



# Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit District

## General Manager's Report – April 2017

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Children waving at our Train while enjoying SMART's pathways on a sunny afternoon in March, 2017

Photo Credit: Jackie Rollag

# CONSTRUCTION

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STATIONS:

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.

**NOVATO DOWNTOWN**



Concrete ramp pour completed at the southern end of the station.

**NOVATO DOWNTOWN**



Walkway from station platform to Grant Avenue completed and fenced.

Pathway construction is on hold until the rainy season is over. Several segments are planned to be constructed during the 2017 construction season.

- North San Pedro to Merrydale, City of San Rafael
  - California Department of Fish Wildlife issued permit
  - US Army Corp of Engineers issued permit
  - Water Board issued permit
- Franklin Avenue to Grant Avenue, City of Novato
  - California Department of Fish Wildlife issued permit
  - US Army Corp of Engineers and Water Board – pending permit
- Rush Creek Place to Atherton, City of Novato
  - California Department of Fish Wildlife issued permit
  - US Army Corp of Engineers and Water Board –pending permit

### **PUERTO SUELLO TUNNEL:**

Rehabilitation of the Puerto Suello Tunnel’s north approach was completed on April 11th. After four years of drought this year’s heavy rain storms saturated the soils, causing landslides and localized erosion. SMART oversaw clean-up and preventative work to address the loose and unstable hillside.



Looking at the eastern slope of the Puerto Suello tunnel’s northern approach.



Crews are rappelling down the hillside to tighten the soil nail bolts in place.



View of the Puerto Suello tunnel's northern entrance after the newly shaped slopes have been hydro-seeded.

# SYSTEMS AND ENGINEERING



All 14 Diesel Multiple Units were conditionally accepted on March 31st.



Three-Car Set

# OPERATIONS

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## VEHICLE MAINTENANCE:

- Completed engine change out on all 14 vehicles
- Given conditional acceptance to Nippon Sharyo for the vehicles
- Staffing on three separate shifts providing 24 hour servicing
- Completed modification of all vehicles for center pin mod which will allow us to mitigate noise coming from the Diesel Multiple Units

## TRANSPORTATION:

10-Control Supervisor Fully Staffed; 18-Engineer/Conductor, 2- in Background, 1- Conditional Offer

Continued High Speed Testing in Segment 1,2,3,4

Positive Train Control Testing in Segments 1, 2, 3

## MAINTENANCE OF WAY (MOW):

- Worked with engineering to put final touches on Bridge Management Plan
- Held 2 Railroad Safety classes for Sonoma County Water Agency and 1 for PG&E
- Hosted Federal Railroad Administration Signal Inspection for 4 days
- All MOW employees attended Environmental Awareness training

# HUMAN RESOURCES

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## Current Open Recruitments:

- Engineer-Conductor – Until Filled
- Facilities Maintenance Technician
- Signal Technician – Continuous
- Track Maintainer
- Code Compliance Officer
- Outreach Assistant (Administrative Assistant)

## Interviews:

- Engineer-Conductor
- Signal Technician
- Administrative Assistant
- Facilities Technician
- Code Compliance Officer

## Miscellaneous

- Union negotiations are on-going with the Teamsters and International Association of Machinists.
- On April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Public Employees Relations Board (PERBS) issued a certification of the election results that the SMART Engineers/Conductors Association (SECA) would be the exclusive representative of all employees in the Engineer-Conductor and Conductor job classes.

## REAL ESTATE

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### Property Acquisitions

*Larkspur Extension Project* - Staff is working to prepare offer packages for the needed real estate form both public and private owners. Staff is finalizing the legal descriptions and maps for the offers. Staff is continuing to determine the property rights of the utility companies and the new location of the utilities.

### Property Management

*Fencing* – Staff has finished drainage work on adjacent property owner in San Rafael and has determined the best location for new fencing and work out a solution for access and maintenance of private property and SMART’s property. Staff is working to finalize a long term license.

### *Special Event Permits were issued:*

Windsor Day Parade – May 6<sup>th</sup>

Windsor Green Half Marathon - May 21st

*Received Requests for:* Penngrove Parade – July 2<sup>nd</sup> and Water to Vine Half Marathon – Mid August – date To Be Determined

### *Right of Entry Permits Issued:*

PG&E – Tree Removal in Fulton and Windsor

PG&E – License at Rice Drive – San Rafael

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

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

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

## SAFETY AND SECURITY

SMART hosted an exercise planning team from the Transportation Security Administration headquarters. The team is assisting SMART with an upcoming tabletop exercise involving multiple jurisdictions and modes of travel in the North Bay.

