



*Celebrating 3 years*

Happy Anniversary  
SMART!





*Celebrating 3 years*

SMART is currently a 45-mile rail line with 12 stations serving cities in Sonoma and Marin counties, and with a bicycle and pedestrian pathway network along the rail corridor. An extension of the rail line is being constructed to offer passenger rail service to Windsor in 2021.

As an integral part of the fabric of the North Bay, SMART has been here through fires, floods, economic recessions and a viral pandemic and we'll continue to proudly serve in the good times and through the rough patches. In 2020, in response to COVID-19, SMART staff have implemented train sanitizing protocols to protect the health of our passengers and staff.

We are very proud of the team of dedicated professionals who make up SMART staff and the vital service they provide to the North Bay.

Eric Lucan,  
Chair, SMART Board of Directors

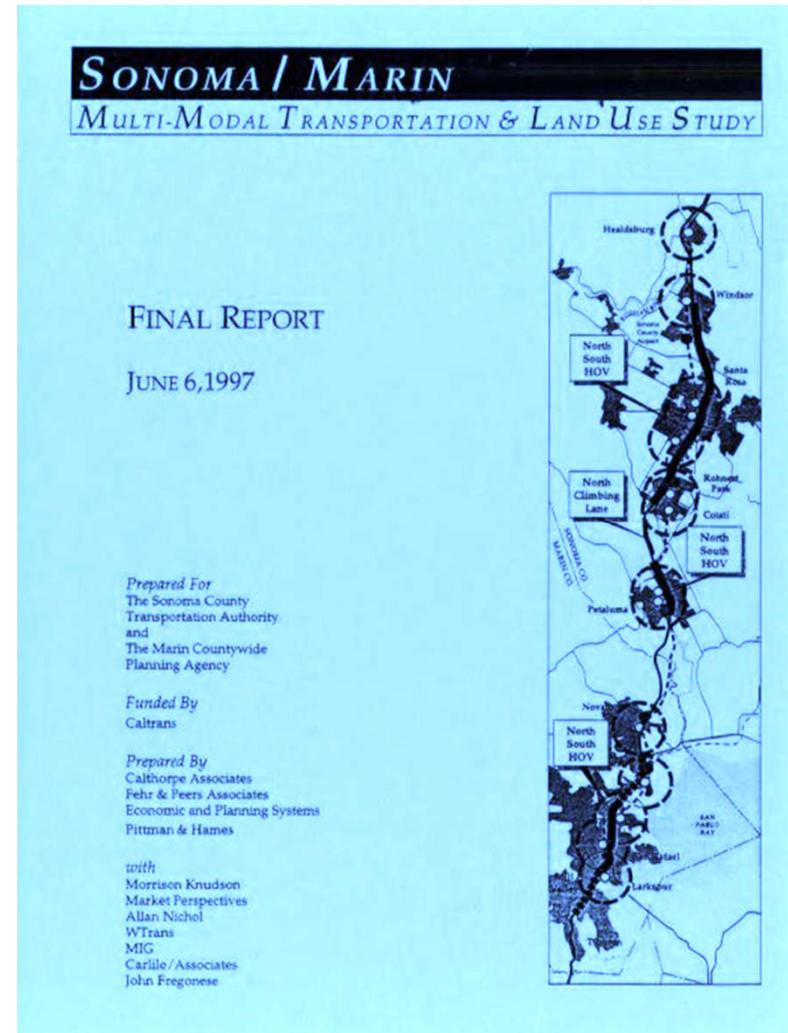
Barbara Pahre,  
Vice Chair, SMART Board of Directors



*Celebrating 3 years*

## It Began With a Vision

In 1997, the Sonoma/Marin Multi-Modal Transportation and Land Use Study by Peter Calthorpe laid out a vision for re-establishing passenger rail in the North Bay.





*Celebrating 3 years*

## The SMART Commission

In 1998 a two-part sales tax measure was placed on the ballot to raise funds for passenger rail.

Measure B, the plan for passenger rail passed with a 70% majority, and Measure C – providing the funding for the plan failed to get a simple majority.

In the wake of Measure B's strong showing at the ballot box, The Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) Commission was formed.



*Local environmentalists  
pick up the pieces  
after defeat of  
transit tax plan*

*Sonoma County Independent  
November 5-11, 1998*

## Preparing the ground for the next sales tax measure

The SMART Commission built a tiny organization consisting of a single employee and a handful of consultants.

