



SMART

Your train has arrived.

Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit District

General Manager's Report – September 2019

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SMART

|| SONOMA-MARIN AREA RAIL TRANSIT

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community Outreach | North Bay Coalition on Mental Health Awareness and Suicide Prevention

Loss of life by suicide is a community tragedy, and SMART sends its condolences to the families of those who have been affected. Some individuals in extreme emotional pain may exhibit warning signs and some may not. Addressing this public health issue requires a comprehensive community response, including sensitive, non-sensational reporting when people die by suicide. Mental health professionals have issued media best practices guidelines for responsible reporting when a suicide occurs. Media can play a role in promoting messages of hope by specifically publishing the warning signs of suicide and steps each of us can make in suicide prevention.

SMART partnered with the County of Sonoma, County of Marin, Buckelew Programs, National Alliance on Mental Illness and the “Know the Signs Campaign” to send a message to the community that there is **HOPE** and there is **HELP**. Over 60 leading North Bay Companies, Nonprofits, Law Enforcement, and Government Agencies have joined together to continue the outreach effort. If you or someone you know is suffering from emotional pain, **call 1-800-273-TALK** or **text CONNECT to 741741** to talk confidentially to a trained professional. Also visit suicideispreventable.org to learn the signs, start a conversation and how to get help.

Suicide Prevention Week

SMART has partnered with suicide prevention experts and local public health organizations to increase suicide prevention and mental health awareness. In just a few short weeks, SMART brought



together over 60 organizations in Marin and Sonoma counties to lead the movement on suicide prevention and mental health.

The coalition launched a public awareness campaign during National Suicide Prevention week, September 8-14. The campaign included a local radio Public Service Announcements, reaching 400,000 Sonoma County listeners. Digital and print media partners donated space to feature the suicide prevention Public Service Announcement. Each member of the

coalition also shared information through their own channels to help raise awareness

Community Outreach | California Rail Safety Month

Promoting rail safety awareness is an essential part of SMART’s social media messaging, electronic newsletters, and public outreach events. September is Rail Safety Month in California, and SMART’s Outreach team enhanced their rail safety efforts with a community engagement effort, using social

media, e-newsletters, website, print and digital advertising. Community partners, presentations, and events were also key components to this year's effort.

SMART Outreach partners with Operation Lifesaver to promote rail safety awareness in September, leading up to National Rail Safety Week in the last week of September. Operation Lifesaver is the national rail safety education nonprofit organization, and coordinates different safety efforts for each day of the week during National Rail Safety Week.

Community Outreach | Safety Education and Awareness

National Rail Safety Week

North Bay law enforcement agencies partnered with SMART and Operation Lifesaver as part of Operation Clear Track, a law enforcement effort to reinforce safe behaviors near trains, tracks and at railroad crossings. Police officers patrolled railroad crossings and increased enforcement in San Rafael, Novato, Petaluma, Rohnert Park, Cotati, and Santa Rosa.

The law enforcement partnership was also emphasized with a video campaign on social media. SMART created a series of short safety videos featuring local law enforcement and SMART Board Directors. You can view the videos on SMART's YouTube page:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAqmxJ05D6ysPQAgxYyN_g



*Thank you to our SMART Board Directors and law enforcement partners for promoting rail safety awareness.
Stay tuned on social media for more videos!*

Volunteers from several organizations joined SMART during the week to promote rail safety awareness. On Tuesday, September 24, volunteers from Kaiser Permanente in Santa Rosa, the Petaluma Police Department, and Whistlestop in San Rafael passed out flyers with rail safety and suicide prevention information to passengers at SMART stations.

Community Outreach | Events and Presentations

SMART hosted a safety pop-up at the Petaluma Downtown station to promote transit and commuter safety. Riders stopped by the table to learn about staying safe near tracks and trains and get some SMART safety swag.



