Starts								
2-Mar	3-Mar	4-Mar	5-Mar	6-Mar	7-Mar	8-Mar		
2,782	2,916	3,091	3,005	2,833	874	733	2036	71
9-Mar	10-Mar	11-Mar	12-Mar	13-Mar	14-Mar	15-Mar		
2,470	2,455	2,498	2,298	1,822	292	293	1612	67
16-Mar	17-Mar	18-Mar	19-Mar	20-Mar	21-Mar	22-Mar		
867	489	353	331	342	Annulled	Annulled	379	16
23-Mar	24-Mar	25-Mar	26-Mar	27-Mar	28-Mar	29-Mar		
274	239	297	290	315	Annulled	Annulled	251	10
** Service Reduced to 34 Trips**								
30-Mar	30/31	1-Apr	2-Apr	3-Apr	4-Apr	5-Apr		
253	243	252	266	247	Annulled	Annulled	245	0
**Service Reduced to 16 Trips **								
6-Apr	7-Apr	8-Apr	9-Apr	10-Apr	11-Apr	12-Apr		
171	182	185	189	180	Annulled	Annulled	166	2
13-Apr	14-Apr	15-Apr	16-Apr	17-Apr	18-Apr	19-Apr		
180	205	196	214	191	Annulled	Annulled	202	5
20-Apr	21-Apr	22-Apr	23-Apr	24-Apr	25-Apr	26-Apr		
201	200	211	219	194	Annulled	Annulled	246	11
27-Apr	28-Apr	29-Apr	30-Apr	1-May	2-May	3-May		
203	215	222	248	202	Annulled	Annulled	256	6
4-May	5-May	6-May	7-May	8-May	9-May	10-May		
248	265	245	237	248	Annulled	Annulled	286	8
11-May	12-May	13-May	14-May	15-May	16-May	17-May		
214	239	255	267	266	Annulled	Annulled	276	1
18-May	19-May	20-May	21-May	22-May	23-May	24-May		
233	293	265	281	330	Annulled	Annulled	368	4

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Weekly Totals	
25-May	26-May	27-May	28-May	29-May	30-May	31-May	Bikes	ADA
Annulled	287	302	335	296	Annulled	Annulled	310	1
1-Jun	2-Jun	3-Jun	4-Jun	5-Jun	6-Jun	7-Jun		
309	322	369	336	346	Annulled	Annulled	407	2
8-Jun	9-Jun	10-Jun	11-Jun	12-Jun	13-Jun	14-Jun		
346	389	390	350	386	Annulled	Annulled	459	14
15-Jun	16-Jun	17-Jun	18-Jun	19-Jun	20-Jun	21-Jun		
383	377	424	409	399	Annulled	Annulled	490	3
22-Jun	23-Jun	24-Jun	25-Jun	26-Jun	27-Jun	28-Jun		
400	409	433	398	361	Annulled	Annulled	496	9
29-Jun	30-Jun	1-Jul	2-Jul	3-Jul	4-Jul	5-Jul		
419	431	429	390	297	Annulled	Annulled	426	2
6-Jul	7-Jul	8-Jul	9-Jul	10-Jul	11-Jul	12-Jul		
421	462	420	420	392	Annulled	Annulled	453	4
13-Jul	14-Jul	15-Jul	16-Jul	17-Jul	18-Jul	19-Jul		
412	414	419	421	397	Annulled	Annulled	465	5
20-Jul	21-Jul	22-Jul	23-Jul	24-Jul	25-Jul	26-Jul		
369	394	418	488	425	Annulled	Annulled	514	8
27-Jul	28-Jul	29-Jul	30-Jul	31-Jul	1-Aug	2-Aug		
379	404	390	452	414	Annulled	Annulled	464	5
3-Aug	4-Aug	5-Aug	6-Aug	7-Aug	8-Aug	9-Aug		
417	437	404	440	476	Annulled	Annulled	474	9
10-Aug	11-Aug	12-Aug	13-Aug	14-Aug	15-Aug	16-Aug		
433	464	438	446	396	Annulled	Annulled	506	1
17-Aug	18-Aug	19-Aug	20-Aug	21-Aug	22-Aug	23-Aug		
346	418	387	399	324	Annulled	Annulled	403	0
24-Aug	25-Aug	26-Aug	27-Aug	28-Aug	29-Aug	30-Aug		
349	407	406	467	445	Annulled	Annulled	507	4

