



Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit District

General Manager's Report – March 2017

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LATEST NEWS

Jake Mackenzie Appointed Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Chair



Elected as chair of MTC's governing Commission in February 2017 for a two-year term (through February 2019), Jake Mackenzie brings to the position two years as vice chair and has served for more than eight years as Sonoma County's representative on the Commission. He was first elected to the Rohnert Park City Council in 1996 and now serves as the city's mayor.

A Scotsman by birth and an agricultural scientist by training, Mackenzie also serves on the boards of the Sonoma County Transportation Authority/Regional Climate Protection Authority, the Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit District (SMART), and the Association of Bay Area Governments.

MTC in February 2017 elected Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty to serve again as the Commission's vice chair, a position he held from 2007 to 2009 before serving as chair from 2009 to 2011. Haggerty was first elected to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors in 1996, and was named the county's MTC representative in 2000. He also is a board member of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, the Association of Bay Area Governments and the Oakland Alameda County Coliseum Authority. Haggerty represents Alameda County on the National Association of Counties, and also serves as a member of the Alameda County Transportation Commission, San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission, Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority, and Tri-Valley Transportation Council.

CONSTRUCTION

STATIONS:

- SMART's Initial Operating Segment platforms and park n'ride lots are nearly complete. Crews are finishing up fence installations.
- Concrete work continues at the Novato Downtown station with ramp construction. This is part of the phase I work funded by the City of Novato.

ROHNERT PARK



The bio-swales and unpaved portions of the stations are looking green these days after being seeded by the contractor before the recent rains.

NOVATO DOWNTOWN



Ramp rebar finished and ready for deck pour at south of station.

NOVATO DOWNTOWN



Curb from north ramp to Grant Street.

PATHWAY

Two pathway segments were completed with striping in February. Both segments were in Santa Rosa; one from 6th to 8th street in the downtown area and the other lengthened the segment Sonoma County build last summer (from the Joe Rodota Trail to Hearn Ave) from Hearn Ave to Bellevue Ave.

SANTA ROSA 6TH TO 8TH STREET PATHWAY



New crosswalks tie into the pathway segment at the 7th Street at-grade crossing.

SANTA ROSA HEARN AVE TO BELLEVUE AVE PATHWAY



New pedestrian path of travel across the tracks on the north side of the Bellevue Ave at-grade crossing.

