Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit District

General Manager’s Report – October 2020

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www.SonomaMarinTrain.org
LISTENING SESSIONS

In the month of October, SMART hosted two Listening Forums for Novato and Larkspur. The Listening Forums offer an opportunity for members of the North Bay community to come together to provide feedback and share their thoughts with the SMART Board of Directors. The information gathered in these sessions will be used to help shape the future on SMART.

Specially themed Listening Forums will also take place, to allow for stakeholder groups to share their views about SMART's future. The dates for these forums will be announced as soon as they are scheduled.

For more information on the Listening Forums, including videos from previous meetings, visit SonomaMarinTrain.org/ListeningForums.

Community Outreach | Temporary Schedule

New schedule graphics have been installed at all twelve SMART stations. These schedules reflect the temporary timetable in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Updated Customer Service information is also provided on the bottom of the schedule. The information is offered in both English and Spanish. For the most up-to-date schedule information, visit SonomaMarinTrain.org/schedules-fares.
SMART’s social media accounts continue to experience growth in reach and engagement. The Communications and Marketing team has launched a series of “Did You Know?” posts to provide important information about SMART and the service we provide. Popular topics include enhanced cleaning and sanitation protocols that fight the spread of COVID-19, as well as progress updates on new rail extensions and pathways. Check out the series on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

The most engaging post this month was an update on the Windsor Extension Project. This aerial shot of evening construction work in downtown Windsor grabbed the attention of followers across all of SMART’s social media channels. Construction updates continue to see extensive reach and engagement across all platforms.

Subscribe to receive email updates on the Windsor Extension Project: SonomaMarinTrain.org/Windsor-Extension.
Media | News Coverage

- October 27, *third train, vehicle crash occurs at San Rafael crossing this year* (Marin Independent Journal)
- October 27, *Car collides with SMART train in San Rafael, sending driver to hospital with minor injuries* (The Press Democrat)
- October 25, *Sonoma County developer Bill Gallaher launches recall campaign against District Attorney Jill Ravitch* (The Press Democrat)
- October 15, *CA: Marin asked to weigh in on SMART tax defeat* (Mass Transit Magazine)
- October 17, *Dick Spotswood: Taking a close look at school districts Measure M funding* (Marin Independent Journal)
- October 15, *Marin asked to weigh in on SMART tax defeat* (Marin Independent Journal)
- October 14, *SMART receives AA rating on construction bond refinancing* (Progressive Railroading)
- October 12, *SMART touts top rating on bond refinancing* (Petaluma Patch)
- October 7, *CA: SMART approves bond sale to refinance construction debt* (Mass Transit Magazine)
- October 7, *SMART to refinance construction bonds to boost savings* (Marin Independent Journal)
- October 7, *SMART approves bond sale to refinance construction debt* (The Press Democrat)
- October 6, *SMART poised to refinance construction debt by selling up to $160 million in bonds* (The Press Democrat)
- October 5, *San Rafael woman, 82, dies after car hit by SMART train* (Marin Independent Journal)
- September 28, *Residents pitch ideas, questions for future of SMART in Healdsburg* (The Healdsburg Tribune)
- September 28, *What else is needed?: Residents talk SMART, getting train to town* (Cloverdale Reveille)
- September 24, *SMART, Marin Transit to join low-income fare program* (Marin Independent Journal)
## RIDERSHIP INFORMATION

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CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

On October 15, 2020, the SMART Citizen Oversight Committee met to discuss the information that has been collected from the Board of Directors meeting on September 2, 2020 regarding the Reorganization of the Committee.

Information and previous meetings from the Citizen’s Oversight Committee can be found online at SonomaMarinTrain.org/citizens-oversight-committee.
WINDSOR EXTENSION PROJECT

- Design work is complete.
- Coordination with the Town of Windsor and County of Sonoma is on-going.
- Building of drainage structures is complete for the season.
- Building of bridge structures is complete for the season.
  - Airport Boulevard widening work paid by and for the County of Sonoma continues with the building north side curb, gutter, bioswales, and utility relocations.

Setting Formboards for Drainage Structure
Preparing Bridge Abutments for Paint

Painting Windsor Creek Bridge Abutments
Installing Sheet Piles South of Pool Creek

Setting Pool Creek Pedestrian Bridge
Airport Blvd.- Excavating for new Roadway Base

Airport Blvd.- Building Drainage Inlets
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)

GHD Inc. and their subcontractors are working on the first 50% level submittal. Preliminary engineering data including environmental, geotechnical, and survey are being integrated into the pathway design.

