Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit District



General Manager's Report – April 2021

5401 Old Redwood Highway, Suite 200 Petaluma, CA 94954 Tel: (707) 794-3330

Fax: (707) 794-3037 www.SonomaMarinTrain.org



For Immediate Release **Contact: Matt Stevens** Direct: 707-794-3074

Cell: 707-328-3046

April 23, 2021

SMART Board of Directors approve \$21.4 million Capital Improvement Plan

Petaluma, CA – Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) approved a list of Rail and Pathway projects connecting SMART stations totaling \$21.4 million. SMART plans to leverage these funds and for \$60-80 million in construction grants.

"In this economic environment, we should celebrate the allocation of \$21.4M to capital improvement projects," said David Rabbitt, Chair of the SMART Board of Directors, "but it should be noted that this is a result of tightening our belts and running a lean organization."

Recommendations in the Capital Improvement Plan include two rail projects, advancing all remaining pathway projects to shovel-ready status, and making crossing safety enhancements to several existing pathway projects as part of the Sonoma County Gap Closure Project. This project includes Santa Rosa to Rohnert Park and Penngrove to Petaluma, a \$13.5M investment, scheduled to be constructed in 2022/23.

"I am pleased that SMART has the ability to make such a significant investment in connecting our communities" said SMART Board Director and Santa Rosa Mayor Chris Rogers. "As we open back up from the pandemic, SMART is providing the much-needed transit alternative to driving on Highway 101."

Rail Projects

The Healdsburg Bridge over the Russian River, south of Healdsburg and \$2M investment for The Petaluma 2nd Station at Corona Road in North Petaluma.

SMART is working with the City of Petaluma, Petaluma Transit, and affordable housing developer Danco Communities to submit a joint application to the State's Affordable Housing Sustainable Communities Program to fund the Petaluma North Station at Corona Road in Petaluma.

Barbara Pahre, Vice-Chair of the SMART board, said "These Capital Improvement Projects represent SMART's commitment to the completion of the Healdsburg and Cloverdale stations, all of the remaining pathway segments and the Petaluma North Station.

Pathway Projects

The SMART multi-use pathway network connecting all stations was envisioned as a way for commuters to access the train and make connections to destinations without driving by using a bicycle - creating a "green" alternative to commuting by car.

"The Board has been actively listening to our community and gathering valuable feedback to help us make these complex funding decisions." SMART Board Director Eric Lucan stated, "We're very pleased to commit these funds to create more connections for cyclists and pedestrians throughout the North Bay."

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OPERATIONS

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE:

- Replaced vestibule curtains on Diesel Multiple Units 101, 103, and 105 due to excessive wear
- Performed field modification upgrade to the Selective Catalytic Reduction brackets on Diesel Multiple Units 116 and 111. This upgrade is performed by lifting the Diesel Multiple Unit and removing the engine and diesel power module. Once the brackets are replaced, the engine and diesel power module are reinstalled.
- Replaced Master Controller on Diesel Multiple Unit 110 due to faults. After further inspection it was determined when the reverser was engaged it would not respond to forward or reverse
- Performed annual maintenance on 1 Diesel Multiple Unit.
- Performed mid-year maintenance on 4 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 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:

- New Engineer-Conductor Training for 3 employees completed.
- Dispatcher/Control Supervisor training continues.

SMART Transportation Department Training:

- Brazos Junction Bridge Tender training is complete for the Black-Point and Brazos Movable Bridges
- Currently updating online training programs for year 2021.
- All Engineer/Conductor have had the Yearly Annual Rules Class held at the Petaluma Office this year.

MAINTENANCE OF WAY:

- Signal team has been working with Train control Manager to streamline access of electronic information, for technicians out in the field with new software.
- Track Team completed 37 flagging assignments for the month of April.
- Track department started interviewing for Track Supervisor.
- Track and Facilities team responded to a fire started by trespasser at Haystack Bridge. Superficial damage sustained. All repairs completed.
- Facilities Team completed 5-year preventive maintenance at the Haystack Bridge.
- Facilities team repaired the fence at Nave Drive in Novato form Vehicle damage.