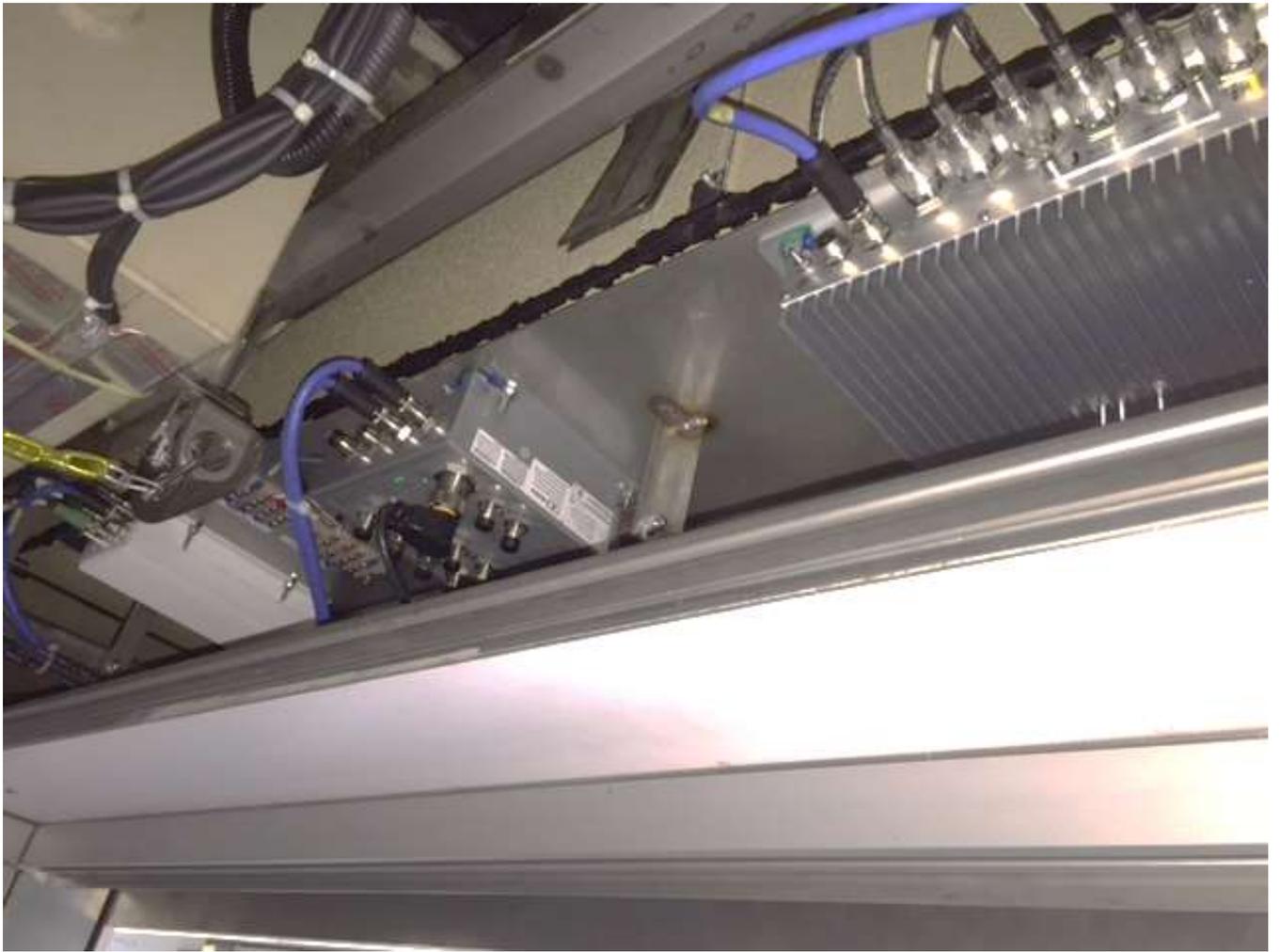
SYSTEMS AND ENGINEERING



Checking results during Positive Train Control Testing, onboard at Cotati Station



Signal Engineer verifying vital processor setup during testing, Santa Rosa



Installation of onboard Wi-Fi equipment

OPERATIONS

Vehicle Maintenance:

- Continued to perform engine swap out 13-of-14
- Staffing on three separate shifts providing 24 hour servicing
- Received training for center pin mod which will allow us to mitigate noise coming from the DMU trucks
- Received service responder truck
- Automatic Train Control training
- Drug and Alcohol training
- 200 & 800 National Incident Management System training

Transportation:

10-Control Supervisor Fully Staffed; 19-Engineer/Conductor, 2- in Background, 1- Conditional Offer

SMART Transportation Division has Completed High Speed Testing in Segment 1,2,3,4 Positive Train Control Testing Started on February 21 in Segments 4

Training

Control Supervisor DeAndre Bess is conducting its second Engineer Class.

Maintenance of Way (MOW):

- Conducted Roadway Workers Protection training for new MRS employees
- Participated in fencing hyrail trip with Security and our contractor to review current progress and formulate plan to cover remaining gaps
- Participated in field review of station signage needs with Operations, Security, and Engineering
- Conducted 3 Signal Tech interviews in late February with 2 chosen to receive background paperwork. An additional candidate passed all pre-employment testing and is tentatively scheduled to start in early May.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Current Open Recruitments:

- Deputy General Manger
- Code Compliance Officer
- Engineer-Conductor – Until Filled
- Signal Technician - Continuous

Interviews:

- Engineer-Conductor
- Signal Technician
- Administrative Assistant

Miscellaneous

- Union negotiations are on-going with the Teamsters and International Association of Machinists.
- Human resources staff attended a conference in Sacramento last month on changes to the Federal Railroad Administration's Drug and Alcohol testing requirements (49 CFR Part 219). HR staff are working with Operation's Safety and Compliance Officer to revise SMART's Drug and Alcohol testing program to become compliant with new regulations that will go into effect in June 2017.

