Happy Anniversary SMART!
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
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.
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 ¼ 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 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 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-Marin 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-Marin commuter rail project, gathering ballot petition signatures at shopping centers from Corte Madera to Santa Rosa.”

*Petaluma Argus Courier*

*October 2, 2011*
SMART repeal effort falls short

“Opponents of the Sonoma-Marin 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
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
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
November 2015
Track Construction Nears the Finish Line

In November 2015 track construction was nearing completion.
First SMART Trains Arrive in USA
SMART Trains on the Way to the North Bay

SMART’s trains began to arrive in 2015
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
SMART Buys a (Draw) Bridge

Sonoma-Marin 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
Grant Pays For Four Additional Train Cars

Marin commuter rail gets state grant for more cars
“A state agency has granted Sonoma-Marin 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
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-Marin 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
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
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
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
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
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
December 13, 2019
Larkspur Extension Grand Opening
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
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
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, 2030
COVID-19 – SMART Response

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.

#StayingApartKeepsUsMoving
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.

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.
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.

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

#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.
#StayingApartKeepsUsMoving

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.
#StayingApartKeepsUsMoving
Windsor Extension
Windsor Extension

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