In the last month, Code Enforcement has encountered trespassers along the entire right of way on a daily basis. Continual checks has greatly reduced, but not limited trespassing on our property.



Code Compliance Officer's daily patrols result in continuous encounters with homeless population along SMART's Pathways.



Last month a vehicle ended up driving down the tracks for some distance in Petaluma. Police responded and SMART traffic was temporarily stopped until vehicle was removed.



The tunnel Cal Park tunnel has been an ongoing issue of daily enforcement. Working with Marin CHP, SMART has been removing trespassers on a regular basis and reinforcing the gates and locks.

## GRANTS AND FEDERAL/STATE AND REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

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### GRANTS:

*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. SCTA's Technical Advisory Committee has recommended a prioritized list of projects that includes the SMART Pathway segment in Petaluma be forwarded to the SCTA Board for funding. 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 were held throughout the state in March. Applications are due May 1, 2017. There will be \$76 million programmed statewide through a competitive process.

### LEGISLATION:

*State Transportation Funding – SB 1* - On Thursday, April 6, 2017, the State Legislature passed a transportation funding package that includes several fund sources that could potentially benefit SMART. The legislation created or enhanced several statewide discretionary grant programs from which SMART would be eligible to apply for funding. These programs include the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP), the Solution for Congested Corridors Program (SCCP), and the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The legislation also created one new formula grant program and enhanced one formula grant program from which SMART will be eligible to apply for funding. These programs are the Intercity and Commuter Rail program and the State Transit Assistance (STA) program. Estimates of potential actual revenues from these sources are being developed.

### OTHER REGIONAL ACTIVITIES:

*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. On platform equipment, installation started the week of will be installed of April 12, with validators and card vending machine installed April 18-20. 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.

## TRANSIT OPERATOR COORDINATION:

*Transit Technical Advisory Groups* - SMART staff continues to participate in additional monthly transit coordination meetings above and beyond coordination directly related to the start of SMART services. The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) hosts several monthly meetings related to transit attended by SMART staff:

- Transit Finance Working Group;
- Transit Wayfinding (Regional Wayfinding-Regional Hub Signage Program);
- Real-Time Transit information working group;
- Regional 511.org Transit Information; and,
- Clipper Staff Liaison Committee.

In addition, the Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA) hosts a Transit Technical Advisory Committee attended by SMART staff (April 12 most recent meeting).

*Bus Operator Outreach and Safety Training* - SMART staff has been conducting outreach to the operations departments of our bus partners since September 2016 through April 2017. Invitations for trainings and tours have been provided to the public transit fixed route and paratransit operators, as well as to the two school bus operators of Marin Transit and West County Transportation Services. Outreach has been customized to meet the needs of the individual transit agencies, as each operator varies in size and the manner in which they provide safety training to their drivers. In addition to field presentations, SMART staff has conducted orientation tours of SMART's Rail Operations Center for bus operator supervisory and dispatch staff. The tours are designed to exchange information between the dispatch staff of the bus operators and SMART and to discuss preferred communication processes moving forward.

- The following SMART Project Update-Operation Lifesaver presentations have taken place between September 2016 and April 2017:
  - September 28 – Santa Rosa CityBus Driver Safety Meetings (all drivers)
  - November 10 – Golden Gate Transit Driver Meeting (subset of supervisors)
  - February 24 – Marin Transit Supervisor Meeting (contractor supervisors)
  - April 18, April 20 – Sonoma County Transit (all drivers)
- The following SMART Rail Operations Center Orientations for supervisors/dispatchers have taken place between September 2016 and April 2017 (attendees listed):
  - December 7 – Sonoma County and Petaluma Transit (supervisors)
  - December 14 – Santa Rosa CityBus and Sonoma County Transit (supervisors)
  - February 8 – Santa Rosa CityBus (supervisors)
  - February 15 – Santa Rosa CityBus, Golden Gate Transit, MV Transportation, Whistlestop, and Volunteer Wheels (supervisors)
  - March 15 – Golden Gate Transit, Santa Rosa CityBus, Marin Transit (supervisors)

## 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 next SR 37 Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and a staff member from the planning department will be in attendance. Additionally, a policy committee will meet on the first Thursday of every odd month, and is made up of the following members:

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

*Local Coordination Tracking* - The Planning department tracks all notices sent by local jurisdictions for projects occurring adjacent to or nearby the railroad. In February and March, SMART received 26 notices regarding development and use changes in the vicinity of the SMART right-of-way.

*Mobile Ticketing* - Various SMART staff members, including planning, are currently testing the mobile ticketing app, giving feedback, and coordinating with the developer on a weekly basis.

*Ridership*– Staff is researching the best practices in gathering ridership data, analyzing it, and using it as a tool to make informed decisions.