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Weekly Totals	
31-Aug	1-Sep	2-Sep	3-Sep	4-Sep	5-Sep	6-Sep	Bikes	ADA
382	459	417	441	438	Annulled	Annulled	423	4
7-Sep	8-Sep	9-Sep	10-Sep	11-Sep	12-Sep	13-Sep		
Annulled	414	393	396	368	Annulled	Annulled	345	4
14-Sep	15-Sep	16-Sep	17-Sep	18-Sep	19-Sep	20-Sep		
374	424	398	403	452	Annulled	Annulled	398	1
21-Sep	22-Sep	23-Sep	24-Sep	25-Sep	26-Sep	27-Sep		
435	472	470	517	494	Annulled	Annulled	490	23
28-Sep	29-Sep	30-Sep	1-Oct	2-Oct	3-Oct	4-Oct		
316	365	464	453	428	Annulled	Annulled	362	12
5-Oct	6-Oct	7-Oct	8-Oct	9-Oct	10-Oct	11-Oct		
407	469	434	423	475	Annulled	Annulled	431	12
12-Oct	13-Oct	14-Oct	15-Oct	16-Oct	17-Oct	18-Oct		
394	482	416	455	469	Annulled	Annulled	430	9
19-Oct	20-Oct	21-Oct	22-Oct	23-Oct	24-Oct	25-Oct		
436	513	409	478	491	Annulled	Annulled	443	9
26-Oct	27-Oct	28-Oct	29-Oct	30-Oct	31-Oct	1-Nov		
386	438	410	496	489	Annulled	Annulled	459	15
2-Nov	3-Nov	4-Nov	5-Nov	6-Nov	7-Nov	8-Nov		
432	503	455	480	448	Annulled	Annulled	494	10
9-Nov	10-Nov	11-Nov	12-Nov	13-Nov	14-Nov	15-Nov		
433	452	416	478	415	Annulled	Annulled	451	7
16-Nov	17-Nov	18-Nov	19-Nov	20-Nov	21-Nov	22-Nov		
404	386	404	419	426	Annulled	Annulled	456	3
23-Nov	24-Nov	25-Nov	26-Nov	27-Nov	28-Nov	29-Nov		
417	437	402	Annulled	Annulled	Annulled	Annulled	210	3

WINDSOR EXTENSION PROJECT

- Design work is complete.
- Coordination with the Town of Windsor and County of Sonoma is on-going.
- Winterization of railroad job site is complete.
- Airport Boulevard widening work for the County of Sonoma continues with the building of south side curb, gutter, drainage, and utility relocations.



Winterization for East Windsor Creek



Airport Blvd.- Excavation for Drainage Structures



Airport Blvd.- Placing and Compacting new Roadway Base



Airport Blvd.- Building Drainage Inlets



Airport Blvd.- Conducting Survey for Excavation



Airport Blvd.- Setting Forms for Drainage Structures



Airport Blvd.- Pouring New Curb and Gutter

Multi-Use Pathway Project

Sonoma County Pathway Gap Closure Project

- 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 problem solving critical issues such as locating the path-of-travel at the grade crossings, avoiding utilities conflicts, and minimizing impact on wetland along the SMART corridor.