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

- September 28 | Los Robles Mobile Home Park Presentation (Novato)
- September 26 | Safety Pop-Up: Petaluma (Petaluma)
- September 25 | Marin Sustainable Enterprise Conference (Ross)
- September 24 | Marin Convention and Visitors Bureau Presentation (San Rafael)
- September 16 | Safety Presentation: Girl Scout Troop (Santa Rosa)
- September 13 | School Safety Presentation: Olivet Charter School (Santa Rosa)
- September 11 | Leadership Novato Presentation (Novato)

Digital Programs | Social Media

SMART's Rail Safety Month campaign kicked off on social media at the beginning of September. To increase engagement and awareness, the Communications and Marketing team asked people to share our safety social media posts with at least five other people as part of Operation Lifesaver's *Save Lives, Tell Five* campaign. Three random participants received a SMART prize pack for their participation. The momentum continued with a short video series featuring local law enforcement providing safety tips for the community.

The Communications and Marketing department has shared information regarding night time operations for the Larkspur extension across all social media channels, on SMART's website, and through the e-newsletter. Regular updates on the testing schedule are posted as they become available. The e-newsletters this month focused on rail safety and encouraged recipients to forward the email to others to help increase rail safety awareness.

The most popular Facebook post since the last board meeting commemorated the first SMART train to make a stop at the new Larkspur station. The extension is on track to open by the end of the year.

Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit
September 9 at 10:56 AM · 🌐

Your SMART train made its historic first stop into Larkspur Station on August 23, 2019. A seamless connection into San Francisco is almost here! The next stops will be Windsor in 2021, followed by Healdsburg and Cloverdale.

11,843 People Reached 3,856 Engagements [Boost Post](#)

👍❤️😬 437 58 Comments 75 Shares

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share ⌵

- September 27, *Woman, two dogs fatally struck by SMART train in Rohnert Park in suspected suicide* (Santa Rosa Press Democrat)
- September 26, *Woman carrying two dogs jumps in front of train, all three die* (sfbay.org)
- September 26, *Woman and two dogs killed after she jumps in front of SMART train* (SF Gate)
- September 26, *Pedestrian struck, killed by SMART train in Rohnert Park* (Santa Rosa Press Democrat)
- September 24, *Fatalities rise in California from people stepping in front of moving trains* (San Francisco Chronicle)
- September 23, *Eyes on the Track: SMART's Larkspur Extension* (StreetBlog SF)
- September 23, *San Rafael residents denied injunction on SMART horns* (Marin Independent Journal)
- September 21, *San Rafael residents sue SMART over horn noise* (Marin Independent Journal)
- September 21, *Dick Spotswood: New Mexico's Rail Runner a good comparison to SMART train* (Marin Independent Journal)
- September 21, *PD Editorial: Finding smart spot for rail station* (Santa Rosa Press Democrat)
- September 20, *CA: Poll: 70% of voters in Sonoma, Marin counties support SMART rail sales tax extension* (Mass Transit Magazine)
- September 19, *Fair talks, streets, train stop* (Petaluma Argus Courier)
- September 19, *Close to Home: Take a bolder approach to climate change* (Santa Rosa Press Democrat)
- September 18, *SMART takes cautious approach to sales tax promises* (Marin Independent Journal)
- September 18, *Poll: 70% of voters in Sonoma, Marin counties support SMART rail sales tax extension* (Santa Rosa Press Democrat)
- September 16, *CA: Santa Rosa to continue seeking Jennings Avenue path across SMART tracks* (Mass Transit Magazine)
- September 13, *Santa Rosa to continue seeking Jennings Avenue path across SMART tracks* (Santa Rosa Press Democrat)
- September 11, *Guest Editorial: Build bike paths for a greener Petaluma* (Santa Rosa Press Democrat)
- September 9, *Sonoma County supervisors at odds over location of proposed 3rd Santa Rosa SMART station* (Santa Rosa Press Democrat)

