

March 13, 2019

For Immediate Release Contact: Jeanne Mariani-Belding Direct: 707-794-3063 Cell: 707-694-4402

## SMART to surpass the 100,000-cyclist mark

Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) will carry its 100,000 bicyclist on Thursday, and SMART train riders with their bikes on board could be among the 1,500 riders who will receive special passes for free train trips.

"The bicycling community has been very supportive, taking their bikes on board as part of their daily commute and for recreation," said SMART Board Chairman Gary Phillips. "To help celebrate this milestone, our conductors will be handing out passes good for free train trips to cyclists on board as our way of saying 'thank you' and so they can share their SMART train experience with their friends and families."

Since opening its doors in 2017, SMART passengers have included bicyclists who use their bikes to get to and from stations on a regular basis. SMART, the Bay Area's newest transit system, recently celebrated carrying its 1 millionth rider, after operating for just over a year.

"There's definitely more good news to come, as we prepare for the opening of the Larkspur extension later this year, and for the opening of two new stations," said SMART Vice Chairwoman Barbara Pahre. "With four new train cars that will soon be added to the mix, we will be able to add a third car to some of our busiest runs."

SMART is slated to open its Larkspur extension in late 2019, and plans to add two more two-car trains to its fleet this spring. Work is also underway on two new stations in Larkspur and in downtown Novato. SMART is also working on extending further north to Windsor by the end of 2021.

For information about SMART visit www.SonomaMarinTrain.org.