The SMART Commission:

- Hired the engineering team that designed the rail alignment
- Established the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Group, who laid out the multi-use pathway network
- Hired the communications team that prepared the ground for the next sales tax measure



*Rail Backers Push for Vote  
Commuter Crunch:  
Supporters of passenger  
train linking Sonoma, Marin  
counties optimistic sales tax  
can win in 2004 despite  
dismal history, strong  
opposition*

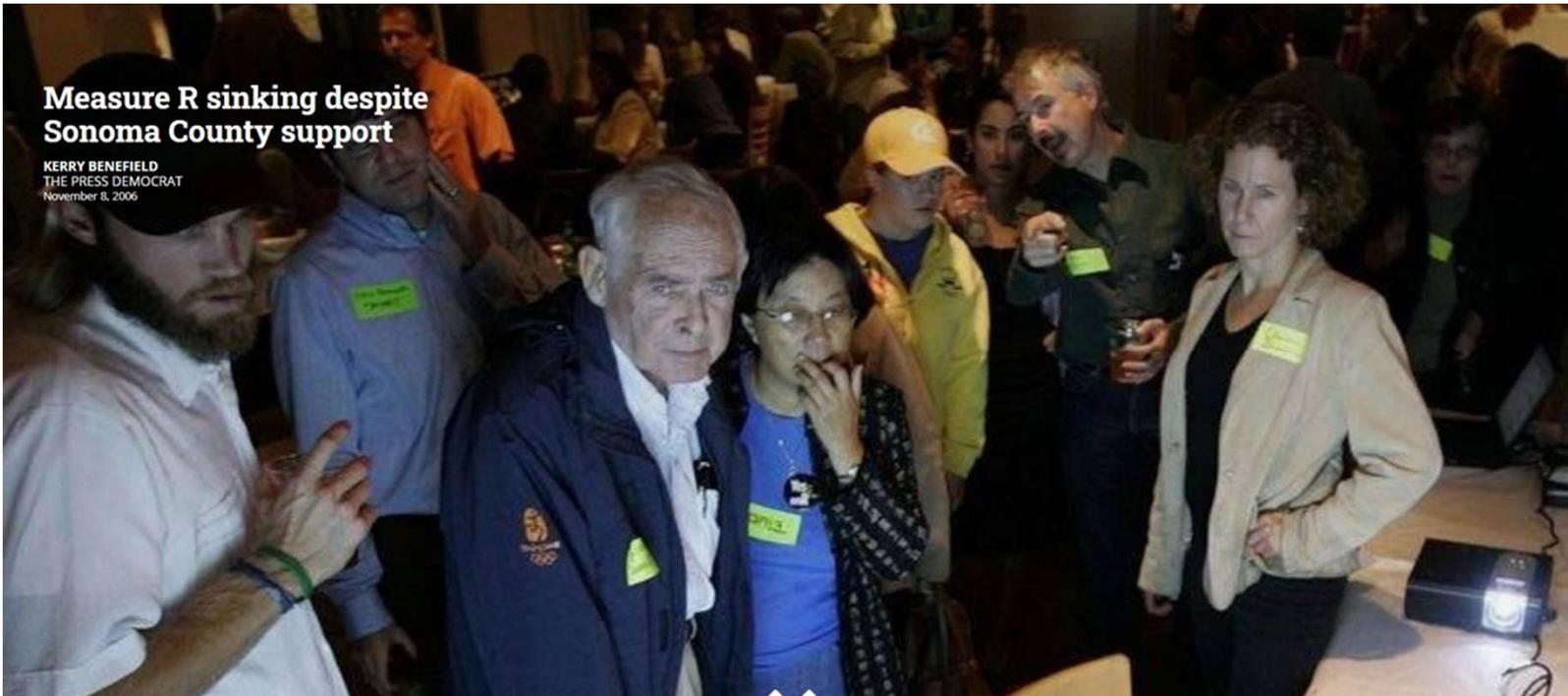
*Press Democrat  
April 26, 2002*

## The SMART District Established in 2003

The SMART District was established by California State Assemblyman, Joe Nation in 2003 to evaluate, plan, and implement passenger rail and associated rail transit facilities and services from Cloverdale in Sonoma County to a ferry terminal in Marin County that connects to San Francisco.



## Measure R



The SMART District placed a ¼ percent sales tax measure on the Ballot in 2006. The measure narrowly failed with 65.3% of the voters supporting the measure.

## Measure Q



In 2006, the SMART District placed a second  $\frac{1}{4}$  percent sales tax measure on the November ballot.