- September 9, *SMART cites its grant haul of more than \$300 million in tax renewal pitch* (Petaluma Argus Courier)
- September 7, *SMART cites its grant haul of more than \$300 million in tax renewal pitch* (Santa Rosa Press Democrat)
- September 4, *Sleepless in San Rafael: SMART horn testing continues indefinitely despite resident complaints* (Houston Chronicle)
- September 4, *SMART train testing resumes this week to dismay of some residents* (SF Gate)
- September 4, *SMART train testing resumes this week to dismay of some residents* (Larkspur-Corte Madera Patch)
- September 4, *SMART to resume overnight testing to dismay of some residents* (KPIX/CBS 5)
- September 4, *Nearby residents furious with overnight SMART train horn testing* (KTVU/Fox 2)
- September 4, *Best scenario': SMART leans toward 30-year tax renewal* (Marin Independent Journal)
- September 4, *San Rafael residents tired of blaring SMART horns* (KTVU/Fox 2)

LARKSPUR EXTENSION PROJECT

Work at the Larkspur Station is near completion, the contractor is working on the remaining punch list items.

Train operations started on August 23rd and continued through end of September.

Pre-Revenue testing will start once all the crossing and Positive Train Control testing is completed and approved.

SMART contractor is starting to install station platform shelters and amenities at the Novato Downtown Station.



Andersen Drive, San Rafael - Dynamic Testing



Larkspur Station Construction – Parking Lot Striping



Bettini Transit Center – Lights Installed



2nd Street crossing – NO Trespassing Signs Installed



Novato Downtown Station- Shelter Installation

WINDSOR EXTENSION PROJECT

- SMART has reviewed the bids and provided the General Manger with a recommendation.
- SMART anticipates to award the contract in fall.
- Environmental permit process is continuing.

PAYRAN TO SOUTHPOINT MULTI-USE PATHWAY

- Pedestrian bridge construction completed.
- Preparation for paving started in September.



ADDITIONAL PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Additional pedestrian channelizing fence installation has been completed at the following locations:

1. San Miguel Road (Santa Rosa)
2. Piner Road (Santa Rosa)
3. W. Steele Lane (Santa Rosa)
4. Guerneville Road (Santa Rosa)
5. College Avenue (Santa Rosa)
6. 9th Street (Santa Rosa)
7. 8th Street (Santa Rosa)
8. 7th Street (Santa Rosa)
9. 6th Street (Santa Rosa)
10. 3rd Street (Santa Rosa)
11. Sebastopol Road (Santa Rosa)
12. Hearn Avenue (Santa Rosa)
13. Bellevue Avenue (Santa Rosa)
14. Golf Course Drive (Rohnert Park)
15. Southwest Avenue (Rohnert Park)
16. East Cotati Avenue (Cotati)
17. Southpoint Boulevard (Petaluma)
18. W. Payran Street (Petaluma)
19. Lakeville Road (Petaluma)
20. Washington Street (Petaluma)
21. Caulfield Laen (Petaluma)
22. Grant Avenue (Novato)
23. Roblar Drive (Novato)
24. Civic Center Drive (San Rafael)
25. North San Pedro, north side (San Rafael)
26. 5th Street (San Rafael)





East Cotati Avenue, Cotati - Pedestrian Channelizing Fence



Golf Course, Rohnert Park - Pedestrian Channelizing Fence



Rohnert Park Expressway, Rohnert Park- Pedestrian Channelizing Fence



Bellevue Avenue, Santa Rosa – Pedestrian Channelizing Fence



Civic Center Drive, San Rafael- Pedestrian Channelizing Fence



North San Pedro, San Rafael- Pedestrian Channelizing Fence



5th Street, San Rafael- Flat work completed and Fence installation in progress



Southwest Blvd, Rohnert Park- Preparation for Installation of Pedestrian Channelizing Fence



SAFETY AND SECURITY

Homeless along the pathway continues, code compliance makes contact with several groups a day moving them along.



