



# SMART

Your train has arrived.

## Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit District

### General Manager's Report – June 2018

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[www.SonomaMarinTrain.org](http://www.SonomaMarinTrain.org)



## Larkspur Extension Project

- Larkspur Station work continues with the construction of platform and parking lot grading.
- The Systems Duct bank installation from Auburn to Tunnel is being installed.
- Reconstruction of the Andersen Drive at-grade crossing continues, with Andersen Drive planned to reopen in early July.
- Grading for track construction is underway from the Tunnel to Auburn.
- In the Cal Park Tunnel, lighting and emergency walkway is being constructed.



Larkspur Station Platform Construction



Andersen Drive Sidewalk Construction and Paving Road



Grading for the station parking lot



Excavation for utilities near the Cal Park Tunnel



Construction of the emergency walkway at the Cal Park Tunnel

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

### Community Outreach | Presentations and Community Events

SMART's Communications and Marketing team has been busy this month participating in more than a dozen community events, including the recent Novato Festival of Art, Wine, and Music, and the Santa Rosa Rose Parade and Festival. SMART's outreach booths are now drawing record numbers at events—the excitement is strong and SMART continues to build a loyal following.



*A young SMART fan connects with our outreach team at the Santa Rosa Rose Parade. See you onboard!*

SMART also kicked off the first of three-community ribbon-cutting events to celebrate the completion of the bicycle and pedestrian pathway segments. The first event was held in San Rafael on June 9, the second in Novato on June 23, and a third event is planned for Novato and for the Cotati/Rohnert Park portion of the pathway. Stay tuned for more!

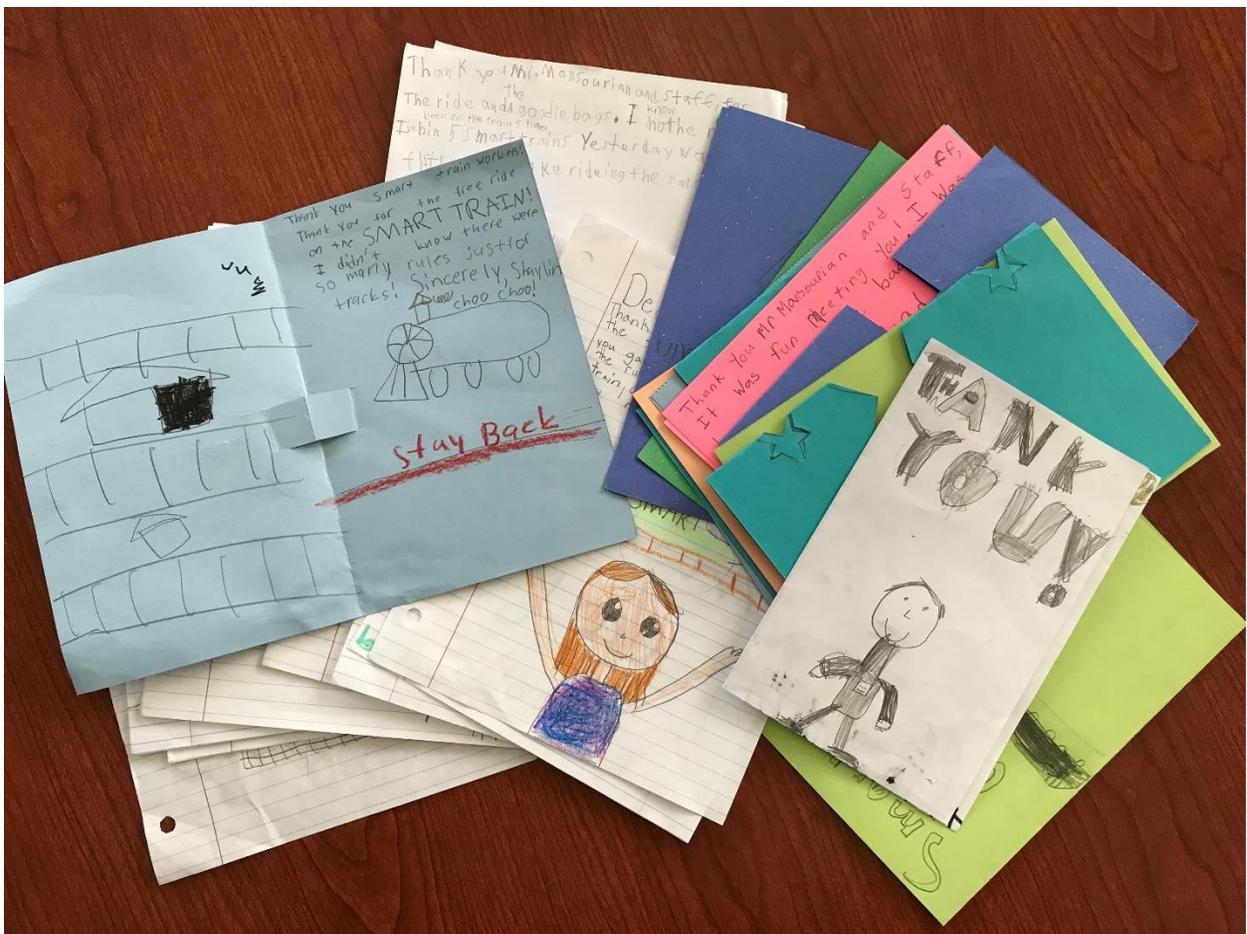
*June 9 Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at pathway near the Civic Center Station. Board members Damon Connolly and Gary Phillips participated in the event. The San Rafael event was the first of three-community ribbon-cutting events to celebrate the completion of pathway in Sonoma and Marin counties.*