Corona Rd. to Ely Blvd. Future Pathway Location in Petaluma

OPERATIONS

MAINTENANCE OF WAY:

- Signal team repaired crossing gate knock down due to large truck collision at Washington Street in Petaluma
- Signal team supported Larkspur contractor warranty work for a network switch replacement
- Signal team completed 5 annual crossing inspections this month
- Track team completed the removal and relocation of materials and clearing of the Downtown Santa Rosa property
- Track team completed 32 flagging assignments at various locations
- Track team responded multiple times for excessive trash along the Santa Rosa Multi-use pathway due to increased homeless activity adjacent to SMART's property.
- Facilities team completed installation of 7 air purifiers at Fulton, and Roblar properties
- Facilities team completed 10 fence repairs, with one large repair at Barnes road of 50 feet due to a vehicle driving off the road



Vehicle along the track near Barnes Road



Gates struck down on Washington Street, Petaluma



Downtown Santa Rosa Property Clean Up for Sale

TRANSPORTATION:

SMART Transportation Meetings:

- Annual review on Trauma Bag (Items inside bag and their uses) for all Engineer/Conductors Training provided by Mike Seybold

SMART Transportation Department Training:

- Currently reviewing online training programs for year 2021.

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE:

- Performed inspection on Diesel Multiple Unit 105 due to faults occurring causing the Diesel Multiple Unit to not exceed 10 mph. Upon further investigation it was determined that the master controller had drifted out of range. The master controller was changed out and the Diesel Multiple Unit was placed back into service
- Performed overhaul brake maintenance on Diesel Multiple Unit 105. This maintenance involves removing all brake components and sending them out to a third party to have them inspected and certified. This maintenance allows SMART to stay in compliance with Federal Railroad Administration's requirements
- Performed mid-year maintenance on 2 Diesel Multiple Unit
- Performed 500- hour oil change on 3 Diesel Multiple Units
- Automatic Train Control maintenance performed on 7 Diesel Multiple Units. This maintenance keeps us compliant with Federal Regulatory Association regulations in 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
- Performed emergency exit window pull test on 10 of the Diesel Multiple Units. The test is to establish confidence per the Code of Federal Regulations that the emergency exit windows will react as designed during an emergency
- Performed deep cleaning on the fleet light covers and seats
- Performed Automatic Train Control inspection on Northwestern Pacific Railroad engine 2009
- Removed Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning filters throughout the fleet and installed new Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value filter's (MERV-13)

FREIGHT SERVICE

The state released a report titled “Assessment of the North Coast Railroad Authority and Viability of a Great Redwood Trail.” This report is posted on our website and can be accessed here: <https://calsta.ca.gov/-/media/calsta-media/documents/sb-1029-assessment-of-ncra-report-to-legislature-111220.pdf>.

At the November 18, 2020 Board Meeting, I provided an update on the status of Freight Service and related activities. The Board approved a number of policies establishing SMART to become a Freight Service provider. The following activities have taken place and are ongoing:

- The State of California has been funded the \$4M for the purchase. The funds have been encumbered and deposited into an escrow account;
- The State of California has funded the \$2 million for SMART for freight maintenance. The funds have been encumbered and deposited into an escrow account;

SMART has not spent any agency funds to purchase NWPCo. All the funds are from the State of California and deposited into an escrow account.

The following two Agreements are pending and are near execution: 1) The Asset Transfer Purchase Agreement between SMART and NWPCo. This agreement is for SMART to purchase the assets once the funds are received; and 2) The Baseline Agreement between the State of California and SMART has been finalized and is pending execution.