Residents continue to use the railroad right of way as a shortcut or an exercise path. The below cyclist was contacted and advised not to trespass on SMART property.



Early morning bike path sweeps happen daily to ensure pathways remain clear for walkers and cyclists. The below tent was occupied by homeless and moved along in Santa Rosa.



Two subjects were contacted near the signal house in Petaluma. It was unclear what they were up to but appears as if they were going to vandalize the signal house.



While on extra patrol in Petaluma, code compliance observed several males under the bridge in Petaluma trespassing. This area is known for vandalism and graffiti and the males were unable to state their purpose for being on SMART property. They were moved along out of the area.



Safety staff attended Marin County Fire Prevention Officers meeting in Novato. This is an opportunity for fire prevention officers to discuss concerns and specific areas of attention with SMART.

Safety staff met with deputy chiefs of Marin County Fire Department to discuss general issues related to the rail line.

Safety staff attended meeting of Sonoma County Fire Operations in Santa Rosa. Many issues are discussed including readiness for PG&E shut downs and SMARTs response plan.

Safety staff attended meeting of Sonoma County Fire Chiefs at the CHP office in Rohnert Park.

Safety staff attending the Marin County and Sonoma County Police Chiefs meetings. Several topics were discussed to include a SMART update and areas of concern for enforcement. A request for assistance for Rail Safety week was discussed.

VEHICLE ENGINEERING

Diesel Multiple Unit 110 has completed onsite testing, and is now undergoing final safety sign offs prior to reentering revenue service.

Wi-Fi was installed by GBS Company on the new Diesel Multiple Unit's 115-118 the week of September 9th.

Cummins and Nippon Sharyo have completed 17 of the 18 engine modifications.



OPERATIONS

MAINTENANCE OF WAY:

- Staff hosted Federal Railroad Administration and California Public Utility Commission track inspectors on the Larkspur extension for an audit of track structure, signage, and walkways.
- Facilities team began a project to refresh the red stripes on all platforms.
- Facilities team completed installation of Cab Spot signs at all stations. These will assist the engineer in ensuring their entire train is on the platform.
- Staff spent equivalent of 22 days in August flagging for various contractors and outside agencies.

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE:

- Performed annual maintenance on 1 Diesel Multiple Unit.
- Repaired and adjusted door guide on Diesel Multiple Unit 101. The guide was damaged and was not allowing the side door to close properly.
- During revenue service, the Diesel Multiple Unit 111 reported having multiple friction brake faults. Upon inspection it was determined that the speed sensor was no longer good for service. The speed sensor was replaced and the unit was good for service.
- Performed mid-year maintenance on 1 Diesel Multiple Unit.
- Automatic Train Control maintenance performed on 3 Diesel Multiple Units. This maintenance keeps us compliant with Federal Regulatory Association regulations in regards to positive train control.
- Changed out passenger side window on Diesel Multiple Unit 113 due to window having a crack from an object being thrown at the trains.
- Replaced end door press plate on Diesel Multiple Unit 106 due to press plate being damaged.
- Performed wheel truing on 4 axles.
Changed out radiator fan on Diesel Multiple Units 106 and 109. These fans shorted out on both Diesel Multiple Units.

TRANSPORTATION:

SMART Transportation Dept. Training:

- SMART's engineers/conductors have started training on the Larkspur Extension which includes taking a physical characteristics test and a check ride with a Designated Supervisor of Locomotive Engineer over the new Larkspur Extension.
- Emergency Preparedness Training (DMU Emergency Evacuations Training using the window pulls and ladder placement and Fire Extinguishing Training).

HUMAN RESOURCES

CURRENT OPEN RECRUITMENTS:

- Engineer-Conductor
- Controller Supervisor
- Signal Technician
- Rail Information Systems Specialist
- Assistant Engineer – Rail Systems
- Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor

INTERVIEWS:

- Rail Information Systems Specialist
- Marketing and Communications Manager
- Laborer
- Track Laborer

NEW HIRES:

One Engineer-Conductor and one Administrative Analyst were hired.