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## Community Outreach | Presentations and Community Events

As SMART progresses towards the completion of its systemwide safety testing, our Communications and Marketing team continues to engage the public through community presentations and outreach events, and social media platforms. Rail safety education and awareness is a top priority, as well as raising awareness of SMART's systemwide testing activities. The team is also working hard to educate the public about the benefits and opportunities the SMART train offers future train riders.

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

- March 17 | San Antonio High School Safety Presentation (Petaluma)
- March 31 | Sonoma Family Life Summer Camp & Fun Fair (Santa Rosa)
- April 6 | Cotati State of the City and Chamber of Commerce Luncheon (Cotati)
- April 6 | Bellevue Elementary Safety Presentation (Santa Rosa)



*SMART's outreach team connects with families at the Sonoma Family Life Summer Camp & Fun Fair.*

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

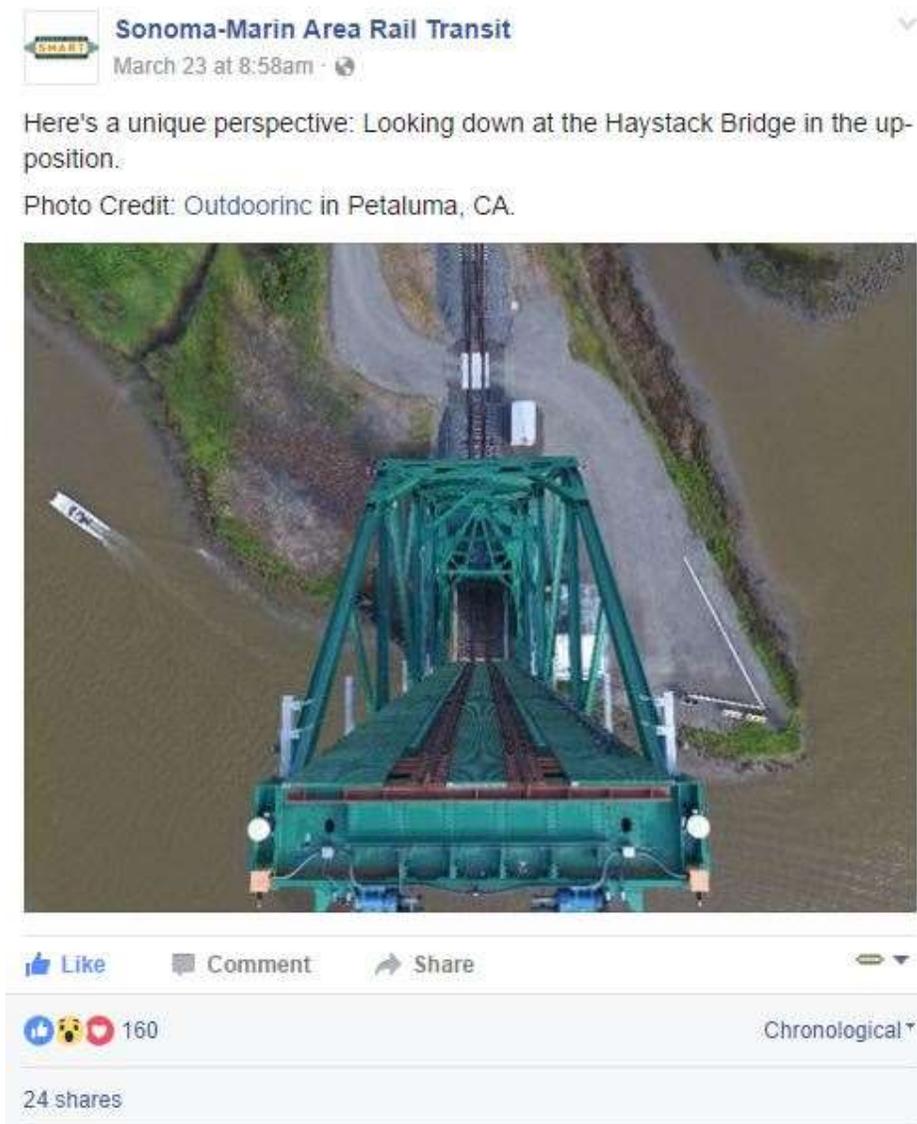
# MARKETING

## Digital Programs | Social Media

Social media channels are a mainstay of SMART’s safety and marketing communications. SMART’s social media program utilizes Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat and e-blast newsletters.

So far this year, SMART’s social media safety program has generated over 240,000 impressions, or views by people following SMART on social media. SMART’s e-blast newsletters also provide an important connection with the community with up-to date information about systemwide testing and the start of passenger service.