# Voters Approve Measure Q

## Measure Q Results

Marin County: 62.79% yes  
 Sonoma County: 73.7% yes  
 Total: 69.6% yes



NOVEMBER 4, 2006 WEDNESDAY FOUNDED IN 1941 79c

# HISTORIC VICTORY

## Marin Independent Journal

**RESULTS AT A GLANCE**

**U.S. PRESIDENT\*** A8-7  
 Barack Obama 349 (52%)  
 John McCain 142 (42%)

**U.S. SENATE\*** A8  
 Democrats 58 seats (55%)  
 Republicans 42 seats (40%)

**U.S. CONGRESS\*** A8  
 Lynn Woolsey, D 72%

**STATE SENATE\*** A4  
 Mark Leno, D 79%

**STATE ASSEMBLY\*** A4  
 Jared Huffman, D 70%

**STATE PROPOSITIONS** A8

1A: High-speed train Unknown  
 2: Farm levies Pass  
 3: Adult hospitals Unknown  
 4: Parent notification Unknown  
 5: Pioneer relief Fall  
 6: Law enforcement Fall  
 7: Renewable energy Fall  
 8: Gay marriage Unknown  
 9: Voting rights Unknown  
 10: Renewable energy Fall  
 11: Redistricting Unknown  
 12: Veterans' bond Pass

**MARIN MEASURES** A3-4

A: MBA Valley schools Pass  
 B: Maria Francis director Pass  
 C: Fair tax recycle Pass  
 D: Fair tax quick Fall  
 E: Train ticket policy Pass  
 F: Marinwood fire Pass  
 G: Marinwood parks Pass  
 H: SMART train Pass

**HEALTHCARE BOARD\*** A1  
 Sharon Jackson 39%  
 Maria (Hank) Simmonds 24%

**SAUSALITO SCHOOLS\*** A3  
 Karen Soper 29%  
 William Zager 23%

**SAUSALITO COUNCIL\*** A4  
 Mike Kelly 24%  
 Amy Simard 20%  
 Lucia Pflizer 18%

**BOLINAS FIRE\*** A1  
 David Kimball 69%  
 Shelia O'Donoghue 24%  
 Steven Kilkenny 7%

**MARIN OBITUARIES** B8  
 Lucien Peters, 96, wife of A. Wilcox, Arroyo Loma

**TOP STORY: SONOMA COUNTY BOOSTS MEASURE Q**

### SMART squeaks out win

20-year, quarter-cent sales tax hike will fund rail line from Cloverdale to Larkspur

By Mark Prado  
 Marin Independent Journal

After years of trying, train backers Tuesday finally got voters to buy into a Marin-to-Sonoma rail line. With all precincts counted in Marin and more than half in Sonoma County, voters gave a quarter-cent sales tax hike and the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit project a slim margin of approval. Measure Q was posting 68.7 percent overall support. It needed 66.6 percent for approval. "We are feeling wonderful," said Cynthia Murray, chairwoman of the "Yes on Q" campaign. "It's great people saw the need to address the North Bay's transportation issues." See SMART page A2

Cynthia Murray (left), chairwoman of the "Yes on Q" campaign, and SMART general manager Lillian Haines are all smiles as they check out early results in the race at a party at the Pretulano Marina on Tuesday night.

**PRESIDENTIAL VOTE**

### Marin Democrats 'absolutely elated'

Wetla Howard of San Rafael stands through the sunroof of her car after stopping in front of the Marin Democratic Party headquarters on Fourth Street during an impromptu celebration on Tuesday night.

**MARIN GENERAL**

### Incumbent and her ally win hospital board race

By Richard Halstead  
 Marin Independent Journal

Voters on Tuesday elected two candidates supported by the Alliance to Save Our Hospital to fill two seats on the Marin Healthcare District board. Incumbent board member Sharon Jackson led the race with 29.66 percent of the vote. The candidate she ran with, Dr. Harris (Hank) Simmonds, came in second with 24.62 percent of the vote. The Alliance to Save Our Hospital is a political action committee formed by community members who believed critics of Sutter Health's management of Marin General Hospital went too far and fast.

Sharon Jackson  
 Hank Simmonds

**INSIDE**

In massive turnout, 77 percent

By Paul Liberatore | Marin Independent Journal

**G**RABBING A QUICK DINNER before attending the Marin Symphony on Tuesday evening, Geoff Nilsen and his wife, Stella, were watching the TV above the bar at

# November 2010

## SMART Impacted by Economic Downturn

As a result of the economic downturn in 2009, the SMART Board of Directors made the hard decision to in November 2010 to construct the rail program in phases.

After leading the district's efforts to certify its Environmental Impact Report in 2005, and to successfully pass the ¼ present sales tax measure in 2008, GM Lillian Hames decides to move on. Her tremendous work was the foundation for future success.



### *SMART's boss steps down*

*Press Democrat*

*January 21, 2011*





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## SMART Finds its Next General Manager

Following Lillian Hames departure as SMART General Manager, the SMART Board of Directors entered into an agreement with the County of Marin to loan their Public Works Director Farhad Mansourian to SMART, and act as Interim GM as the agency searched for a permanent General Manager.



