



For Immediate Release

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Contact: Jeanne Mariani-Belding

Direct: 707-794-3063

Cell: 707-694-4402

SMART hosts Grand Opening Celebration for the public in Santa Rosa to commemorate the start of passenger service

The Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit (SMART) District is inviting the public to a community celebration Friday to mark the start of its new passenger train service. The Grand Opening celebration will start at 9 a.m. at SMART's Santa Rosa Downtown Station at Historic Railroad Square located at 7 Fourth Street in Santa Rosa.

Federal, state, regional and local dignitaries will be part of the Grand Opening celebration, which includes a ribbon-cutting ceremony and an inaugural train ride. The celebration will also feature food and entertainment. The full service passenger schedule will begin after the ceremony with the 12:49 p.m. run originating at the Sonoma County Airport Station. Service will be free of charge on opening day.

SMART and Clipper® will have outreach booths at the station from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. SMART will be giving away free limited edition commemorative T-shirts while supplies last, and Clipper will be distributing free Clipper cards throughout the day. Santa Rosa CityBus and the Historic Railroad Square Association will also have informational booths at the event.

Please arrive early as parking is limited. Paid parking is available at the City of Santa Rosa's 7th Street garage at regular rates. Free shuttle service will be available to and from the 7th Street garage between 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

In conjunction with SMART's start of service, SMART's staff will also be at all 10 stations on Saturday, August 26 and Sunday, August 27 to provide information and distribute SMART commemorative giveaways while supplies last. SMART staff will be at stations in Sonoma County from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and at Marin County stations from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday.

SMART's train schedule is online at <http://www.sonomamarintrain.org./schedules-fares>.

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