REAL ESTATE

Property Acquisitions

Larkspur Extension Project - Staff is working with engineering to refine the real estate needs. Staff has started the consultant work on appraising and surveying of properties for the proposed acquisitions for the Larkspur Extension Project. Staff is working to determine the property rights of the utility companies and the new location of the utilities.

Federal Transportation Administration has completed the review of the necessary appraisals. Staff is getting ready to start making offers to property owners to purchase the needed property rights.

Pathway

Coordinating with the local municipalities regarding securing any necessary land rights to accommodate the construction of the pathways and interim access and laydown area needs

Right of Entry Permits Issued:

PG&E - Gas line installation at Fulton

Sonic – Installation of new fiber crossing – Santa Rosa

PG&E – License at Rice Drive – San Rafael

Mountain Cascade Inc. for North Marin Water District – Recycled Water Line - Novato

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

PG&E – Overhead and underground power connections for new substation in Windsor

Marin County Flood Control/City of San Rafael – Clearing of vegetation – Drainage Channel

Water Street Gas line work in Petaluma with PG&E

Roblar/Nave Pole Replacement with PG&E

County of Sonoma – Queue Cutter Project – Signal work at intersections

Healdsburg- Round-About Project – laydown area for contractor

PG&E – overhead line replacements

PG&E – Vegetation trimming/removal

Lagunitas – West Coast Solar Panel Project

Comcast – Fiber installation – Santa Rosa

On-Going Property Management Activities:

Working on access protocols with Sonoma County Water Agency.

Staff is continuing to work with Pacific Gas & Electric Company to refine access issues.

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.



SAFETY AND SECURITY

Marin County Urban Search and Rescue team was provided familiarization training and a tour to assess emergency response protocols along the right of way. The team of 30 first responders are from many backgrounds from public works to fire personnel. The team will be utilizing the training received from SMART for an upcoming training exercise.



Staff hosted Golden Gate Transit’s Customer Service Division for station site tours and tour of the Rail Operations Center. This phase of training is in preparation for Golden Gate Transit District to assume Customer Services for SMART. GGT staff asked many questions and provided excellent feedback on recommended rules and information available to the public.



SMART partnered with San Rafael Police Department to conduct a training exercise simulating a vehicle strike. San Rafael Police, Marin County Sheriff, Santa Rosa Police all participated in the training. San Rafael Police Crime Scene Investigations Unit and Traffic Unit utilized specialized tools to diagram the mock collisions scene.



Staff attended the monthly HOST meeting in Santa Rosa. Ongoing issues with homelessness and services are offered when appropriate to those located along SMART's right of way.

Staff attended the quarterly Rail Liaison Meeting hosted by the FBI. This meeting is a way for all Bay Area transit agency security representatives to meet and discuss best practices and industry trends.

Staff attended the Metropolitan Transportation Commission Transportation Regional Planning coordination meeting in San Francisco. This meeting is to coordinate area transportation partners and currently, planning a Functional Exercise this fall. Updates to follow.

Staff is participating in the planning meetings for IRONMAN in Santa Rosa. These events will be twice a year for the next five years. The triathlon crosses the SMART tracks and to ensure safety for the athletes and minimal impact for SMART riders, SMART is involved in the planning process to mitigate potential issues.

Staff met with Sonoma County Sheriff, City of Sonoma Police, Schell-Vista Fire, Sonoma Valley Fire and NWP onsite at the Schellville yard to discuss safety related issues with the LPG tankers.



Code Compliance continues to inspect the right of way on a daily basis. They check for any camps, trespassers, cuts to the fence or damage to the right of way. In some circumstances when a trespasser refuses to leave when asked, the local police agency assists.



Individuals try very hard to conceal themselves along the right of way.

GRANTS AND FEDERAL/STATE AND REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

One Bay Area Grant (OBAG) Program/Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA)

Grant applications for OBAG funds were due to the SCTA on January 13. SMART submitted requests to complete the construction funding for the SMART Pathway from Payran to South Point in Petaluma, the SMART Rail Crossing at Windsor River Road near the Windsor Station, and the SMART Pathway from West Steele Lane to San Miguel north of the Santa Rosa North Station. The SCTA Board is expected to adopt its OBAG program of projects on May 8, 2017.