## SMART Finds its Footing



*Troubled SMART rail line taps Marin official as its leader*

*“Marin County public works chief Farhad Mansourian will take over as the general manager of the financially troubled Sonoma-Marina Area Rail Transit District after the rail board asked him to take the job.”*

*Marin Independent Journal  
August 22, 2011*

## SMART Finds its Footing



*Editorial: Pay package for new SMART chief raises questions*

*“Still, he is a solid pick. He has a history of keeping projects on track. He has proven his skill as a builder of projects. That’s what SMART needs.”*

*Marin Independent Journal  
August 31, 2011*

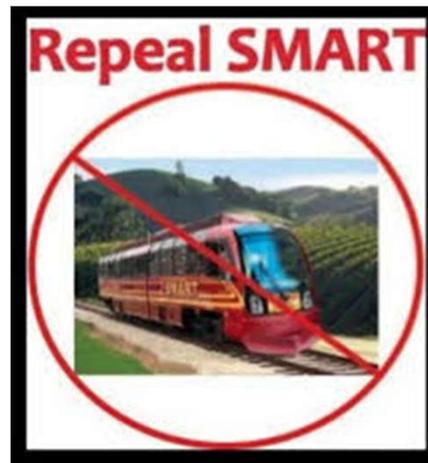
## Repeal SMART



### *SMART train foes begin repeal petition drive*

*“Volunteers began a push Saturday to repeal funding for the Sonoma-Marín commuter rail project, gathering ballot petition signatures at shopping centers from Corte Madera to Santa Rosa.”*

*Petaluma Argus Courier  
October 2, 2011*



## Repeal SMART



### *SMART repeal effort falls short*

*“Opponents of the Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit train apparently have failed in their attempt to force a repeal election on the sales tax that is the agency’s major source of funding. Clay Mitchell of Windsor, co-chairman of Repeal SMART, said his group is submitting the signatures as a symbolic gesture. He acknowledged the almost-certain failure.”*

*Press Democrat  
January 27, 2012*



# January 2012

## Construction Bids Come in Below Estimates



“After a series of disappointing developments, SMART delivered some welcome news for a change on Thursday. The bids for the first phase of construction came in so far below estimates that SMART is prepared to add back two stations and 1 mile of service. This means that the truncated line will end at the north Santa Rosa station at Guerneville Road instead of at Railroad Square as first envisioned.”



## Breaking Ground on One of the Largest Infrastructure Projects in the North Bay



On February 12, 2012, SMART broke ground on one of the largest infrastructure projects in the history of the North Bay Area.

# July 2012 – Demolishing the Old Track



# September 2012 – Constructing the New Track





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## SMART Moves to Petaluma



### *SMART rail district opening Petaluma headquarters*

*"The Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit District will create a consolidated headquarters in Petaluma, moving workers there from Santa Rosa and San Rafael.*

*"We have a lot of staff constantly going back and forth. We are wasting a lot of time and talent and mileage," said SMART General Manager Farhad Mansourian."*

*Press Democrat  
June 22, 2012*

November 2013

Congressman Huffman Helps Build Our Railroad





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## SMART Adds Sonoma County Airport Station



*SMART gets \$12.5 million to extend rail service to Airport Boulevard*

*“A key regional transportation committee on Wednesday approved \$12.5 million for Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit to rebuild the line as far north as Airport Boulevard and possibly add a new station there.”*

*Press Democrat  
January 2013*

## Relocating a Chimaera Redwood Tree

On August 6, 2014, SMART relocated a Chimaera Redwood tree in Rohnert Park to make way for rail construction.