SIGNAL, TRACK AND FACILITIES TEAM



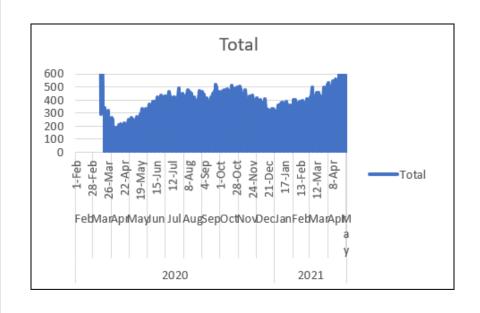
Signal and Track team responded to a car on the track at Third street in San Rafael. Track wires were repaired due to vehicle damage.



RIDERSHIP INFORMATION

Passenger Ric	lership
Daily Riders	Sum of Ridership
2020	175985
2021	35834
Jan	6728
Feb	7372
Mar	9961
Apr	11773
1-Apr	530
2-Apr	506
3-Apr	0
4-Apr	0
5-Apr	453
6-Apr	503
7-Apr	465
8-Apr	497
9-Apr	542
10-Apr	0
11-Apr	0
12-Apr	460
13-Apr	521
14-Apr	556
15-Apr	533
16-Apr	482
17-Apr	0
18-Apr	0
19-Apr	529
20-Apr	597
21-Apr	544
22-Apr	620
23-Apr	471
24-Apr	0
25-Apr	0
26-Apr	556
27-Apr	572
28-Apr	604
29-Apr	652
30-Apr	580
May	0
Grand Total	211819

Weekly Riders	Sum of Bike Ridership (Weekly)
2020	27129
2021	6776
Jan	1366
Feb	1483
Mar	2027
Apr	1900
Grand Total	33905
•	•
Weekly Riders	Sum of ADA Ridership Weekly
2020	679
2021	74
Jan	10
	8
Feb	· ·
Feb Mar	19
	-
Mar	19



COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND MARKETING

Community Outreach | Free Transportation to Vaccination Sites

SMART has partnered with local transit agencies to provide free transportation to and from all vaccination sites in Marin and Sonoma counties. 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.

Community Outreach | Return to Transit Surveys

As more riders are returning to Bay Area transit, we are assessing the current and future needs of our riders. The Community Outreach and Marketing team is reaching out to partners in different sectors to gather information on transportation trends. This information will be used to make adjustments to SMART service as COVID-19 restrictions in Marin and Sonoma county are reduced.

Marketing | Digital Media

In April, SMART and Civic Edge Consulting launched the Community Ties campaign on social media. This digital marketing effort aims to engage the public and provide insight about how SMART supports the local economy, promotes environmentally friendly transportation, and strengthens community ties by investing in our shared future. The campaign features infographics with relevant statistics, as well as 1-minute video, produced in both English and Spanish, that highlights SMART's benefits to the North Bay and beyond. Follow along on social media or check out the full campaign online at SonomaMarinTrain.org/CommunityTies.



Watch the SMART Community Ties video on YouTube.

Media | January News Coverage

- April 26, SMART approves new projects (KSRO Radio AM 1350)
- April 25, SMART reviews strategy amid leadership, pandemic flux (Marin Independent Journal)
- April 24, Editorial: Threatened Highway 37 needs a plan for the future (Marin Independent Journal)
- April 25, Sonoma County: \$21 million in transit projects approved (The Mercury News)
- April 23, SMART general manager announces retirement (Mass Transit)
- April 23, SMART will have new leadership and new projects by the end of the year (Sonoma Index-Tribune)
- April 22, Plan for permanent fixes to Hwy 37 take shape (Sonoma Index-Tribune)
- April 22, SMART general manager announces retirement (Marin Independent Journal)
- April 22, Editorial: Past promises, future goals on ambitious SMART list (Marin Independent Journal)
- April 22, CA: SMART general manager announces retirement (Mass Transit)
- April 21, SMART General Manager Farhad Mansourian announces he will retire in August (Petaluma Argus-Courier)
- April 20, Long awaited North Street farmers market pavilion project reached one step closer to reality (The Healdsburg Tribune)
- April 13, CA: SMART reviews \$2.6B rail, trail project wish list (Mass Transit)
- April 12, San Rafael council expects GGT transit project report next week (San Rafael Patch)
- April 10, SMART reviews \$2.6B rail, trail project wish list (Marin Independent Journal)
- April 3, By Land and by sea in Cloverdale (Sonoma County Gazette)
- March 24, Bay Area Group calls NCRA railbanking unlawful (Time Standards)