Urban Greening Grant Program

The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) has released a call for projects for their 2017 Urban Greening Program, funded by the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) Cap and Trade revenues. Technical assistance workshops will be held throughout the state in March. Applications are due May 5, 2017. There will be \$76 million programmed statewide through a competitive process.

Clipper® Update

SMART continues to work with Clipper vendors of Cubic and VenTek to schedule equipment installation at stations, at the Rail Operations Center and at SMART's administrative offices. SMART also continues to work with Clipper on website content, outreach and marketing scheduling, training of staff, establishment of operations/maintenance agreements and protocols, development of a 31-day rolling monthly pass product for SMART riders, and development of the initial promotional fare period for the start of SMART passenger revenue services.



PLANNING

State Route 37 Project, MOU between TAM, SCTA, NCTPA, and STA

The Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM), Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA), Napa County Transportation Planning Agency (NCTPA) and Solano Transportation Authority (STA) have entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to continue to jointly study needed improvements to State Route (SR) 37. Currently, STA will be lead for analyzing rail options for SR 37 Corridor as part of the overall alternative modes analysis, including having WETA look at providing ferry service from Vallejo to Larkspur. The steering committee meets every other month. The last SR 37 Steering Committee meeting was held on March 2nd, 2017 at the Farragut Inn, Touro University, Mare Island. Additionally, a policy committee will meet on the first Thursday of every odd month, and is made up of the following members:

<p><i>Marin Elected Officials</i> Damon Connolly, MTC Commissioner Judy Arnold, Marin County Board of Supervisor Stephanie Moulton-Peters, Councilmember, City of Mill Valley</p>
<p><i>Napa Elected Officials</i> Mark Luce, MTC Commissioner Keith Caldwell, Napa County Board of Supervisor Leon Garcia, Mayor City of American Canyon</p>
<p><i>Solano Elected Officials</i> Chair Person Osby Davis, Mayor City of Vallejo Jim Spering, MTC Commissioner Erin Hannigan, Solano County Board of Supervisors</p>
<p><i>Sonoma Elected Officials</i> Vice- Chair David Rabbitt, Sonoma County Board of Supervisors Jake Mackenzie, MTC Commissioner Chair Susan Gorin, Sonoma County Board of Supervisors</p>

Regional Transit/Planning Coordination Activities

SMART staff continues to participate in additional monthly transit coordination meetings above and beyond coordination directly related to the start of SMART services. The MTC hosts a monthly **Transit Finance Working Group** (February 1st, March 1st) and the Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA) hosted its monthly **SCTA Transit Technical Advisory Committee** on February 8th and on March 8th.

Metropolitan Transportation Commission Plan Bay Area 2040 – The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) is in the process of updating the nine county regional Sustainable Communities Strategy and financially constrained long range transportation plan, *Plan Bay Area*. In September 2016 the Draft Preferred Scenario was released, and on November 17th the Final Preferred Scenario and Investment Strategy was approved by a special joint meeting of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Association of Bay Area Governments Executive Board. More information on Plan Bay Area can be found here: <http://planbayarea.org/index.php>



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community Outreach | Presentations and Community Events

SMART's Communications and Marketing team continues to focus on safety messaging and community awareness as SMART completes systems testing, and prepares to launch passenger service in late spring of this year.

With SMART's participation at the Cloverdale Citrus Fair in February, the outreach team is also ramping up for the 2017 community fair season. Having a strong presence at community fairs in Sonoma and Marin counties provides the opportunity for our outreach team to emphasize rail safety awareness, provide information about fares and discount programs, and answer questions about our passenger rail service.

Since the last SMART Board meeting, outreach staff has participated in several community events and presentations, including:

- February 17-20 | Cloverdale Citrus Fair (Santa Rosa)
- March 3 | Monterey Bay Economic Partnership at the Sonoma County Economic Development Board (Santa Rosa)
- March 7 | Son's in Retirement (San Rafael)
- March 8 | Marin Retired Teachers (San Rafael)



SMART's outreach crew connects with the public at the Cloverdale Citrus Fair

Presentations can be arranged by contacting SMART's communications team via email at info@sonomamarintrain.org or by calling the SMART outreach hotline at (707) 794-3077.

