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New Consensus to Repurpose Funding to 101 Narrows and Transit Center

Sonoma and Marin transportation entities agree on use of Port Sonoma Earmark.

SANTA ROSA, CA – The long awaited federal transportation bill approved late last year allowed moving unspent federal earmarks to projects that are in need of funding. The process called “repurposing” will put federal funds to work, funding Transportation projects across the country. The Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA), Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District (GGBHTD) and the Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit (SMART) announced today that they have all agreed on the best use of the \$18.2 million Port Sonoma earmark.

The Fixing America’s Significant Transportation (FAST) Act established repurposing and delegated the final decision to each state with the requirement that the funds be used on a project within 50 mile of the original earmark project. Local Government recommendation to the state is:

- **\$15M** dedicated to Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA) to match local and other funds for the construction of Marin/Sonoma Narrows B2, Phase 2 project (total cost of \$35M)
- **\$3.2M** dedicated to Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit District (SMART) for the construction of the Bettini Transit Center improvements to accommodate bus and rail service until a new transit center is developed (total cost of \$5M).

“The consensus building is complete and we all agree across Marin and Sonoma Counties,” said Jake Mackenzie, MTC Commissioner, SCTA Director, SMART Board, and City Council Rohnert Park, “This will make the final Port Sonoma earmark repurposing decision easy for the State.”

“Repurposing was a good move by the US Department of Transportation freeing up much needed transportation funding that we can use for the Marin Sonoma Narrows,” said David Rabbitt, Chair of the SCTA, SMART Board member, GGBHTD Director, and Sonoma County Supervisor from the Petaluma area. “Every day we lose productivity while people sit in traffic in the Narrows and our economy suffers. We need to get this project done.”

“SMART has always supported cooperation and collaboration among all transportation partners,” said Judy Arnold, Chair of SMART, GGBHTD Director, Vice Chair of TAM, and Marin County Supervisor. “Together we can be more successful in attracting state and federal funds”

“This is a positive step forward for North Bay commuters” said Dick Grosboll who is the president of the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District (GGBHTD) Board of Directors.

The final repurposing decisions are schedule to be decided by September of this year.

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