WINDSOR EXTENSION PROJECT

- Installation of the pedestrian traffic signal began in April for the County of Sonoma's Airport Boulevard widening work.
- Construction has been suspended because the Regional Measure 3 (RM3) Bridge Toll funding has not been distributed due to a lawsuit. that questions whether the toll fee should be treated as a tax and not a user fee. In October of 2020, the State Supreme Court agreed to hear the appeal case, which will continue to delay the funding until the outcome is determined by the court.



Installation of the Traffic Signal Equipment on Airport Blvd.



Installing Trafiic Signal Controller on Airport Blvd.

PATHWAY CONNECTING STATIONS 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 focusing on:

- Evaluating utility conflicts and impacts to environmental features along the pathway alignment.
- Field assessment and investigation review meeting was held to assess the grade crossings and utility conflicts.
- Finalizing the environmental permit applications to be submitted to the regulatory agencies.
- Advancing the pathway construction documents to 95% design level.



Review of Drainage Issues Along the Future Pathway Alignment in Petaluma



Reviewing site conditions for a Future Pedestrain Bridge in Santa Rosa



Review of Pathway Alignment in Rohnert Park

FREIGHT SERVICE

On February 2, 2021 SMART, filed a Verified Notice of Exemption before the Surface Transportation Board to acquire the right-of-way and freight rail operating easement from North Coast Railroad Authority (NCRA) – from the Mendocino/Sonoma County line (at MP 89) to the freight interchange junction in Napa (The Line).

On February 18, 2021, the Surface Transportation Board indicated that SMART and NCRA could consummate the transaction and SMART could acquire The Line on or after March 4, 2021 (30 days after the verified notice was filed).

On February 22, 2021, Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company (NWPCo) Petitioned the Surface Transportation Board for Discontinuance of Service Exemption (requesting authority to ceases being the freight rail operator / provider in Napa, Marin, and Sonoma Counties). The Surface Transportation Board instituted an exemption proceeding and set June 11, 2021 for the Final decision.

On March 26, 2021 NCRA/SMART consummated the transaction related to the acquired right-of-way and railroad freight easement, pursuant to the verified notice and Surface Transportation Board authorization.

Surface Transportation Board set June 11, 2021 to review and evaluate NWPCo's petition for discontinuance.

REAL ESTATE

PRIVATE CROSSINGS

Staff is starting to create files for the private crossings north of Healdsburg.

PROPERTY ACQUISITIONS

Windsor Extension Project: Staff is working to close out the transfer of property to the County for the redesigned and rebuilt bus pullout on Airport Boulevard in Santa Rosa. Staff is finalizing work with utility companies on a variety of tasks on the new extension property.

North Coast Rail Authority (NCRA): Staff is continuing to review documents from NCRA on the properties that have been transferred to SMART.

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 continuing the 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 leases, licensing agreements, easements, and/or current Master agreements for utility and telecommunications companies that are crossing SMART property.

SPECIAL EVENT REQUESTS:

Multiple Sclerosis Society- Waves to Wine Bike Ride, Rohnert Park/Santa Rosa- September 18-19, 2021

RIGHT OF ENTRY PERMITS ISSUED:

Phoenix Development Company of Minneapolis, LLC- Pullman Lofts Project- Santa Rosa PG&E- Arc Fault Investigation Survey work- Windsor

STAFF IS CONTINUING WORKING ON ISSUING RIGHT OF ENTRY PERMITS/LICENSE WITH:

PG&E- Arc Fault Investigation Survey work- Santa Rosa/Fulton

PG&E- Electrical Pole Maintenance- St. Vincent Drive- San Rafael

Cats 4u Inc.- Las Gallinas Sanitary District- Sewer Regulator Maintenance- San Rafael

PG&E- Gas Pipeline Maintenance- Manuel Drive- Novato

PG&E- Gas Regulator/Pipeline Installation/Easement- Fulton Yard- Santa Rosa/Fulton