# Bicycle-Pedestrian Pathway

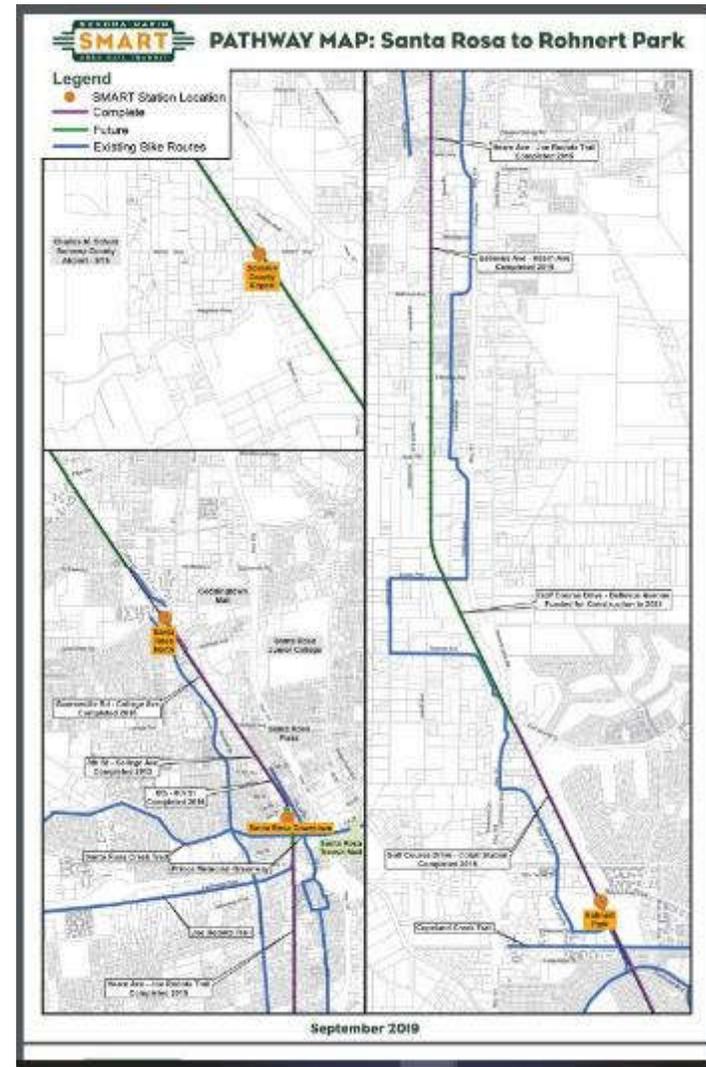


SMART is dedicated to building a network of bicycle-pedestrian pathways since the beginning of the SMART project.

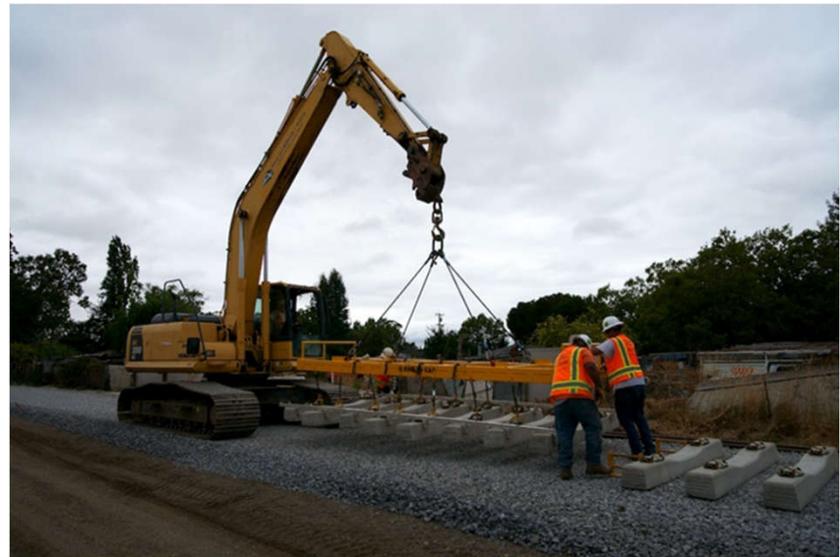


## Bicycle-Pedestrian Pathway

A map of built and future pathway segments can be found on SMART's webpage:  
[SonomaMarinTrain.org/SMART\\_Pathway](http://SonomaMarinTrain.org/SMART_Pathway)



## November 2015 Track Construction Nears the Finish Line



In November 2015 track construction was nearing completion.

## First SMART Trains Arrive in USA





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## SMART Trains on the Way to the North Bay

SMART's trains began to arrive in 2015



Allen Robertson©  
RailPictures.Net - Image Copyright Allen Robertson

## Welcoming the First SMART Trains to the North Bay



On November 19, 2015 SMART held a public ceremony to welcome the first trainset to the North Bay



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## *SMART Buys a (Draw) Bridge*

*Sonoma-Marina Area Rail Transit officials intend to buy a used draw bridge in Galveston, Texas, to replace the 99-year-old swing bridge over the Petaluma River.*

*Rather than launch a \$20 million rehab of the aging structure at Haystack Landing, and then perhaps spending \$30 million to replace it in 20 years, SMART says that for \$20 million it can buy and install the used bridge and have it last 75 to 80 years.*

*"I was looking for a different solution than retrofitting it," said Farhad Mansourian, SMART's general manager."*