SAFETY AND SECURITY



Petaluma Lakeville Bridge Trespassers



Petaluma Lakeville Bridge Trespassers



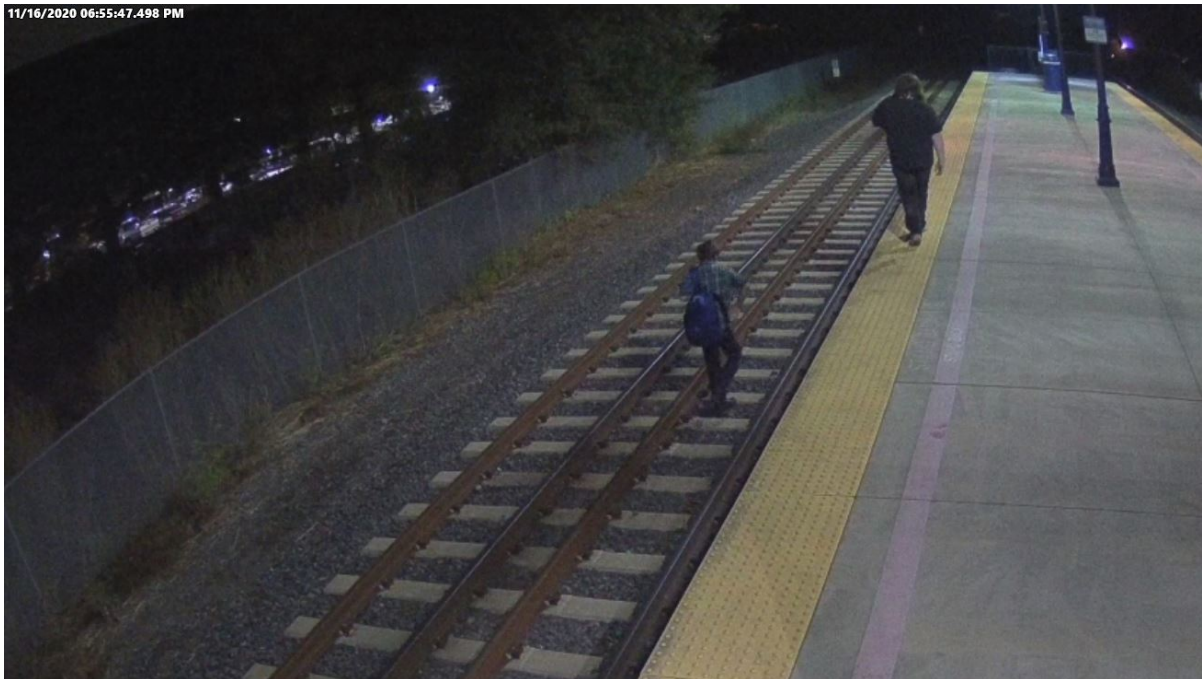
Petaluma Lakeville Bridge Trespassers



Downtown Santa Rosa Trespassers



Downtown Santa Rosa Trespassers



Santa Rosa North Station Trespassers



Trespasser near Santa Rosa Barham Crossing



Trespasser Sleeping along Petaluma Caufield Crossing

REAL ESTATE

Property Acquisitions (in process)

Downtown Petaluma Station Property: Staff has finalized a fiber optics easement to Union Pacific Railroad on the property. The developer has paid a fee to Union Pacific and staff has recorded the easement November 24, 2020. Staff is continuing to work with the City of Petaluma on the new entrance to the station parking lot.

Windsor Extension Project: Staff is continuing to research property rights that were granted to third parties on or along the new extension. Staff is continuing to work with utility companies on a variety of tasks on the new extension property.

North Coast Rail Authority (NCRA): Staff is continuing research on the real property assets that will be transferred if the agreement is approved by all the authorizing agencies.

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.

Special Event Requests:

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

Right of Entry Permits Issued:

PG&E- New regulator and vault installation on Hart Lane/Fulton Road- Fulton

PG&E- Cathodic Test Station Project- Piner Road- Santa Rosa

PG&E- Transmission Pole Maintenance Roblar Road- Novato

W.R. Forde Associates for Marin Municipal Water District- Pipeline installation- San Rafael

City of San Rafael- Francisco Blvd. West Improvement Project- San Rafael

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

PG&E- Gas Pipeline Construction Laydown area- Civic Center Drive- San Rafael

PG&E- Abandoning gas service uninstallation of High-Pressure Regulator- Windsor

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

Records research for all road and track intersection – 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.

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 Payran Pathway – sewer line ownership questions

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:

- Safety and Compliance Officer
- Engineer-Conductor
- Signal Technician
- Track Maintainer

NEW HIRES

The District has hired and promoted the following:

- New Chief Financial Officer who started on November 30th.
- An Engineer-Conductor who started on November 9th.
- Staff member was promoted from Signal Technician to Signal Supervisor.
- Staff member was promoted from Vehicle Maintenance Technician to Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor.
- Staff member was promoted from Vehicle Laborer to Vehicle Maintenance Technician.

MISCELLANEOUS

The District has begun interview process for the Communications and Marketing Manager.