LABOR CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS:

Labor Negotiations with the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers and Operating Engineers Local 3 are ongoing. The contracts expired on June 30, 2019.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Benefits open enrollment is underway and will continue through October 4th for the 2020 plan year. Yasamin Mora-Serrano, Human Resources Technician, has been going to each of SMART's facilities to assist employees with open enrollment and the new online system.

GRANTS, LEGISLATION, PLANNING AND REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

LEGISLATION

SB 742 (Allen): This legislation makes several changes to existing law related to operation of intercity rail feeder bus service. This SB 742 legislation would remove an existing restriction limiting intercity rail feeder bus service to passengers solely connecting to and from an Amtrak Intercity Rail service in California. In other words, currently people are only allowed to purchase a ticket on an Amtrak Thruway Intercity Rail feeder bus if they are also purchasing an Amtrak Intercity Rail ticket for the same journey. In the SMART corridor, the Amtrak Route 7 feeder bus travels between McKinleyville and Petaluma onward through Napa and Vallejo to Martinez at the Amtrak rail station. The SMART Board unanimously supported this bill and that support was communicated in a letter to the bill author on May 16, 2019. The bill has passed from the Legislature and was presented to the Governor for signature consideration on September 19, 2019.

REGIONAL AND LOCAL PLANNING ACTIVITIES

Solano Transportation Authority (SYS) SMART Station and Solano Express Feasibility Study: The 2018 California State Rail Plan identifies a 2040 vision that includes new east-west rail service along the Highway 37 and Highway 12 corridors that connects a Solano County hub with the SMART rail line. As a follow up to this Plan, SMART conducted an engineering feasibility study that concluded that the proposed service is feasible. As a follow up to the SMART engineering feasibility study, STA issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to conduct the SMART Station and SolanoExpress Feasibility Study in Solano County. This study calls for a consultant to provide a comprehensive analysis of the existing conditions in Solano County along the SMART corridor, including land-use, rail facility conditions, biological conditions and integration potential for SolanoExpress, regional thru way bus, and active transportation. Staff is actively participating in the RFQ vendor selection process.

Regional Mapping and Pedestrian Wayfinding Prototype Testing: Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) contracted City ID to audit existing conditions and perform on-site temporary implementation at designated pilot transit stations across the Bay Area. SMART's Santa Rosa Downtown Station was selected as one of these test sites. On a single day (that has yet to be determined), City ID will install temporary on-site maps with site-specific artwork and perform user-testing. The results of the user-testing will be compiled and used in the finalization of creating a suite of maps. Staff is attending meetings and coordinating with MTC on this project.

Local Planning Department Notification and Coordination Tracking: SMART Planning staff tracks and reviews all notices sent by local jurisdictions for projects occurring adjacent to or nearby the railroad tracks. To date in 2019 staff has received and reviewed 125 different notices.

SYSTEM ACCESS PLANNING ACTIVITIES

Transit Coordination Meetings:

- Sep. 4, 2019 - Staff attended the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) monthly Transit Finance Working group meeting.
- Sep. 10, 2019 – Staff attended the monthly MTC-led Means Based Fare Discount Working Group, which hopes to launch an income-based fare program through Clipper in early 2020 on Golden Gate Transit, BART, Muni and Caltrain.
- Sep. 11, 2019 – Staff attended Sonoma County Transportation Authority’s monthly Transit Technical Advisory Committee meeting.
- Sep. 10, 2019 – Staff attended a coordination meeting regarding the **San Joaquin Thruway Amtrak Bus Service**. Amtrak currently offers thruway bus service to the Capitol Corridor for passengers who have paid for a train ticket. One of the stops the bus currently serves is the Petaluma Library. Amtrak is considering moving the Petaluma bus stop from the Library to the Copeland Transit Mall to provide enhanced connectivity to the SMART Train.