*Press Democrat  
February 14, 2012*

## Haystack Bridge Construction



## Haystack Bridge Completion



October 2015

First Train Crossing Haystack Bridge



## 2016 – Teaching the Next Generation of Cyclists How to Cross Railroad Tracks



## December 2016 – Smart’s First Holiday Express Toy Drive



## March 2016 – Track Completed





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## Grant Pays For Four Additional Train Cars



### *Marin commuter rail gets state grant for more cars*

*“A state agency has granted Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit \$11 million to buy four more cars as the service gets ready to begin later this year.*

*The California Transportation Commission approved the grant last week, a move that allows the rail agency to expand the service as the system grows.”*

*Marin Independent Journal  
March 21, 2016*



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## Engine Flaws Cause Delay



### *Engine Flaws, Crossing Signal Problems Delay Launch Of North Bay SMART Train*

*“Commuter train service between Santa Rosa and San Rafael has been delayed from late this year to at least spring 2017, the Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit District said Friday.*

*An underlying design flaw in the crankshaft of the diesel engine that will operate the SMART train cars is one reason for the delay, SMART district’s General Manager Farhad Mansourian said.”*

*KPIX Channel 5 TV  
October 2016*

## April 2017 – Training Exercise

In preparation for emergency response to any and all potential incidents, SMART works closely with local jurisdictions to train and prepare for emergencies.



## December 2019 – Training Exercise





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## Summer 2017 – There's a Train Coming to Town



## Summer 2017 – Smart Opens New Parking Lots

SMART parking lots are located at:

- Sonoma County Airport Station
- Rohnert Park Station
- Petaluma Downtown Station
- Novato San Marin Station
- Novato Hamilton Station
- Larkspur Station



## Summer 2017 – Preview Rides



SMART provided free train rides during the summer of 2017 to offer North Bay residents an opportunity to experience firsthand the potential of passenger rail transportation.

# August 25, 2017 – Smart Opens for Service



## Smart Celebrates its First Day of Operations



## Cutting the Ribbon



August 25, 2017, SMART celebrated the official start up of the first passenger rail service in 50 years.

## Kids Love Smart



## October 8, 2017 – Tubbs Fire



## October 8, 2017 – Tubbs Fire



On October 9, SMART resumed free emergency service to assist in the evacuation of Santa Rosa residents. SMART continued to offer free service through October 20. SMART also launched two programs designed to help individuals and businesses impacted by the Sonoma County fires – the Individual Relief Pass Program and the Business Relief Pass Program.

# December 2017 – Smart Holiday Express





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August 18, 2018 – SMART Fest

**SMART FEST**  
*a North Bay community celebration*  
**August 18, 2018**  
*10 a.m. to 3 p.m.*  
**SMART Novato Hamilton Station**  
Celebrate SMART's first year of service  
Live Music • Food Trucks • Local Beer & Wine  
North Bay Vendors • SMART Giveaways • Family Fun

**FREE TRAIN SERVICE AUGUST 18 & 19**

The poster features a green and white SMART train in motion, with the number 112 and "Novato" visible on the front. The background is a vibrant green with yellow confetti and streamers.

December 2018 – Smart Holiday Express



## January 2019 – One Million Riders



## March 2019 – 100,000 Bicyclists



## June 2017 – Larkspur Extension



In June 2017, SMART awarded the contract to construct the rail extension to Larkspur.

## June 2018 – Dedicating San Rafael Pathway



## June 2018 – Dedicating Novato Pathway



## June 2019 – Building 2nd Street Crossing in San Rafael





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August 2019

Larkspur Extension Systems Testing



*SMART to begin overnight testing on Larkspur extension*

*“SMART trains will be blowing horns overnight between San Rafael and Larkspur this weekend as testing of the new rail line extension begins.*

*Testing, which is expected to last two to three weeks.”*

*Marin Independent Journal*

*August 22, 2019*



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## December 13, 2019 Larkspur Extension Grand Opening





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December 13, 2019

Larkspur Extension Grand Opening



December 14, 2019

Novato Downtown Station Grand Opening



December 2019  
SMART's Fourth Holiday Express!

2019  
**SMART**  
HOLIDAY  
EXPRESS  
TOY DRIVE



## March 3, 2020 – Measure I

*In Measure I tax renewal, SMART train faces critical test with voters*

*Press Democrat*

*February 15, 2020*

*Editorial: SMART train tax – IJ recommends no vote on Measure I*

*Marin IJ Editorial Board*

*February 1, 2020*

*PD Editorial: Yes on Measure I: Don't derail the SMART train*

*Press Democrat, North Bay Business Journal*

*February 2, 2020*





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## March 3, 2020 – Measure I

*Editorial: Vote yes on Measure I to  
keep Marin's SMART trains rolling*

*SF Chronicle Editorial Board  
February 4, 2020*

*Yes on Measure I: San Francisco  
North Bay needs an alternative to  
the automobile*

*Brad Bollinger, Editorial Board  
February 14, 2020*



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## March 3, 2020 – Measure I



**Sonoma, Marin county voters reject SMART sales tax extension**

“Voters dealt a punishing blow to the North Bay’s 2½-year-old commuter rail system Tuesday, rejecting an early renewal of the sales tax that funds SMART following a bitter battle that set new records for campaign spending.”