PG&E- Yearly Vegetation Management for Electrical Division

PG&E- Gas Regulator Installation- Hart Lane- Santa Rosa/Fulton

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

Annexation of Sewer Lines for 105 Roblar Drive, Novato

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:

- Track Supervisor
- Engineer Conductor
- Real Estate Manager
- Vehicle Maintenance Technician
- Community Outreach Coordinator
- Facilities Maintenance Supervisor

NEW PROMOTIONS/HIRES

- Laborer employee was promoted to Signal Technician Trainee.
- Parts Clerk employee was promoted to Signal Technician Trainee.
- Engineer/Conductor employee was promoted to Controller Supervisor.
- Vehicle Maintenance Department hired a Laborer.
- Transportation Department hired Engineer/Conductor.
- Grants and Planning Department hired Principal Planner.

INTERVIEWS

The District held interviews for the following positions:

- Laborer
- Track Supervisor
- Vehicle Maintenance Technician
- Conductor Trainee
- Real Estate Manager

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 44 different notices through April and in 2021 to date SMART has received and reviewed 17 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 & Design Alternative Analysis;
- Sears Point to Mare Island (Congestion Relief) Environmental Impact Report Scoping.
 - A quarterly State Route 37 Policy Committee (Resilient 37) meeting took place on March. 4, 2021, with the next meetings of the group scheduled for June 3 and October 7, 2021. The Joint Baylands Core Team and Resilient 37 Project Leadership Team have been meeting to provide technical support of the Resilient 37 Policy Committee, most recently on March 16, 2021. SMART staff have been invited to attend this technical advisory committee for the first time, on July 16, 2021.
 - The SR37 Planning and Environmental Linkages (SR37 PEL) Study meetings are taking place approximately quarterly, with a Stakeholder meeting, online survey and SMART staff interviews having occurred in late 2020. A PEL multi-jurisdictional meeting also took place on March 26, 2021, with SMART planning and engineering staff participating.
 - SMART staff participated in one-on-one meeting with Caltrans and Sonoma County Transportation Authority staff on February 10 & March 19 regarding their SR37 Comprehensive Multi-Modal Corridor Plan (SR37 CMCP) process underway. This CMCP plan is a required pre-requisite for applications for state SB1 Solutions for Congested Corridors funding.
 - In addition, there are a host of other near term SR37 technical advisory meetings taking place, including the US101 to SR121 environmental and design process 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 The dashboard Healthy Transit Plan. plan reporting can be 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. SMART staff participates in the Bikeshare Working Group supporting this effort.

The most recent meeting took place April 28, 2021, covering an inter-agency coordination agreement and a coordinated Board/Council package for upcoming operational approval. Local jurisdictions scheduled to consider this agreement in April and May include Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park, Cotati, Petaluma, Novato, San Rafael and Larkspur.

An online survey was completed March 19, 2021, by SCTA and TAM to collect 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 vendor is working with local jurisdictions over the next several months to site the bike share hubs and set pricing. Launch of the system is anticipated in Fall 2021.

Transit Coordination Meetings:

- April 7, 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, Active Transportation Program Cycle 5 Recommendations (ATP grants), Lifeline Transportation Program, Regional Transit Capital Priorities process, and Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force.
- April 14, 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 Clipper implementation and usage for C2, Clipper App and Clipper START.
- April 6 & 20, 2021 Staff attended the Blue-Ribbon Transit Task Transit Caucus Planning and Operations Subcommittee meetings remotely. The agenda included preparation of presentations on Network coordination for the Blue Ribbon Transit Task Force and a coordinated approach to adapting physical distancing guidelines as counties revise their COVID ratings due to improved outcomes.
- April 26, 2021 Staff attended the Blue-Ribbon Transit Task Force meeting virtually. The agenda included detailed discussions on transit **Network Management** and a presentation by Sonoma County Transportation Authority on their Transit Integration project with Santa Rosa CityBus, Sonoma County Transit and Petaluma Transit.