## Community Outreach | Safety Education and Awareness

Educating our community about railroad safety is at the heart of all that we do. In addition to an extensive program in local schools, SMART's Communications and Marketing team also provides platform safety briefing for large groups taking the train, from seniors to preschoolers. We meet the groups a half hour before departure to provide important safety information, answer questions and ensure they are ready for their trip onboard the SMART train. We also provide SMART-branded giveaways to remind them of their trip, and as incentive to join us again soon.

This popular marketing program is rooted in SMART's commitment to safety and is growing in popularity. Platform safety presentations this month included several presentations to seniors, high school students, and a presentation for more than 80 second-graders.



*After a recent platform safety briefing for students at Novato's San Ramon Elementary School, SMART received 'Thank You' cards from dozens of students. The photo above shows some of the cards received.*

SMART also works closely with Operation Lifesaver, a national nonprofit railroad safety education organization to help reinforce SMART's safety message to North Bay residents, schools, and civic groups. Each member of SMART's Communications and Marketing team is an authorized Operation Lifesaver presenter. Bicycle rodeos that teach children how to ride their bikes safely near railroad crossings is part of that program.



*Santa Rosa's Spring Creek Elementary School Bike Rodeo, part of an Operation Lifesaver-sponsored program.*

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

- June 23 | Novato Pathway Ribbon Cutting and Celebration (Novato)
- June 22 | Safety Briefing: Learning to Learn Preschool (Rohnert Park)
- June 22 | Safety Briefing: People with Dementia (Petaluma)
- June 21 | Sons in Retirement (Rohnert Park)
- June 15 | Seniors from Martinelli House group trip (San Rafael)
- June 9-June 10 | Novato Festival of Art, Wine, and Music (Novato)
- June 5 | Safety Briefing: Sonoma County Daytripping Destinations (Santa Rosa)
- June 2 | San Rafael Pathway Ribbon Cutting and Celebration (San Rafael)
- May 31 | Safety Presentation: TNT After School Club (San Rafael)
- May 25 | Spring Creek Elementary School Bike Rodeo (Santa Rosa)
- May 19 | Santa Rosa Rose Parade and Festival (Santa Rosa)
- May 19 | Santa Rosa Senior Expo (Santa Rosa)
- May 18 | Safety Presentation at Dixie Elementary School (San Rafael)
- May 17 | Group Trip Safety Briefing: 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders (Novato)