Community Outreach | Neighborhood Safety Canvassing

Beginning in February of this year, and continuing for the next few months, the SMART outreach team began conducting another major safety information canvassing effort. The outreach team will distributed rail safety cards with important safety information in both English and Spanish to residents and business is areas in close proximity to railroad crossings. Watch for SMART safety ads in area newspapers, digital publications and radio.



YOUR SAFETY IS OUR TOP PRIORITY

- Always be alert and aware around all railroad tracks and crossings.
- Drivers should never stop on the railroad tracks.
- Do not walk on the railroad tracks. It is unsafe and illegal.

FOR MORE RAILROAD SAFETY INFORMATION,
Visit us online at BeTrackSMART.org
or call us at (707) 794-3330.



SU SEGURIDAD ES NUESTRA MAYOR PRIORIDAD

- Por favor esté alerta y atento alrededor de todos los cruces y vías del tren.
- Los conductores no deben parar nunca en las vías del tren.
- No camine sobre las vías del tren. Es peligroso, e ilegal.

PARA OBTENER MÁS INFORMACIÓN SOBRE SEGURIDAD,
Visite BeTrackSMART.org
o llamada (707) 794-3330.



MARKETING

Digital Programs | Social Media

Social media is a key part of SMART’s safety and marketing communication. SMART’s social media program utilizes Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat and e-blast newsletters. The use of social media helps create a sense of participation for the public prior to, as well as after the start of SMART’s passenger service.

One of SMART’s most engaging posts this month centered on rail safety, with a reminder that motorists should never stop on the tracks.

Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit
Published by Demitrius Handelih [?] · February 22 at 12:28am · 🌐

Motorists should never stop on the tracks. Trains move quickly through railroad crossings and cannot stop quickly. #TrackSMART

6,097 people reached [Boost Post](#)

2.8K Views

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share 📁 Buffer

👍 😂 🤔 46 Chronological ▾

13 shares

Media | News Coverage

- March 9, 2017 – *San Rafael reality bite: No delay in SMART trains to Larkspur* (Marin Independent Journal)
- March 6, 2017 – *Marin Voice: It's easy for officials to succumb to 'group think'* (Marin Independent Journal)
- March 2, 2017 – *SMART deal could lead to second Petaluma station* (Petaluma Argus Courier)
- March 1, 2017 – *CA: Marin Law Enforcement Embraces SMART Safety Training* (Mass Transit Magazine)
- February 28, 2017 – *Dick Spotswood: There are many reasons why SMART should continue to Larkspur* (Marin Independent Journal)
- February 27, 2017 – *San Rafael police and SMART to run emergency drill* (Marin Independent Journal)
- February 22, 2017 – *Marin Voice: San Rafael seeks to force movement on transit center* (Marin Independent Journal)
- February 22, 2017 – *Jake Mackenzie Elected Chair of Metropolitan Transportation Commission* (Yahoo Finance)
- February 17, 2017 – *CA: Marin Rail Commuters to be Offered Lyft Discounts* (Mass Transit Magazine)
- February 19, 2017 – *Marin rail commuters to be offered Lyft discounts* (Marin Independent Journal)
- February 18, 2017 – *SMART rolling toward Larkspur, despite San Rafael protests* (Marin Independent Journal)
- February 17, 2017 – *CA: SMART Approves Deal Allowing Gas Rail Tanker Cars to Stay Near Sonoma* (Mass Transit Magazine)
- February 15, 2017 – *Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit District, North Coast Rail Authority make safety agreement* (KGO/ABC 7)
- February 15, 2017 – *SMART rejects San Rafael's plea for delay in Larkspur link* (Marin Independent Journal)
- February 14, 2017 – *SMART railroad set to allow gas tankers at site* (Marin Independent Journal)
- February 13, 2017 – *SMART, Northwestern Pacific reach tentative agreement on gas tanker cars near Sonoma* (Santa Rosa Press Democrat)
- February 11, 2017 – *Dick Spotswood: Traffic Jams a sign of good economy* (Marin Independent Journal)
- February 10, 2017 – *San Rafael seeks delay in SMART rail line to Larkspur* (Mass Transit Magazine)