



**For Immediate Release**

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## **SMART passenger train to arrive in downtown San Rafael**

Petaluma, CA – Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) announced today that on Friday, March 4, SMART will bring a two-car passenger train to the downtown San Rafael station platform. This will be the first time that a passenger train has been in downtown San Rafael in more than 50 years.

The SMART train is slated to arrive at the downtown San Rafael platform at noon. San Rafael city officials and members of the SMART Board of Directors are expected to greet the train on the platform, and there will be an opportunity for the public to walk through and view the two-car train set.

“This is the first time a passenger train has been in downtown San Rafael in more than 50 years,” said SMART General Manager Farhad Mansourian “The return of passenger train service to the area is an important milestone for San Rafael and for SMART.”

The last regular passenger train in downtown San Rafael made its final run on November 11, 1958, with a special one-time excursion train last visiting the station there in 1962, according to the Northwestern Pacific Railroad Historical Society.

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. For more information on SMART visit [www.SonomaMarinTrain.org](http://www.SonomaMarinTrain.org).

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