

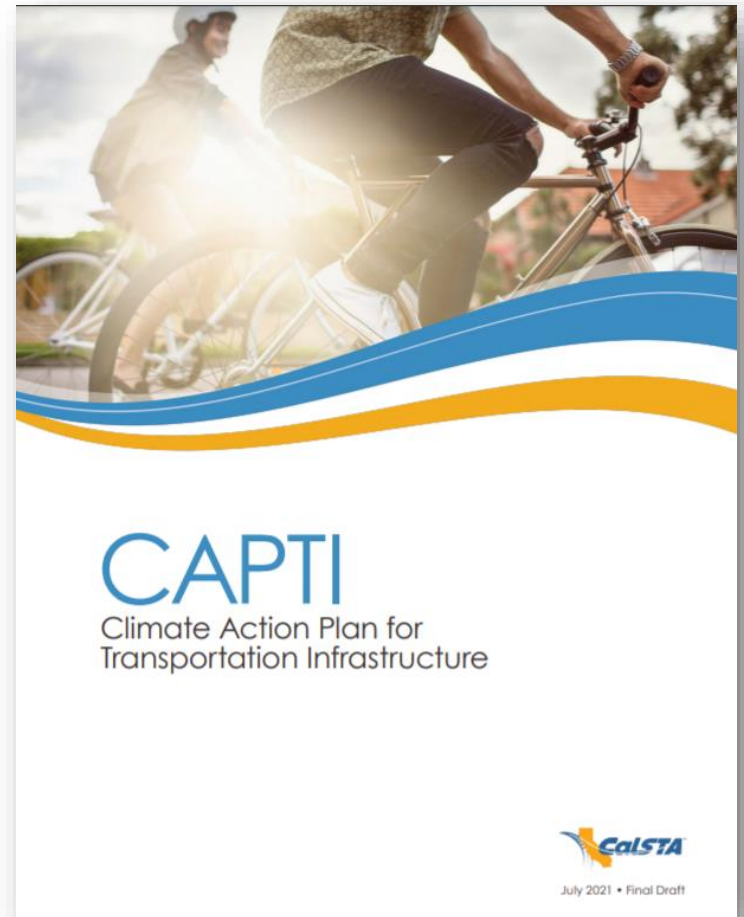
Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit (SMART) Interregional Transit Network Integration



March 2, 2022

Background – State Actions

- California’s State Transportation Agency has adopted aggressive goals to **reduce greenhouse gas emissions** from transportation through the *Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure* (CAPTI, July 2021)
- CAPTI goals include **better integrating** the Statewide rail and transit networks including service and fare payments



Background - SMART's Role

- Since 2018, with the State's Transit & Intercity Rail Capital Program grant award for the Windsor Extension, direction & resources were given to SMART to improve "Network Integration"
- With that action, the State has tasked SMART with helping to **improve interregional transit network integration** between the Bay Area's North Bay, the North Coast and East-West:
 - SMART completed a first step with the east-west Novato to Suisun Engineering Feasibility Study (2019)
 - SMART's Board took a support position on SB742 in 2019 to improve statewide transit access for the North Coast
 - SB742 passed, allowing Amtrak Thruway bus services to be used by anyone, not just Amtrak train riders



Amtrak Thruway Route 7 - North Coast Connection



- Amtrak San Joaquins is operated by Amtrak and managed by the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (SJJPA)
- Amtrak Thruway Route 7 Bus runs north-to-south from Arcata/McKinleyville to Petaluma and then east to Martinez
- Route 7 connects with Amtrak rail service in Martinez
- SJJPA currently runs two round trips on Route 7 per day from Martinez to Arcata



Changes Underway – SB742 Implementation

- As of January 2022, Amtrak Thruway Route 7 bus is now open for “**bus-only ticketing**”
- “Bus-only ticketing” means that Amtrak is allowed to sell tickets to Route 7 **connecting services** including non-Amtrak bus & rail systems