Ely Road Future Pathway Location in Petaluma
OPERATIONS

MAINTENANCE OF WAY:

- Signal staff supported Modern Railway System with network switch warranty work.
- Signal and Facilities staff upgraded sensor brackets and repaired wiring at the Haystack Bridge.
- Signal staff along with outside contractor replaced an Air Conditioner unit at Airport station signal house.
- Track staff completed vegetation removal and management north of East Cotati, South of Star Road in Windsor, and along the multi-use pathway in Santa Rosa.
- Track staff worked on annual culvert inspections, cleaning, and vegetation removal throughout SMART’s right of way in preparation for winter rains.
- Track staff along with Holland company completed annual track geometry inspection.
- Facilities staff completed 13 fence repairs at various locations along SMART’s right of way and completed a new 6-foot chain-link fence at Commons Court in Windsor.
- Facilities staff along with a state inspector completed the five-year air tank inspection for the compressed air system at the Rail Operation Center.
- Track staff supported SMART’s engineering department for annual bridge inspections.
Track staff along with Holland Company – Annual Track Geometry Inspection

Facilities staff – Completed 6 Foot Chain-link Fence at Commons Court in Windsor
VEHICLE MAINTENANCE:

- Performed inspection on the friction brake control unit due to a fault. Upon further inspection it was discovered the speed sensor on the #2 wheel was out of spec. The speed sensor was adjusted and the fault was cleared.
- Performed mid-year maintenance on 5 Diesel Multiple Units.
- Performed 500-hour oil change on 5 Diesel Multiple Units.
- Automatic Train Control maintenance performed on 10 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 5 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 fly wheel inspections on the fleet and worked with Cummins to change out engines. Instrumentations were installed on an engine which allowed valuable data to be captured. This data will help provide an insight on some of the challenges we are having with the engine.
- Performed Automatic Train Control inspection on Northwestern Pacific Railroad engine 2009.
FREIGHT SERVICE

At the September 2, 2020 Board Meeting, I provided an update on the status of Freight Service and related activities. The Board on May 20th, 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 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. Both of these Agreements will be executed upon release of the report from the State Task Force to the State Legislators as required by SB 1029.
SAFETY AND SECURITY

Jumping off of platform San Rafael
Graffiti on Santa Rosa Pedestrian Bicycle Path
Puerto Suello Tunnel
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 will record the easement when Union Pacific has signed the document. 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 the various utilities along the extension on a variety of property issues.

**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- Electrical Maintenance Nave Drive- Novato Ghilotti Construction Company pavement work River Road to Healdsburg Road- Fulton

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

- PG&E- Yearly Vegetation Management for Electrical Division
- Danco Group of Companies- 80 College Avenue- Santa Rosa
- 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
- PG&E- Abandoning gas service uninstallation of High Pressure Regulator- Windsor
- Phoenix Development Company of Minneapolis, LLC- Pulman Lofts Project- Santa Rosa
- W.R. Forde Associates for Marin Municipal Water District- Pipeline installation- San Rafael
- City of San Rafael- Francisco Blvd. West Improvement Project- San Rafael
- 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:

- Communications and Marketing Manager
- Engineer-Conductor
- Signal Technician
- Track Maintainer
- Assistant Planner

MISCELLANEOUS

The District completed its interview process for the Chief Financial Officer. A candidate is currently in background for the position.
GRANTS, LEGISLATION, PLANNING AND REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

REGIONAL AND LOCAL PLANNING 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 2019 staff received and reviewed 171 different notices, with 149 notices by the end of October 2019. To date in 2020, SMART has received and reviewed 93 different notices.

Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan - SMART participates in coordination meetings related to the Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan with meetings October 9 and 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

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 in close proximity to the SMART stations as a First/Last-Mile access solution. SCTA & TAM have selected 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. Gotcha Mobility, the selected implementation vendor, is currently planning to commence community outreach to inform bike share locations in November and they estimate program rollout by Spring 2021. Program partners are seeking funding opportunities to expand the program around SMART Stations.

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. 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 and how to enroll can be found here: https://www.clipperstartcard.com/s/

The SMART Board requested participation in the program by adopting a resolution unanimously at the February 5, 2020, meeting. The SMART participation will be at the 50% discount rate of adult fare rides. MTC announced in August that they would be able to accept new operators into the pilot program and anticipates launch of the program on SMART in late November 2020.
Transit Coordination Meetings:

- **October 7, 2020** - Staff participated in the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) monthly **Transit Finance Working Group** meeting. Discussions included legislative updates, funding notices, Transportation Improvement Program update, Cap and Trade Update, Regional Transit Capital Priorities process, BART’s capital needs inventory process, and COVID-19 Response.

- **October 8, 2020** – Staff participated in the Seamless Subcommittee meeting of MTC’s Bay Area Partnership Board. The Committee was formed prior to the Blue Ribbon Transit Task Force and is working to define roles, responsibilities and relationship to other committees.

- **October 14, 2020** – Staff participated in Sonoma County Transportation Authority’s monthly **Transit Technical Advisory Committee** meeting. Discussions included 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.

- **October 6, 13, 20 & 27**, 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 Transportation Action Plan.