GRANTS, LEGISLATION, PLANNING AND REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

REGIONAL AND LOCAL PLANNING ACTIVITIES

Local Planning Department Notification and Coordination Tracking: Staff also tracks and reviews all notices sent by local jurisdictions for projects occurring adjacent to or nearby the railroad tracks. In 2019 staff received and reviewed 171 different notices, with 160 notices by the end of November 2019. To date in 2020, SMART has received and reviewed 102 different notices.

State Route 37 – Caltrans Planning and Environmental Linkages Study (Sr37 Pel Study): Caltrans is beginning a State Route 37 Planning and Environmental Linkages Study (SR37 PEL), commencing with a series of Stakeholder meetings to educate on the purpose, process and outcomes of a PEL study. SMART staff participated in a stakeholder meeting on November 16, an online survey November 24, and an in person interview the first week of December. The PEL study will gather preliminary data, consider the conceptual level of design, traffic analyses, and evaluation of environmental impacts, and result in recommendations for the corridor.

Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan: SMART participates in coordination meetings related to the Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan with a meeting on November 12. 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

Clipper START (Low-Income Transit Fare) Pilot Program: The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) has launched a low-income transit fare pilot program on select Bay Area transit systems, including a November 23 launch on SMART, Santa Rosa CityBus, Petaluma Transit, Sonoma County Transit and Marin Transit as they join Golden Gate Transit and Ferry in offering discounts for income-qualified passengers.

SMART, Golden Gate and Marin offer 50% off adult single ride fares, with Santa Rosa, Sonoma County and Petaluma offering 20% off. The program allows adults who live in the Bay Area and whose annual earnings are up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level to qualify for fare discounts. The Clipper START pilot [requires riders to use Clipper](#) for fare payment. Riders can apply online or by submitting a paper application. Applicants will need to provide proof of identity and proof of income, and those approved will receive a personalized Clipper card that can be used for single-ride discounts on the participating transit agencies' systems. Information on the program, including a full list of participating transit agencies, and how to enroll can be found here: <https://www.clipperstartcard.com/s/>



Transit Coordination Meetings:

- **November 4, 2020** - 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, Regional Transit Capital Priorities process, and COVID-19 Response.
- **November 5, 2020** – Staff participated in the Quarterly **Northern California Rail Working Group** meeting. The Working Group received updates on the State Rail Plan Service Planning Process, the State’s Rail Fleet Management Plan, and a report on the New Transbay Rail Crossing Project.
- **November 11, 2020** – 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 status, transit fares including Clipper START, discussion, and Bay Area Public Transit Transportation Action Plan update.
- **November 16, 2020** – Staff attended the **Blue-Ribbon Transit Task Force** meeting virtually. The agenda included the Transformation Action Plan, including revised Goals and Objectives, Advancing Equity and Development of Principles.
- **November 3, 10, 17, 24, 2020** – 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, weekly to coordinate comments and activities associated with COVID-19 response and the MTC Blue Ribbon Transit Task Force Public Transit Transformation Action Plan.

GRANTS

State of California Short Line Railroad Improvement Program: Caltrans has submitted an application to the California Transportation Commission requesting \$1.5 million in funding from this one-time Statewide competitive program. Only \$7 million in funds are available to “Short Line” Railroad properties for improvements to advance the movement of freight traffic onto the rail network and off of the road network. The Metropolitan Transportation Commission has written a letter of support for this request. The CTC is expected to announce the programming of the funds in January 2021.



November 20, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515


Dear Speaker Pelosi,

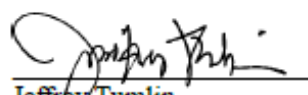
On behalf of the undersigned Bay Area public transportation operators and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, we are writing to thank you again for your continued advocacy on behalf of public transit in the ongoing COVID-19 relief negotiations and update you on our urgent funding needs. We strongly support the \$32 billion included in the updated HEROES Act, which would provide the Bay Area with an additional \$1.2 billion in formula funding, plus the opportunity to apply for other emergency relief funds. These resources are critical to avoiding painful layoffs and service reductions that the region's operators have either already approved, but have yet to take effect, or are in the midst of discussing, the most immediate being the layoff of 146 staff that are scheduled to take effect at the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District in early January. While transit ridership is starting to grow, reaching about 25 percent of normal in September, fare revenue is still down about 90 percent, resulting in a loss of over \$100 million/month compared to pre-COVID levels.

