



**For Immediate Release**

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Petaluma, CA – Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) announced today that Jeanne Mariani-Belding has been hired as the district’s new marketing and communications manager. She will oversee SMART’s communications, public outreach programs, marketing, and media relations.

Prior to joining SMART, Mariani-Belding was the director of communications, marketing and community outreach for the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART), a \$6-billion rail transit project. She is also a former Bay Area resident with more than 20 years of experience in media and strategic communications, including working as an editor for the San Jose Mercury News and the Los Angeles Daily News.

“Jeanne’s experience will be essential as we gear up to open for passenger service at the end of 2016. We are pleased to have her on board and to bring her back to the Bay Area as part of the SMART team,” said SMART General Manager Farhad Mansourian.

The SMART train and pathway project is 70-mile rail system designed to provide a new regional transportation network that will improve transit options for North Bay residents. The first 43-mile phase, from San Rafael to Santa Rosa, is scheduled to begin service by the end of 2016.

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