# MARKETING

## Marketing Programs

SMART’s Communications and Marketing team launched a SMART “Reasons to Ride” video campaign to raise *brand awareness and to promote SMART ridership. In just a few weeks, the campaign delivered videos from SMART riders, who provide their “reasons to ride” the SMART train, posting their videos using #ReasonsToRideSMART. The first 20 video submissions received a SMART Reasons to Ride rechargeable battery power pack. Videos selected as staff favorites will receive a 31-Day Pass. Check out their reasons on our YouTube channel <https://tinyurl.com/SMART-YouTube-Videos>. Post your reasons to ride on Facebook using #ReasonsToRideSMART and we’ll add your video to the mix.*



*Stephanie Koffler’s Reasons to Ride: “It gives me the time I wouldn’t really have otherwise for myself to be able to do things that I love, like to read and write.”*

*Kathy Kerst and granddaughter Maebel’s Reasons to Ride: “Here’s Grandma Kathy and Maebel... one of the best things about the SMART train was what, Maebel?”*

*“The cookies!”*





*Norman's Rountree Reasons to Ride: "This cuts my commute time down to an hour."*



*Christie Blair's Reasons to Ride: "The reason I ride is because it saves me time, saves me anxiety of driving—I don't have to deal with traffic, I get home at a regular time, and I can count on it and depend on it"*



*Bridget Hayes' Reasons to Ride: "It's fun, it's relaxing, and you don't have to drive."*

## Digital Programs | Social Media

Social media and digital marketing are key communication channels to share SMART updates and information, to promote ridership, transit connections with SMART, and to raise railroad safety awareness. In the past month, SMART has reached more than 24,800 people on Facebook and more than 8,600 people on Instagram. On Twitter, SMART's messaging was seen over 81,300 times during this period.

SMART's most popular Facebook post since the last SMART Board meeting was our safety post reminding people to be extra alert around trains and tracks, during the recent incident involving the truck that ran through activated railroad crossing gates.

**Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit**  
Published by Demitrius Handelih [?] · June 12 at 9:38am · 🌐

This is a recent video of someone driving through the crossing gates, while a train was approaching. Motorists, remember to stay alert and aware near all railroad crossings and tracks. Always wait for the bells and lights to stop, and the gate to rise before crossing the tracks. Never cross the tracks until you are sure you can drive across the tracks safely.

For more railroad safety information, visit [www.BeTrackSMART.org](http://www.BeTrackSMART.org).

📍 Your video is popular in California Boost Post

10K Views

👍 Like    💬 Comment    ➦ Share    ⋮

😬😱👍 107 Oldest ▾

47 Shares

## Media | News Coverage

- June 17, *SMART eyes regional toll hike for Novato station shortfall* (Marin Independent Journal)
- June 11, *Marin Voice: SMART and the Golden Gate Bridge — what if naysayers had prevailed?* (Marin Independent Journal)
- June 11, *CA: Golden Gate Bridge District Sets Forum on San Rafael Transit Hub* (Mass Transit Magazine)
- June 11, *SMART board allocates \$464,000 for track stabilization* (Marin Independent Journal)
- June 10, *Golden Gate Bridge district sets forum on San Rafael transit hub* (Marin Independent Journal)
- June 9, *North Coast's 'Great Redwood Trail' wins approval in California Senate, but lacks funding* (Santa Rosa Press Democrat)
- June 8, *San Rafael bike-pedestrian pathway gets OK from feds* (Marin Independent Journal)
- June 7, *SMART train slammed into truck at nearly top speed* (Petaluma Argus Courier)
- June 6, *Years of North Bay transportation construction ahead with Regional Measure 3 ballot win* (North Bay Business Journal)
- June 6, *Upfront: Trail Travails* (Pacific Sun)
- June 6, *CHP: SMART train crashed into truck at nearly top speed* (Santa Rosa Press Democrat)
- June 5, *Measure to fund San Francisco Bay transportation projects leads at ballot box* (North Bay Business Journal)
- June 5, *San Rafael OKs 1st leg of bike path to Larkspur* (Marin Independent Journal)
- June 5, *Video captures SMART train crash* (Petaluma Argus Courier)
- June 5, *Security video shows SMART train, truck crash near Santa Rosa* (Santa Rosa Press Democrat)
- June 5, *North Bay business news from Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit, Redwood Credit Union and more* (North Bay Business Journal)
- June 1, *Bill to convert North Coast railroad to 'Great Redwood Trail' passes state Senate* (Eureka Times Standard)
- June 1, *Truck driver has no memory of SMART train crash near Santa Rosa* (Marin Independent Journal)
- June 1, *Clean water, safer parks, more trails for California* (Eureka Times Standard)
- June 1, *Hospitalized truck driver has no memory of SMART train crash* (Santa Rosa Press Democrat)