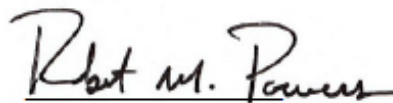
Meanwhile, the Bay Area's transit operators are continuing to connect nurses, social service workers and grocery store employees to their jobs so they can carry out critical functions and connect residents without cars to essential services. While this is the essential role that transit plays today, it will also play a critical part of the Bay Area's recovery, ensuring that our highways don't end up in gridlock once we reach the other side of the pandemic. Already, Bay Bridge traffic is back to 85 percent of normal. When offices reopen across the region, enticing commuters back to transit will be critical to keeping our roadways moving and our tailpipe emissions in check.

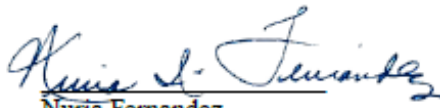
Without additional funding from Congress, the deeper service cuts and layoffs that were avoided by the CARES Act will be inevitable and risk long-term damage to our region's ability to meet our mobility, social equity and climate goals. We are so grateful for your steadfast support during this national crisis and respectfully ask that you continue to ensure that transit is included in any COVID-relief package. If we can answer any questions or be of assistance in any way, please contact MTC's Manager of Government Relations, Rebecca Long (rlong@bayareametro.gov or 510-504-7914).

Sincerely,


Alix A. Bockelman
Deputy Executive Director, MTC


Jeffrey Tumlin
Director of Transportation, S.F. MTA


Robert Powers
General Manager, BART


Nuria Fernandez
General Manager, Santa Clara VTA





Jim Hartnett
General Manager, Caltrain/Samtrans



Denis Mulligan
General Manager, Golden Gate Bridge,
Highway & Transportation District



Nina Rannells
Executive Director, Water Emergency
Transportation Authority



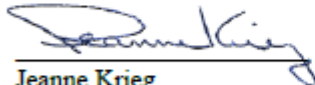
Diane Feinstein
Transportation Manager, FAST



Jared Hall
Transit Manager, Petaluma Transit



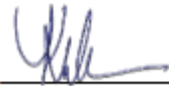
Beth Kranda
Executive Director, Soltrans



Jeanne Krieg
Chief Executive Officer, Tri Delta Transit



Farhad Mansourian
General Manager, SMART



Kate Miller
Executive Director, Napa Valley
Transportation Authority (VINE)



Michael Tree
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Michael Hursh
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General Manager, County Connection



Charles Anderson
General Manager, WestCAT



Nila Gonzales
Interim Executive Director, Transbay Joint
Powers Authority



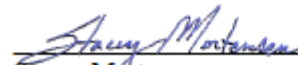
Daryl Hall
Executive Director, Solano Transportation
Authority (Solano Express)



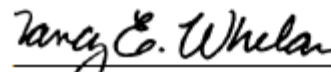
Joan Malloy
City Manager, Union City



Sean McGlynn
City Manager, Santa Rosa CityBus



Stacey Mortensen
Executive Director, Altamont Corridor
Express (San Joaquin Regional Rail
Commission)



Nancy Whelan
General Manager, Marin Transit



November 23, 2020

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510


Dear Senator Feinstein,

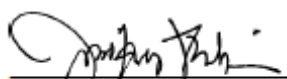
On behalf of the undersigned Bay Area public transportation operators and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, we are writing to provide an update on our urgent funding needs and share our strong support for the \$32 billion for public transit that was included in the updated HEROES Act. As proposed, the HEROES Act would provide the Bay Area with an additional \$1.2 billion in formula funding, plus the opportunity to apply for other emergency relief funds. These resources are critical to avoiding painful layoffs and service reductions that the region's operators have either already approved, but have yet to take effect, or are in the midst of discussing, the most immediate being the layoff of 146 staff that are scheduled to take effect at the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District in early January. While transit ridership is starting to grow, reaching about 25 percent of normal in September, fare revenue is still down about 90 percent, resulting in a loss of over \$100 million/month compared to pre-COVID levels.