■ April 6, 13, 20 & 27 - 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 ACTITIVIES:

American Rescue Plan (ARP): The Federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) was passed on March 11, 2021. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) posted the apportionment table on March 29, 2021, for the Section 5307 funds for distribution to Urbanized Areas across the nation for transit use. The Bay Area will receive \$1.7 billion, directed to the multiple urbanized areas that comprise the Bay Area, of which \$1.3 billion will be directed to transit operators reporting to the San Francisco-Oakland urbanized area and \$27 million will come to transit operators reporting to the Santa Rosa urbanized area, including SMART.

MTC has commenced its process to re-distribute the FTA apportionments and anticipates adopting Regional Principles for this re-distribution starting with their May Programming and Allocations Committee meeting.

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.

SMART submitted two SMART Pathway projects as part of this Quick Strike program:

- The Payran to Lakeville SMART Pathway segment in Central Petaluma was submitted to SCTA seeking \$806,000 in Quick Strike funds to complete construction of this segment.
- The McInnis to Smith Ranch SMART Pathway segment in San Rafael, a San Francisco Bay Trail gap closure project, connecting between the Marin Civic Center and McInnis Regional Park over Las Gallinas Creek, was submitted to TAM seeking \$2.16 million in Quick Strike federal funds to complete the construction of this segment.

MTC staff has recommended funding the Payran to Lakeville SMART Pathway segment, having received 71 project nominations requesting \$108 million. The Commission will consider adoption of the full program at their June 23rd meeting.

LEGISLATIVE ACTITIVIES:

State Assembly Bill 629 (CHIU): Assembly member Chiu has introduced AB629 to improve regional transit through all transportation agencies in the Bay Area. The bill is in development and will be amended through the legislative process, but its stated purpose is to make improvements across fare coordination, real time transit schedules, and regional coordination on transit wayfinding. The improvements will require coordination between the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), county-level transportation agencies and transit agencies with the goals of:

- a) Integrating all transit in the region to operate as one seamless, easy-to-use, multimodal transit system from the perspective of the user.
- b) Equitably expand and improve access to high-quality, reliable, and affordable public transportation.
- c) Prioritize institutional reforms that support the creation of a more seamless and resilient public transportation network.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

A trespasser started some clothing on fire under equipment at the Haystack Bridge causing damage. The trespasser was exiting the ROW and staff detained her nearby until Petaluma Police Department arrived. She was arrested for arson and trespassing.





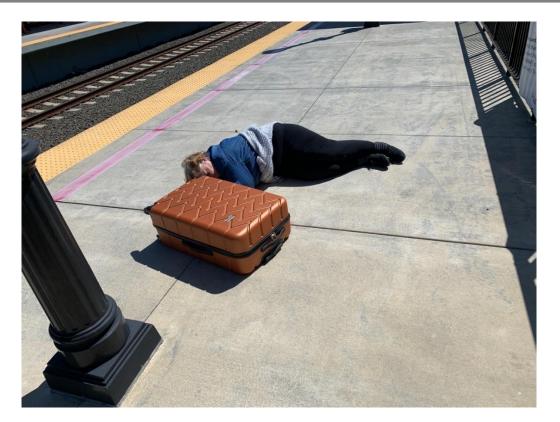
Trespassers:



Santa Rosa Downtown



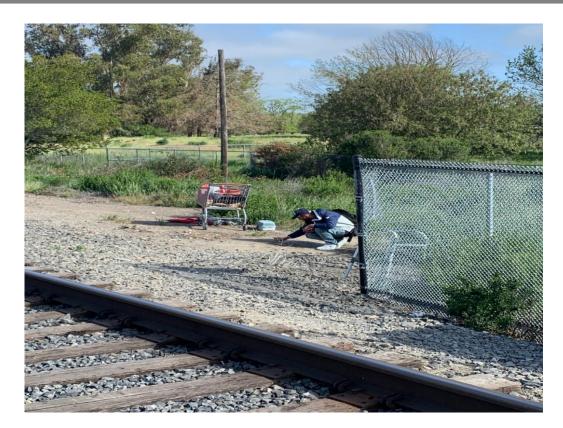
Haystack Bridge



San Rafael Platform – Trespasser sleeping



Santa Rosa Bellevue Crossing



Petaluma – Trespasser near track



Caulfield Lane – Trespasser near tracks