- June 1, *SMART train crash near Santa Rosa injures truck driver* (Laredo Morning Times)
- May 31, *'Great Redwood Trail Act' Passes State Senate Unanimously; Assembly Left to Wrestle with All the Details* (Lost Coast Outpost)
- May 31, *California Senate approves bill to create trail between San Francisco and Humboldt Bay* (Redwood Times)
- May 31, *State Senate Unanimously Passes 'Great Redwood Trail' Bill* (North Coast Journal)
- May 31, *SMART train, truck collide in Santa Rosa; motorist injured* (Santa Rosa Press Democrat)
- May 29, *CA: Novato \$2M Short for Downtown SMART Station* (Mass Transit Magazine)
- May 28, *Novato \$2M Short for Downtown SMART Station* (Marin Independent Journal)
- May 23, *SMART Receives Rail Project of The Year Award* (San Rafael Patch)
- May 23, *CA: Santa Rosa Narrows Permit Streamlining to Areas Near Transit* (Mass Transit Magazine)
- May 22, *Santa Rosa narrows permit streamlining to areas near transit* (Santa Rosa Press Democrat)
- May 22, *Sonoma County's Rohnert Park fills housing gap hundreds of units at a time* (North Bay Business Journal)
- May 16, *Bicyclists ride to promote safety through Santa Rosa streets* (Santa Rosa Press Democrat)
- May 10, *New San Rafael Transit Center faces cost, funding questions* (Marin Independent Journal)
- May 10, *CA: San Rafael's Multiuse Path Cost Climbs to Nearly \$6 Million* (Mass Transit Magazine)

## VEHICLE ENGINEERING

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- All major testing has been completed in Japan for the Option Cars.
- Nippon Sharyo is preparing to move the cars to the Port of Toyohashi before being shipped to Savannah Georgia.



Nippon Sharyo conducting testing of DMU 115

# OPERATIONS

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## MAINTENANCE OF WAY:

- Maintenance of Way Track and Facility groups combined for 2 days to clean up the Petaluma Yard between Washington and D Streets. The clean-up consisted of mowing, weed eating, material consolidation, and debris removal.
- Met with Chief Engineer, Bill Gamlen and the community member in charge of the Novato San Marin landscaping project. We discussed some restrictions on what they could plant and reviewed lessons learned from the Hamilton Station community landscaping.
- Provided Hyrail and track protection for 2 tours across the Brazos Subdivision for various entities.
- Provided flagging for outside agencies/parties in May.
- Interviewed one Track Maintainer candidate.

## TRANSPORTATION:

- Positive Train Control training for new hires.
- One Conductor is now an Engineer-Conductor.

## VEHICLE MAINTENANCE:

- Working on Diesel Multiple Unit 110
- Collecting/Creating Parts List for collision Diesel Multiple Unit 110
- Training new hires
- Installation of truck bushings

# HUMAN RESOURCES

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## CURRENT OPEN RECRUITMENTS:

- Engineer-Conductor
- Signal Technician
- Safety and Compliance Officer
- Real Estate Officer
- Junior Engineering

## INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED:

- Engineer-Conductor
- Signal Technician
- Junior Engineer
- Real Estate Officer

## HIRING:

SMART has hired two (2) Engineer-Conductors

## MISCELLANEOUS:

On June 19, 2018, Human Resources Manager participated in a panel discussion hosted by the Career Technical Education (CTE) Foundation on Advanced Mechanical Skill Sets. CTE Foundation is exploring potential programming to introduce high school students to advanced mechanical skills to address future workforce needs for North Bay employers.