*Press Democrat*  
*March 3, 2020*

## Spring/Summer 2020 – Coronavirus

*SMART cuts service as ridership declines due to coronavirus pandemic*

*The Press Democrat  
April 4, 2020*

*SMART slashes service as ridership plunges amid COVID-19 pandemic*

*KTVU FOX 2*

*SMART Cuts More Trips Amid 90% Drop In Ridership: Coronavirus*

*THE PATCH, APRIL 23, 2020*

## COVID-19 – SMART Response

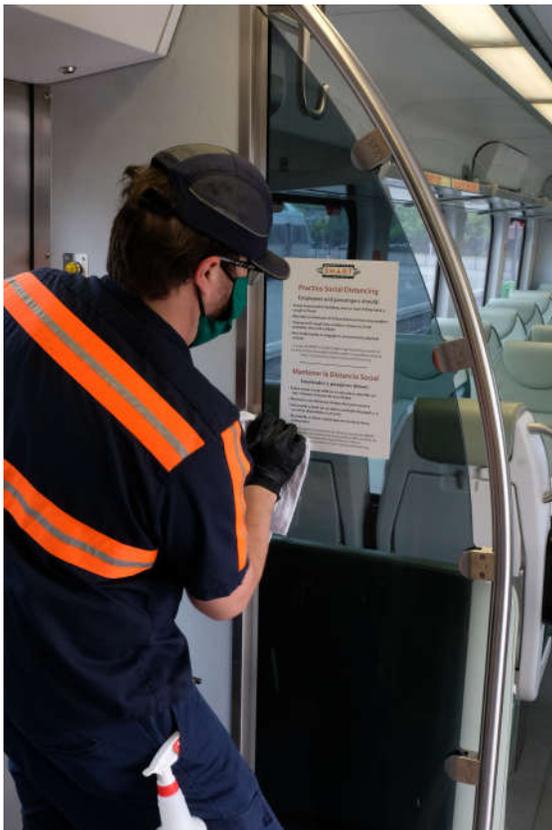


**#StayingApartKeepsUsMoving**

On March 17, the Sonoma County Public Health Officer issued an order to shelter in place in response to the Coronavirus pandemic.

SMART rose to the occasion by implementing thorough cleaning and social distancing protocols in accordance with the Center for Disease Control guidelines.