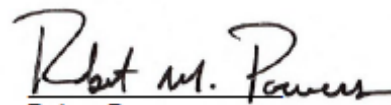
Meanwhile, the Bay Area's transit operators are continuing to connect nurses, social service workers and grocery store employees to their jobs so they can carry out critical functions and connect residents without cars to essential services. While this is the essential role that transit plays today, it will also play a critical part of the Bay Area's recovery, ensuring that our highways don't end up in gridlock once we reach the other side of the pandemic. Already, Bay Bridge traffic is back to 85 percent of normal. When offices reopen across the region, enticing commuters back to transit will be critical to keeping our roadways moving and our tailpipe emissions in check.


Without additional funding from Congress, the deeper service cuts and layoffs that were avoided by the CARES Act will be inevitable and risk long-term damage to our region's ability to meet our mobility, social equity and climate goals. We are so grateful for your steadfast support during this national crisis and respectfully ask that you continue to ensure that transit is included in any COVID-relief package. If we can answer any questions or be of assistance in any way, please contact MTC's Manager of Government Relations, Rebecca Long (rlong@bayareametro.gov or 510-504-7914).

Sincerely,


Alix A. Bockelman
Deputy Executive Director, MTC


Jeffrey Tumlin
Director of Transportation, S.F. MTA



Robert Powers
General Manager, BART


Nuria Fernandez
General Manager, Santa Clara VTA

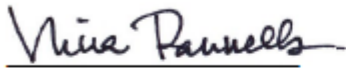




Jim Hartnett
General Manager, Caltrain/Samtrans



Denis Mulligan
General Manager, Golden Gate Bridge,
Highway & Transportation District



Nina Rannells
Executive Director, Water Emergency
Transportation Authority



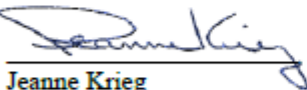
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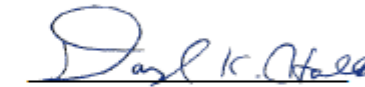
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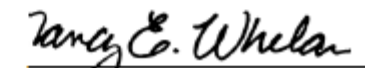
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November 23, 2020

The Honorable Kamala Harris
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

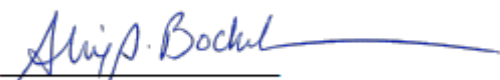
Dear Senator/Vice President-Elect Harris,

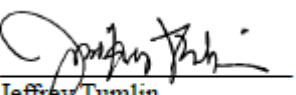
On behalf of the undersigned Bay Area public transportation operators and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, we would first like to offer our heartfelt congratulations to you and President-Elect Biden on your election victory. Additionally, we would like to provide an update on our urgent funding needs and share our strong support for the \$32 billion for public transit that was included in the updated HEROES Act. As proposed, the HEROES Act would provide the Bay Area with an additional \$1.2 billion in formula funding, plus the opportunity to apply for other emergency relief funds. These resources are critical to avoiding painful layoffs and service reductions that the region's operators have either already approved, but have yet to take effect, or are in the midst of discussing, the most immediate being the layoff of 146 staff that are scheduled to take effect at the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District in early January. While transit ridership is starting to grow, reaching about 25 percent of normal in September, fare revenue is still down about 90 percent, resulting in a loss of over \$100 million/month compared to pre-COVID levels.

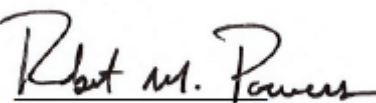
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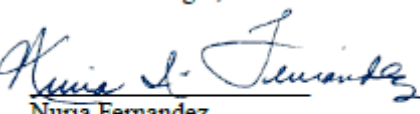
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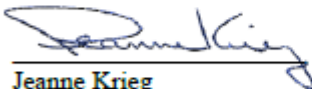
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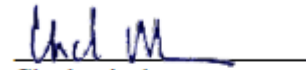
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