# REAL ESTATE

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## PROPERTY ACQUISITIONS

### Downtown Santa Rosa Station Property

Staff posted a District Solicitation for a Transit Oriented Development at Railroad Square on March 30, 2018 and received four proposals on May 29<sup>th</sup>, the due date. The sub-committee is working on making a recommendation to the Board at the July 18, 2018 board meeting. All of the information on the property is available through SMART's webpage.

### Downtown Petaluma Station Property

Staff is supporting counsel on litigation with the prior approved developer of the property.

### Larkspur Extension Project

The final agreement with a private property owner has been signed and escrow has been opened to complete a Land Exchange Agreement between SMART and the private property owner. In order to not delay construction, a month-to-month lease has been executed allowing the contractor to work on the needed property before escrow is scheduled to close in the early Fall. Staff is continuing to work with the City of San Rafael to take a minor zoning change on the property to the City Council meeting in early October. Final utility legal descriptions and plats are being developed.

In June 2017, a Memorandum of Understanding was executed between SMART and the City of San Rafael for the Larkspur Extension Project which included a Land Exchange. The land exchange is needed for the realignment of Francisco Boulevard West and new alignment of the tracks. Staff is continuing to work on the remaining properties that will be in the Land Exchange Agreement with the City of San Rafael.

Staff is continuing weekly coordination meetings with Pacific Gas & Electric Company and for all their utility work that is a part of the project.

Staff is working to finalize the legal descriptions and plats that are needed for the transfer of the proper property rights to the utility companies and the new location of the utilities.

### Track work

Research continues on property rights for both SMART and property owners regarding the location of track.

### Pathway

Coordinating with the local municipalities regarding securing any necessary land rights to accommodate the construction of the pathways and interim access and laydown area needs.

## PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

### Special Event Received Requests for:

2018 Ironman 70.3 Santa Rosa Triathlon – July 28, 2018

### Special Event Issued:

Andy's Unity Park Dedication Ceremony – Santa Rosa – June 2, 2018

Filipino American Community Sonoma Festival - June 10, 2018

Kaiser Family Wellness Run – September 8, 2018

Fulton Family Clean-up Day – July 14, 2018

Penngrove Fourth of July Parade – July 1, 2018

### Right of Entry Permits Issued:

PG&E – Gas Line Remediation Work – Gas Line repair work – Rush Creek Place, Novato

PG&E – Gas line inspection Work – W Los Robles Road, Santa Rosa

City of Santa Rosa – Sanitary sewer line rehab work – Santa Rosa

PG&E – Relocation of poles and new electrical lines at Francisco Blvd. West, San Rafael.

PG&E – Vegetation trimming/removal in Windsor – Permit extension granted

### Staff is continuing working on issuing Right of Entry Permits/License with:

PG&E - Installation of new gas line – Coffey Park Restoration, Santa Rosa

COMCAST – Staff is still working to finalize outstanding license agreement fees. Fiber Optic installation verifications in seven locations. Agreements to be revised.

Marin County Flood Control/City of San Rafael – Clearing of vegetation – Drainage Channel

PG&E – Vegetation trimming/removal



## SAFETY AND SECURITY

Public safety staff met with a team from Homeland Security to conduct a safety assessment. The entire property is reviewed to include stations, platforms, SMART owned facilities and policies. Our system is then compared to others of similar size and reviewed to ensure SMART is subscribing to the industry best practices.

Staff attended the Marin County Chief's meeting with area police chiefs. The meeting topics include trends in Marin, training opportunities and guest presentations.

Staff attended a Metropolitan Transportation Commission Regional Transportation Workshop hosting in coordination with County of Marin Office of Emergency Services. Area transportation providers were in attendance to discuss how public transportation can better assist Emergency Services during an emergency.