North Coast Transportation Providers

- Redwood Coast Transit (Del Norte County)
- Humboldt Transit Authority
- Mendocino Transit Authority (MTA)
- Lake Transit Authority (Lake County)
- Greyhound
- Amtrak Thruway Bus Route 7



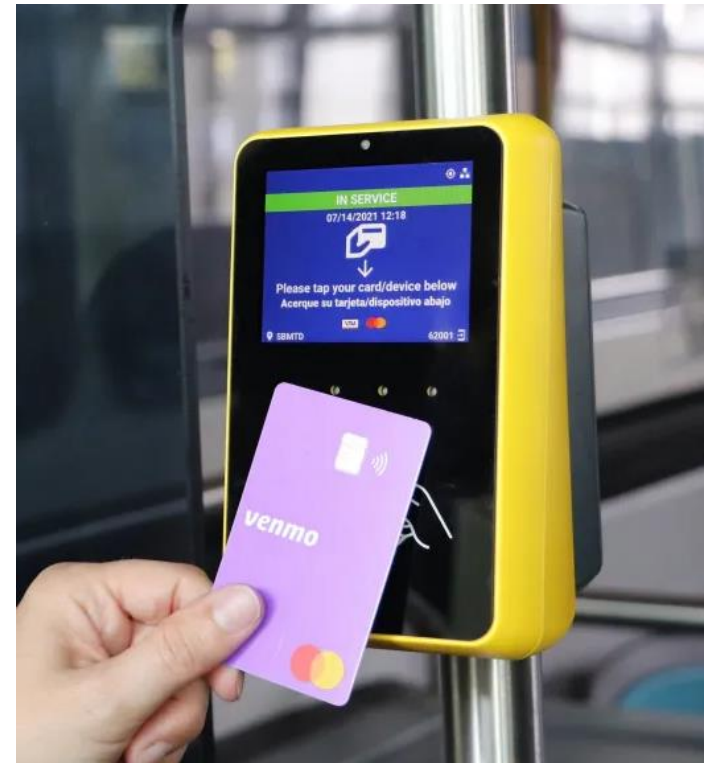
Mendocino Transit's Sonoma County Service

- **Route 65** runs from Ft. Bragg to Willits, Ukiah, and Santa Rosa
 - 4.5 hours & one round trip/day
 - Adult fare end to end = \$23
- **Route 95** runs on trip per day to/from Point Arena along the coast to Bodega Bay, through Sebastopol to Santa Rosa
- Routes stop at Santa Rosa SMART Stations *on request*, ending at the Santa Rosa Transit Mall



State Supported Changes Underway

- Mendocino Transit is evaluating their **fare structure** and is working with the Caltrans Integrated Travel project (Cal-ITP) to allow riders to use credit cards for fare payment
- “Far North” Group (Redwood Coast, Humboldt, Mendocino, Lake) coordinating **schedules** to allow for more interregional travel options



Remaining Challenges

- No direct public transit service between Northern Sonoma County and Mendocino
- No Amtrak Thruway service to Marin
- No coordinated trip planning between Amtrak Bus and SMART
- Amtrak transfer currently at Petaluma, no other Amtrak stops near SMART Stations or other transit connections
- No shared fare media; agencies outside 9-County Bay Area are not in Clipper system
- Transfers to/from SMART are embedded in the Clipper fare system



Opportunities

- Integrated fare policy & ticketing with Amtrak and Mendocino Transit
- Coordinated scheduling & trip planning with Amtrak and Mendocino Transit
- Timed transfer location at Sonoma County Airport Station
- Seamless travel experience from San Francisco to Mendocino/Humboldt:
 - Ferry SF to Larkspur
 - SMART Larkspur to Airport Station
 - Amtrak Thruway Bus to Ukiah or Arcata



Next Steps

- Receive Board and public input on current challenges and opportunities
- Staff return to Board with discrete Network Integration improvement proposals as they are developed

Questions?