## COVID-19 – SMART Response

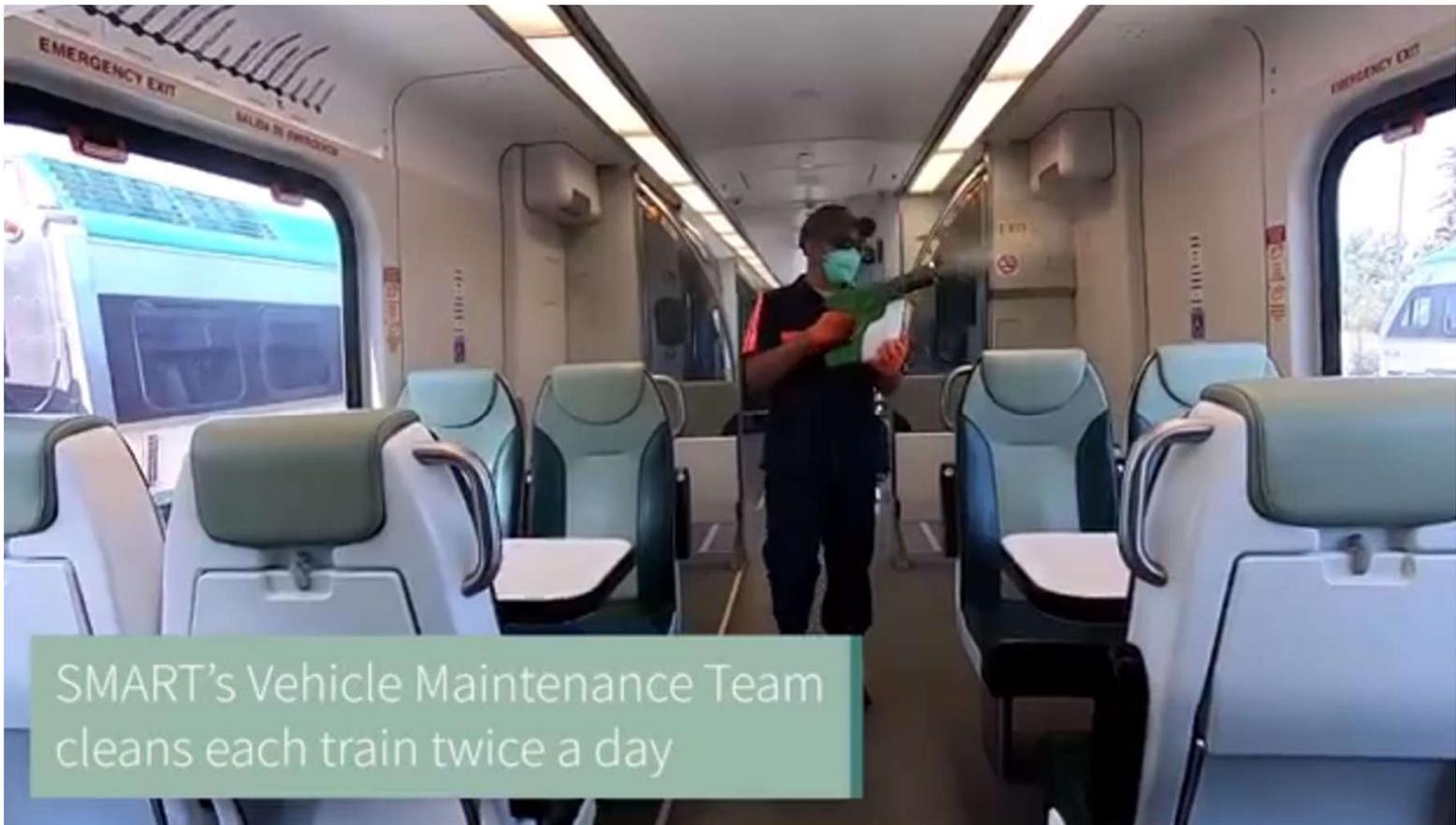


Trains are cleaned 2X daily by SMART staff, utilizing:

- Hand applied disinfectants
- Electrostatic sprayer



## COVID-19 – SMART Response



SMART's Vehicle Maintenance Team  
cleans each train twice a day

## COVID-19 – SMART Response Smart Board of Directors Meet on Zoom



## COVID-19 – Meet Our Employees



**Meet Antonio.**

Engineer and Conductor

He's an artist and world traveler from Atlanta.

He wears a facial covering everyday. When you wear yours on the train, you help protect essential workers like Antonio.

**SONOMA-MARIN SMART AREA RAIL TRANSIT**

#StayingApartKeepsUsMoving



**Meet Edgar.**

Operations Laborer

He's a husband and a father, who loves to play the guitar.

When you wear a facial covering, you help protect the people who disinfect your train twice a day. Edgar and all SMART staff thank you.

**SONOMA-MARIN SMART AREA RAIL TRANSIT**

#StayingApartKeepsUsMoving

## COVID-19 – Meet Our Employees



### Meet Shawn.

Signal Technician

He's a father of two, who was born and raised in Cloverdale.

Shawn works hard to ensure trains travel safely through our community. When you wear a facial covering, you help protect people like Shawn and his family.

#StayingApartKeepsUsMoving

### Meet Nina.

Admin. Services Manager  
at the Rail Operations Center

She's a wife and a mother, who loves gardening.

She works hard to keep SMART rolling. When she comes to work, she wears a facial covering. Please do the same when you ride transit.



#StayingApartKeepsUsMoving

## COVID-19 – Meet Our Employees

### Meet Steven.

Engineer/Conductor

He's a classic car enthusiast and comes from a family of rail operators.

Steven wears a facial covering to help create a clean, healthy environment for SMART riders. Please join Steven in wearing a facial covering on the train.



### Meet Jag.

Vehicle Maintenance Technician

He has two grown children whom he loves dearly.

Jag makes sure our trains are a reliable way to travel. When you practice social distancing, you are protecting essential workers like Jag.



## Windsor Extension



## Windsor Extension



SMART started up in December 2019, and the grand opening of the Windsor Station is expected in 2022

# Windsor Extension





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The SMART train is a green commute option for Marin and Sonoma, with connections to San Francisco via the Larkspur Ferry. SMART is continuing to serve our community and creating connections to jobs, education centers, retail hubs and housing along the Sonoma-Marín corridor.

SMART proudly provides a reliable and efficient transportation service for the North Bay and continues to complete the vision of a 70-mile transit system. The Windsor Extension project is on track to bring passenger service to the Town of Windsor in 2021.

**Happy Anniversary SMART!**