Chief Welch presented at Sunrise Rotary in Novato. The topics included a project overview, safety program and future potential growth

SMART hosted a meeting with the Federal Bureau of Investigations Weapons of Mass Destruction unit to plan upcoming exercises. The exercise will be in coordination with first responders from Sonoma and Marin Counties as well as SMART staff.

SMART's quarterly safety meeting was held in the field for a tour of our two tunnels and a Larkspur project overview. Police and fire agencies from San Rafael and Central Marin were invited to review the project and provide any input for the safety team to consider.

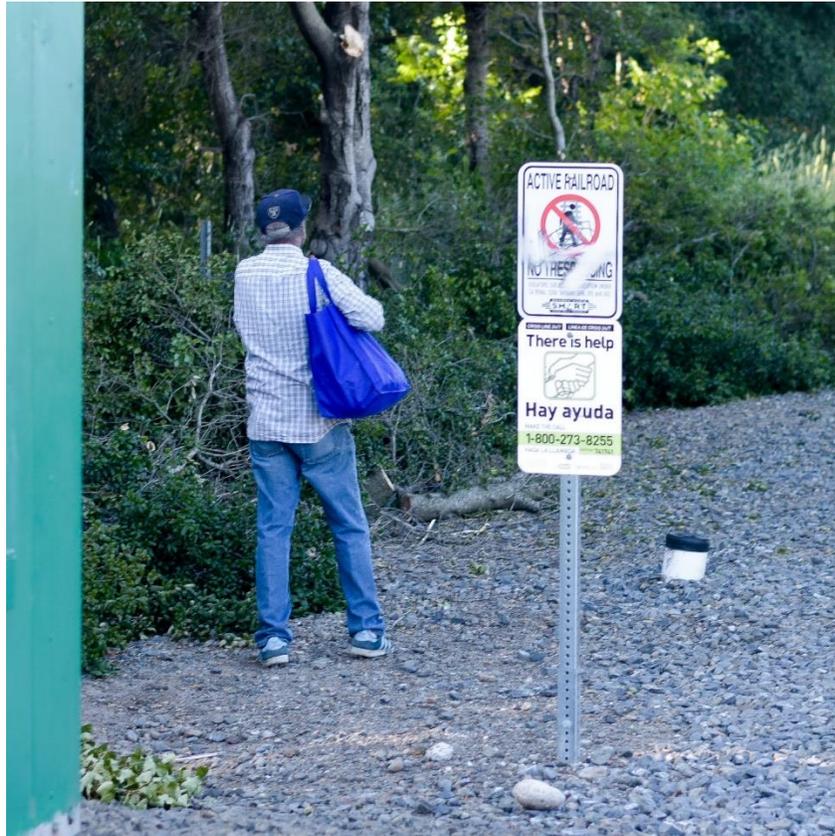
Staff has been conducting ongoing follow up with the California Highway Patrol regarding the Todd Road incident.