SMART’s most popular Facebook post: A special view of SMART’s Haystack Bridge was the most popular Facebook post this month with 160 likes and 24 shares.



## Marketing | Advertisements and Media Partnerships

As SMART moves towards the completion of systems and vehicle testing, the Communications and Marketing team continues to run flights of digital and print safety ads in both English and Spanish in key North Bay media outlets.

SMART will also launch a public education marketing program to introduce SMART to a broader North Bay audience, prior to the start-up of service. Ads focus on increasing the public's awareness of the benefits of passenger rail service, and to further establish the SMART brand in the North Bay.

As a part of our ongoing effort to expand our media reach, SMART partnered with Comcast by hosting their Comcast News Makers show at the Rail Operations Center on March 13, 2017. As a part of the Comcast Newsmakers show, SMART Board Chairwoman Debora Fudge and SMART Board Director Shirlee Zane were interviewed along with SMART's operations staff members Rachel Schmuhl and Nina West. The Comcast Newsmakers show can be viewed at: <http://comcastnewsmakers.com/state/california/>.



*Comcast Newsmakers Host, Aubrey Aquino talks with SMART Assistant Superintendent of Transportation, Rachel Schmuhl*

## Media | News Coverage

- April 16, 2017 – *Marin Voice: Does TAM's survey really reflect residents' needs?* (Marin Independent Journal)
- April 16, 2017 – *Marin IJ Editorial: Don't price the public out of public transit* (Marin Independent Journal)
- April 14, 2017 – *Petaluma implementing quiet zone for SMART trains* (ABC/KGO Channel 7)
- April 14, 2017 – *Petaluma advances quiet zone for SMART trains as testing continues* (Petaluma Argus Courier)
- April 13, 2017 – *SMART train: Petaluma to launch quiet zone; San Rafael, Novato await OK* (Marin Independent Journal)
- April 13, 2017 – *Safety concerns may impede SMART debut* (Marin Scope)
- April 12, 2017 – *SMART focuses on train passenger attire, conduct* (Marin Independent Journal)
- April 7, 2017 – *Gas tax increase means millions for Marin* (Marin Independent Journal)
- April 6, 2017 – *CA: SMART Commuter Rail Waits for Testing Perfection Before Launch* (Mass Transit Magazine)
- April 5, 2017 – *Upcoming storm not expected to delay SMART train testing in San Rafael* (ABC/KGO Channel 7)
- April 6, 2017 – *CA: Parking Fees, Cellphone Conversations Under Consideration by SMART Train Officials* (Mass Transit Magazine)
- April 5, 2017 – *Upcoming storm not expected to delay SMART train testing in San Rafael* (ABC/KGO Channel 7)
- April 5, 2017 – *CPUC urges public safety at crossings for SMART train service* (Fox/KTVU Channel 2)
- April 5, 2017 – *SMART trains likely to run by summer* (Santa Rosa Press Democrat)
- April 4, 2017 – *SMART trains set to roll into North Bay* (Fox/KTVU Channel 2)
- April 4, 2017 – *Sky Drone 5: SMART Train Construction Crews Shore Up Hillsides* (CBS/KPIX Channel 5)
- April 4, 2017 – *CA: Landslide risk in San Rafael halts SMART testing* (Mass Transit Magazine)
- April 4, 2017 – *Crews work to shore up hillsides as SMART rail opening nears* (SF Gate)
- April 3, 2017 – *SMART train expected by the end of spring* (Sonoma State Star)



- April 3, 2017 – *Landslide risk in San Rafael halts SMART testing* (Marin Independent Journal)
- April 1, 2017 – *SMART cleaning up tracks ahead of train service* (Santa Rosa Press Democrat)
- March 30, 2017 – *Residents want their say before consultant hired for San Rafael transit area redesign* (Marin Independent Journal)
- March 29, 2017 – *Waiting on a Train* (Bohemian)
- March 23, 2017 – *Marin’s population takes a dip, census data show* (Marin Independent Journal)
- March 22, 2017 – *CA: San Rafael reluctantly OKs SMART deal involving Larkspur extension* (Mass Transit Magazine)
- March 21, 2017 – *San Rafael reluctantly OKs SMART deal involving Larkspur extension* (Marin Independent Journal)
- March 20, 2017 – *Marin drafts transportation wish list for toll moola* (Marin Independent Journal)
- March 15, 2017 – *Solution at hand for downtown San Rafael SMART traffic concerns* (Marin Independent Journal)
- March 13, 2017 – *Petaluma on track to implement SMART train quiet zones in April* (Santa Rosa Press Democrat)
- March 12, 2017 – *Petaluma appears ready to limit SMART train horns...or is it?* (Santa Rosa Press Democrat)