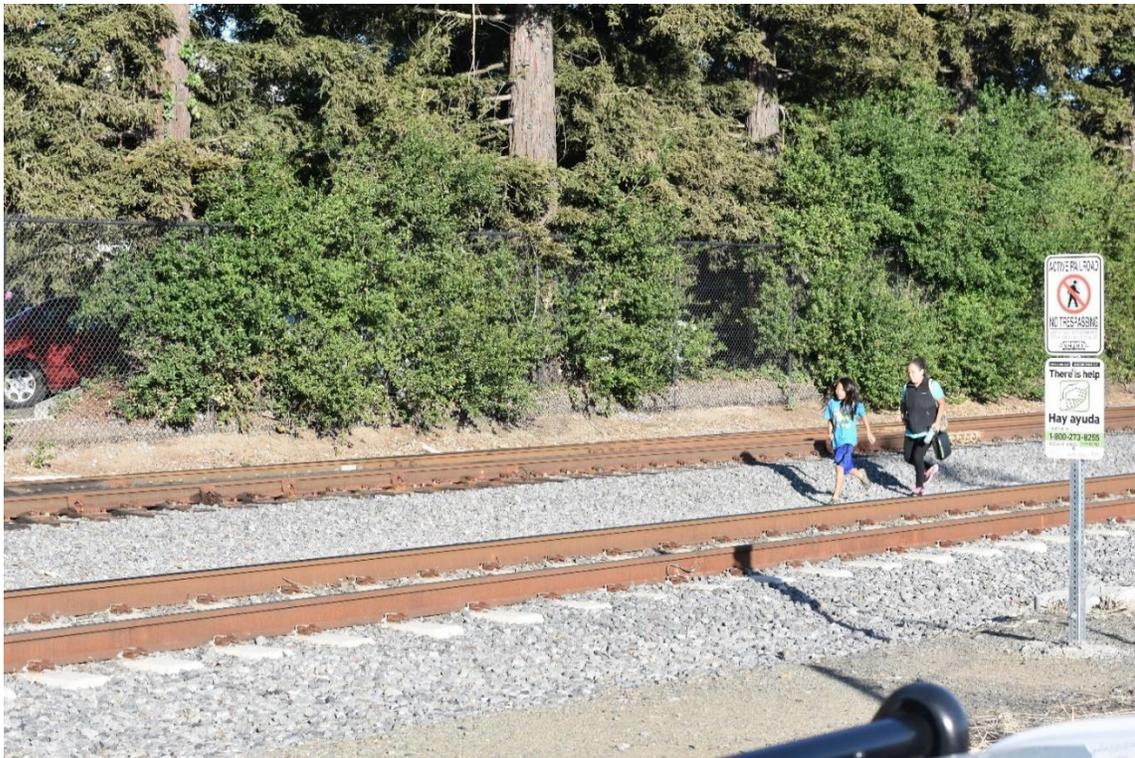
A train engineer reported while passing through Petaluma, three juveniles were throwing rocks at the passing train. Code Compliance responded to the area and located a group of juveniles near the right of way. Petaluma police were notified and documented the incident.



Code Compliance contacted two juvenile trespassers who had chased a ball down the tracks at the Santa Rosa North station. They were advised of the safety hazards and were apologetic.

Trespassers continue to be an issue for train crews and Code Compliance officers. Juveniles and adults continue to have zero regard for the fencing and no trespassing signage. *(All in Santa Rosa)*







# GRANTS AND FEDERAL/STATE AND REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

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## UPCOMING GRANTS AND AWARD ANNOUNCEMENTS:

*Active Transportation Program (ATP)* - The California Transportation Commission (CTC) is has adopted final guidelines for the 2019 ATP funding cycle and released a Call for Projects. Project applications are due July 31, 2018. This programming cycle will cover funding for Fiscal Years 2019-20 through 2022-23. The program will have \$100 million annually, with 50% programmed by the regions and 50% decided by the CTC on a statewide basis. In the Metropolitan Transportation Commission-covered region, MTC will program their share of the ATP funds after the state, with applications due to MTC at the same time as the State deadline and a decision from MTC due to the CTC by February 2019.

*Federal Railroad Administration – Positive Train Control Systems Grant:* The Federal Railroad Administration issued Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for \$250 million in Positive Train Control (PTC) Systems Grants on May 15, 2018. Applications are due on July 2 and SMART plans to submit a request for funding of a portion of the PTC Systems costs associated with extending rail service north from Sonoma County Airport Station.

## OTHER REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

*Regional Transportation Plan Update:* The Metropolitan Transportation Commission has begun the process of updating the Regional Transportation Plan, currently named *Plan Bay Area 2040*. The updated financially constrained plan will be called *Plan Bay Area 2050*. MTC is starting this process by developing an unconstrained transportation vision plan called Horizon. This visioning exercise will be developed using the following guiding principles:

- **Affordable:** All Bay Area residents and workers have sufficient housing options they can afford—households are economically secure.
- **Connected:** An expanded, well-functioning transportation system connects the Bay Area—fast, frequent and efficient intercity trips are complemented by a suite of local transportation options, connecting communities and creating a cohesive region.
- **Diverse:** Bay Area residents support an inclusive region where people from all backgrounds, abilities and ages can remain in place—with access to the region’s assets and resources.
- **Healthy:** The region’s natural resources, open space, clean water and clean air are conserved—the region actively reduces its environmental footprint and protects residents from environmental impacts.
- **Vibrant:** The Bay Area is an innovation leader, creating quality job opportunities for all and ample fiscal resources for communities.

MTC has invited submittals of transformative transportation project ideas to be considered as part of the Horizon initiative, with submittals due September 6, 2018.

## PLANNING

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### REGIONAL TRANSIT/PLANNING COORDINATION ACTIVITIES:

*State Route 37 Project, Memorandum of Understanding between Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM), Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA), Napa County Transportation Planning Agency (NCTPA), and Solano Transportation Authority (STA)* – TAM, SCTA, NCTPA and STA have entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to continue to jointly study needed improvements to State Route (SR) 37. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday July 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am the Foley Cultural Center in Vallejo.

*National Transit Database (NTD) Reporting* – Federal Transit Administration grant recipients – those receiving funding from the Urbanized Area Formula Program (5307) or Rural Formula Program (5311) – are required to submit data to the NTD on a monthly and annual basis. Staff continues to submit monthly ridership reports.

### LOCAL COORDINATION

*Metropolitan Transportation Commission Regional Onboard Survey Program* – The Metropolitan Transportation Commission has a goal to cooperatively survey the entire region's Transportation Development Act (TDA) funded fixed-route transit ridership over a five to seven-year period. Survey goals include supporting operator Title VI reporting requirements, refinement of analytical planning tools, such as MTC's travel demand model; and providing data for regional and operator-specific ridership market and equity analyses. The consultant assigned to SMART began the main survey work on March 20<sup>th</sup> and finished on June 7<sup>th</sup>. 330 weekday and 80 weekend surveys were collected, for a total of 410 completed surveys. Throughout their surveying, the consultant had numerous quality control procedures in place. This included a thorough training prior to the start of fieldwork, regular daily review of returned work, unannounced field checks, and in-depth check-ins throughout the project to review data results and address any issues. Currently, the consultant is reviewing, cleaning and geocoding the data that was collected. The final results of the survey will be available for viewing as a report no later than September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018.

*Rohnert Park General Plan Update Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)* – The City of Rohnert Park is undertaking a comprehensive update of the City's General Plan. The General Plan Update is an opportunity for the City to collectively shape the next 20 years of the City's growth and development. As part of the two-year project, the City's General Plan Update Team convened a TAC that included senior-level City staff and representatives from outside agencies and organizations whose programs and projects relate to the General Plan. The TAC held its first meeting on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and SMART's planning staff was in attendance. The meeting consisted of introductions, background on the general plan, and giving input on how the City could improve and how it's currently succeeding. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held in the month of July.

*BikeLink™ Lockers:* SMART has installed 34 electronic lockers accommodating 68 bicycles at SMART Stations.

STATION	RACKS	LOCKERS
Downtown San Rafael	10	4
San Rafael Civic Center	10	4
Novato Hamilton	10	4
Novato San Marin	10	8
Petaluma Downtown	10	12
Cotati	10	8
Rohnert Park	10	8
Santa Rosa Downtown	10	12
Santa Rosa North	10	4
Sonoma County Airport	10	4

The locker vendor, BikeLink™, has locker locations throughout the Bay Area and more information on how to use the system can be found here: <https://www.bikelink.org>. BikeLink has recently completed a successful pilot program with BART testing Clipper card use on BikeLink lockers. BikeLink is beta testing several features of Clipper card implementation before conducting a General Release of Clipper on BikeLink, currently anticipated to launch in late August. SMART’s BikeLink lockers will be on the first Clipper-enabled bicycle locker systems in the Bay Area.

BikeLink locker usage reports for the month of May 2018 indicate that the Santa Rosa Downtown location continues to have the most rentals, with scattered usage throughout the rest of the system. System-wide locker usage for the month of May 2018 is shown here:

