General Manager’s Report – October 2021
COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND MARKETING

e-Newsletter

On October 20, 2021, the SMART Board of Directors appointed Eddy Cumins to be SMART’s next General Manager. The Community Outreach Department issue a press release and issued an e-Newsletter. There was significant interest in the new incoming General Manager as evidenced by a 32.8% open rate and 5,412 total opens out of 9,541 e-Newsletter subscribers. To sign up for SMART’s e-Newsletters, go to www.SonomaMarinTrain.org, scroll to the bottom of the landing page and click Subscribe to e-Newsletter.

SMART Board of Directors Appoints Eddy Cumins as new General Manager

Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) announced today that Eddy Cumins had been hired as the District’s next General Manager. As General Manager, Cumins will oversee all aspects of SMART’s Administration & Operations. Prior to joining SMART, Cumins served as Chief Operating Officer for the Utah Transit Authority (UTA).

He began his career at UTA in 2011 after a distinguished 20-year military career in the United States Air Force. During his time in the Air Force, Eddy served in numerous capacities in the Vehicle Management field and 4 years as an Airman Leadership School Commandant. His assignments included bases in California, Alaska, Portugal, Utah, and Japan. Prior to his current position, Cumins was the Regional General Manager of UTA’s Mt. Ogden Business Unit.

As UTA’s Chief Operating Officer, Eddy leads 2,234 employees who provide commuter rail, light rail, fixed route bus, route deviation, paratransit, vanpool, rideshare and coordinated mobility management services to 43 million riders annually. He was also responsible for the agency’s asset management program, maintenance of way, and transit police. His area of responsibility included seven counties covering nearly 1400 square miles with a population of 2.3 million residents.

Eddy earned a Master of Science Degree in Organizational Leadership from Colorado State University and holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Human Resource Development from Southwestern College.

“This is a terrific hire for SMART,” said Dave Rabbitt, Chair of the SMART Board of Directors. "Eddy brings a wealth of transportation management, including railroad management and operations experience, within a diverse rail transportation industry."

“His skills will take SMART to the next level of perfection and customer service” said Vice-Chair Barbara Pahre.

Eddy Cumins, said “I am excited to join the SMART team. My wife and I love the Sonoma-Marin area and look forward to becoming active members in the community. I believe my background and experience are a perfect fit for SMART, and I am confident I can help the agency achieve both short and long-term goals”.

Eddy is expected to officially join SMART on November 29, 2021. SMART’s current General Manager, Farhad Mansourian, who has been managing SMART for over a decade, announced this past spring that he would be retiring at the end of the year to spend more time with his family.
Events

On Friday, October 29, 2021, four members of the SMART Board of Directors – Melanie Bagby, Kate Colin, Debora Fudge and Eric Lucan, along with members of SMART’s staff, joined Marin County Bicycle Coalition leadership on biking tour of bike facilities from the Larkspur Ferry terminal to the San Marin station in north Novato. Along the way board members rode on SMART pathway segments as well as surface street bike routes to explore what works well and where improvements are needed.
End of McInnis – San Rafael

Downtown Novato Station, Novato
SMART is an active member of the Business Outreach Committee, a consortium of 26 Bay Area Transit and Transportation Agencies with Small and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Programs whose mission is to assist small, local, and disadvantaged business enterprises in expanding their businesses by developing relationships with staff at transit agencies and the contracting community within the San Francisco Bay Area. SMART’s Procurement Team presented and participated in the “2021 Virtual Meet the Primes – Professional Services” event on Thursday, October 21, 2021, which was widely attended with over 195 registered participants from the vendor community, including 9 prime consultants who presented specific networking and contracting opportunities. These events provide an excellent networking opportunity for these small and disadvantaged businesses to develop key relationships needed to become part of contracting teams on agency projects.

The 2021 SMART Holiday Express Toy Drive is coming for the sixth year in a row on Saturday, December 4. We will be partnering with organizations in Marin and Sonoma counties to collect unwrapped toys to help local families in need. Please join community nonprofits, first responders and local organizations for a safe and festive way to serve those in need. Donate a new, unwrapped toy at one of our drive-thru drop-off events and get a ticket for a free ride on the SMART train! As we do every year, we will festively decorate a Holiday Express Train. Stay tuned for more information on this year’s SMART Holiday Express Toy Drive.

Media | News Coverage

- October 21, People News: Pioneer Lines, SMART (Railway Age)
- October 23, Dick Spotswood: Pandemic uncertainty should pause all transit, highway expansion (Marin Independent Journal)
- October 21, SMART names Cumins its next GM (Progressive Railroading)
- October 21, SMART announces new general manager (KPIX channel 5)
- October 21, SMART selects Utah official as general manager (Marin Independent Journal)
- October 21, SMART Train selects new GM (KSRO radio 1350)
- October 20, SMART names Utah transit official as new general manager (Press Democrat)
- October 20, Supervisors oppose coal export (Press Democrat)
- October 17, Editorial: Goals for transit center the same, despite uncertainties (Marin Independent Journal)
- October 13, SMART train collides with minivan in Santa Rosa, DUI suspected (Press Democrat)
- October 13, CA: SMART mandates coronavirus vaccine or tests for staff (Marin Independent Journal)
- October 11, *SMART mandates coronavirus vaccine or tests for staff* (Marin Independent Journal)
- October 7, *Jennings crossing over SMART tracks gets another extension* (Press Democrat)
- October 5, *Dick Spotswood: Coal rail plan could put smudge on Great Redwood Trail concept* (Marin Independent Journal)
OPERATIONS

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE:

- Performed emergency exit window pull test on 11 of the Diesel Multiple Units. The test is to establish confidence per the Code of Federal Regulations that the emergency exit windows will react as designed during an emergency.
- Replaced vestibule curtains on Diesel Multiple Units 102, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, and 114 due to excessive wear.
- Performed inspection on Diesel Multiple Unit 111 due to faults not allowing the Diesel Multiple Unit to increase to proper speeds. Upon further investigation it was determined that the master controller had drifted out of range. The master controller was changed out and the Diesel Multiple Unit was placed back into service.
- Made repairs to Diesel Multiple Unit 104. This unit was damaged due to an automobile plowing through the crossing gates and making contact with the Diesel Multiple Unit as it was traversing through the crossing.
- Performed annual maintenance on 1 Diesel Multiple Unit.
- Performed mid-year maintenance on 2 Diesel Multiple Units.
- Performed 500 hour oil change on 10 Diesel Multiple Units.
- Automatic Train Control maintenance performed on 11 Diesel Multiple Units. This maintenance keeps us compliant with Federal Regulatory Association regulations with regards to positive train control.
- Performed data downloads on the fleet. The Diesel Multiple Units have many subsystems that are integrated. Downloading the systems data provides SMART an opportunity to investigate different occurrences that may not show during our normal inspections.

TRANSPORTATION:

- Training one Controller Supervisor, two Conductors and one Bridge Tender.
- Two Conductors have been certified.
- Continue to interview Engineer-Conductors.

SMART Operations Team met with Federal Railroad Administration Region 7 and Signal and Train Control Specialist and reviewed reporting on Mandatory Directives and Hours of Service Records.

SMART Transportation Department Training:
Classroom training for new bridgetender and conductor.
MAINTENANCE OF WAY:

▪ On September 25th vandals knocked down the cantilever grade crossing signals at Washington Street. The old concrete foundation had to be removed and replaced with a cast-in-place rebar and concrete foundation. A new cantilever was installed, tested, and placed into service.

▪ The Track team corrected track settlement issues at several locations to improve ride quality.

▪ The Signal team completed replacing 1,600 batteries in the Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) banks at approximately 100 Central Instrument Location (CIL) along the right of way. The UPS units ensure our communication remains intact during a commercial power outage.

▪ The Signal team completed crossing warning devices lighting upgrades at Main Street and Ely Road.

▪ The Facilities team completed a sign project at all our stations and parking lots. Faded signs were replaced with new ones.

▪ The Track team completed annual culvert inspections and maintenance in October.

▪ There were 3 promotions in the Maintenance of Way Division in October.

▪ We are sad to announce the retirement of our Superintendent Maintenance of Way Doug Beck. Doug has been with us since 2015 and was an integral part of our successful startup and first 4 years of revenue service.

Wayfinding Sign – Before (Cotati Station, Cotati)

Wayfinding Sign – After (Cotati Station, Cotati)
Station Signs – Before (Hamilton Station, Novato)

Station Signs – After (Hamilton Station, Novato)
Repairs - Washington Street, Petaluma
# RIDERSHIP INFORMATION

## FY22 SMART Ridership Weekly Report (DRAFT; COVID-19)

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<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Weekly Total (Onboard Counts)</th>
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**Average (4 week)**: 1,039, 1,176, 1,118, 1,166, 1,181, 615

Daily Average does not include holidays

Blue indicates holiday service

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## SMART Ridership by Day of Week (Previous 4 weeks)

![Graph showing SMART Ridership by Day of Week](image-url)
MULTI-USE PATHWAY PROJECT - CONNECTING OUR STATIONS

Sonoma County Pathway Gap Closure Project- $13.5M
- South Point Boulevard in Petaluma to Main Street in Penngrove (2.9 mi)
- Golf Course Drive in Rohnert Park to Bellevue Avenue in Santa Rosa (2.8 mi)

The design team is focusing on:

- Submitted at-grade crossing applications to the local jurisdictions to review before submission to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC).
- SMART is in the final stages of submitting the environmental application permit packages to the regulatory agencies.
- The consultant design team is preparing the final construction documents.
- SMART is contacting third party utility owners to resolve any utilities in conflict with the pathway.
- SMART and City of Petaluma are coordinating elements of the North McDowell Boulevard to reconstruct the street and construct the SMART Pathway.

Future Pathway Connection on Payran Street in Petaluma to the Existing Pathway
Marin - Sonoma County Pathway Design and Permitting: $10.8M

- McInnis Parkway to Smith Ranch Road in San Rafael: 0.7 Miles
- Smith Ranch Road to Main Gate Road in San Rafael: 2.65 Miles
- State Access Road to Bay Trail Road in Novato: 1.4 Miles
- Hannah Ranch Road to South Side Novato Creek in Novato: 1.09 Miles
- Grant Avenue to Olive Avenue in Novato: 0.26 Miles
- Olive Avenue to Rush Creek Place in Novato: 0.38 Miles
- Main Street to E. Railroad Avenue in Santa Rosa: 1.48 Miles
- Santa Rosa Downtown Station to 6th Street, Santa Rosa: 0.4 Miles
- Guerneville Road to Airport Boulevard in Santa Rosa: 4.6 Miles

The pathway segments are currently in the preliminary design phase and the SMART team is focusing on:

- Finalizing a Request for Proposal (RFP) to hire a design consultant.
- Finalizing pathway alignment and grade crossing concepts.

Future Crosswalk Location on Hannah Ranch Road in Novato to Connect SMART’s Pathway to the Bay Trail
SAN RAFAEL CREEK RIPERIAN ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

The project fulfills permit mitigation requirements to restore riparian habitat along the San Rafael Creek in the City of San Rafael. This mitigation was required as part of the Larkspur Extension Project’s environmental permits.

The SMART team is focusing on:

- SMART hired Hanford Applied Restoration & Conservation (ARC) to implement the work.
- Site Preparation and planting will begin in the fourth quarter of the year.

Contractor Evaluating Site Conditions Before Beginning Work
HUMAN RESOURCES

CURRENT OPEN RECRUITMENTS:

▪ Engineer Conductor
▪ Conductor
▪ Conductor Trainee
▪ Signal Technician
▪ Superintendent of Signals and Maintenance of Way

NEW PROMOTIONS/HIRES

▪ Hired one Vehicle Maintenance Laborer, and one Accounts Payable Technician.
▪ Vehicle Maintenance Laborer was promoted to Storeroom Parts Clerk
▪ Vehicle Maintenance Technician was promoted to Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor
▪ Track Maintainer was promoted to Track Maintainer II
▪ Track Laborer was promoted to Track Maintainer

MISCELLANEOUS

SMART has been awarded a grant in the amount of $30,000 from the Career Technical Education Foundation to support SMART’s participation in the 2022-2023 Sonoma Corps internship program. The grant will be used to help fund the salary and benefits costs of hosting an intern from the Sonoma Corps program for the period of July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023. The Sonoma Corps program provides career exploration and work readiness opportunities to Sonoma County Youth. (See attached award letter).

Human Resources staff proctored two testing sessions on Thursday, October 21, 2021, for applicants for the position of Laborer in the Vehicle Maintenance Department.

On October 6, 2021, the Board approved a policy requiring all District staff to provide proof of vaccination for COVID-19 by December 1, 2021. Those staff who do not provide proof of vaccination will begin weekly testing for COVID-19 on December 6, 2021. Currently, 84.5% of District staff have provided proof of vaccination for COVID-19. HR staff are working with the California Department of Public Health Testing Task Force to prepare for COVID-19 testing. Human Resources staff will be responsible for oversight of SMART’s testing program and designated District staff will be trained to assist with testing.
October 13, 2021

Lisa Hansley
Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit
5401 Old Redwood Hwy Suite 200
Petaluma, CA 94954

Dear Lisa,

Congratulations! On behalf of CTE Foundation I am pleased to inform you that your application for a grant in the amount of $30,000 to support the 2022-23 Sonoma Corps internship at Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit has been approved. The grant period for this award is July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023.

Grant funding is awarded to enhance the Sonoma Corps program by exposing youth to local opportunities in high-skill in-demand technical careers, and specifically to introduce young people to high-opportunity careers in rail, public transportation and public service.

Grant awards will be mailed to the business address included in your application and will be disbursed prior to the start of the grant period. Acceptance of the award constitutes your agreement to comply with CTEF Grant Terms and Conditions as submitted with your application and as stated below:

I. Grantee will submit a Grant Report on outcomes and plans for future program implementation by Monday, July 31, 2023.

II. Grantee will notify CTE Foundation immediately upon changes that impact the program implementation as proposed, including changes in program managers, implementation dates, and proposed outcomes.

III. Grantee shall notify CTE Foundation immediately if they want to change the use of grant funds from what was originally proposed and approved in their application. Prior written approval is required for any modification of the project.

IV. Grantee shall provide a final accounting of grant expenditures with their final report and will return any unexpended funds to CTE Foundation within 30-days after the end of the grant period.
REAL ESTATE

PROPERTY ACQUISITIONS
Windsor Extension Project - Staff is working to close out the transfer of property to the County for the redesigned and rebuilt bus pullout on Airport Boulevard in Santa Rosa. Staff is finalizing work with utility companies on a variety of tasks on the new extension property.

North Coast Rail Authority (NCRA) - Staff is cataloguing all NCRA Agreements and has begun the process of tenant outreach. Staff has been talking to several tenants about the agreements, payments, and any items of concern.

Track work – Research continues property rights for both SMART and property owners regarding the location of track.

Pathway - Coordinating with the adjacent property owners, tenants, and local municipalities regarding relocation of facilities and/or utilities and securing any necessary land rights to accommodate the construction of the pathways and interim access and laydown area needs. Staff is researching items needed for the San Rafael Airport segment of the Non-Motorized Path.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
Staff is continuing to research SMART’s ownership, property rights of ingress and egress easements and current and necessary agreements along the Brazos Branch and newly acquired NCRA segments up north to MP 89.

Staff is continuing the title work for the proposed Non-Motorized Pathway Project and continuing to address a variety of requests from adjacent property owners. Staff is also managing leases, licensing agreements, easements, and/or current Master agreements for utility and telecommunications companies that are crossing SMART property

LEASES
Staff is continuing the process of looking at existing leases to determine what needs to be brought current. We have begun meeting with property owners and are currently having various parcels and leased areas surveyed for lease renewals going forward. New leases are actively in progress for Kelleher Lumber, House of Daniels, Clover Sonoma, and Old Town Glass.

SALES
SMART has been asked by House of Daniels (“HOD”) if HOD can purchase 1.14 acres of SMART Property at Black Point in Novato at the Brazos line. The request has been circulated to SMART Senior Management. SMART cannot sell the entire portion requested but may be able to sell a small gravel portion at the opposite end of the property from the HOD office if the price makes sense to SMART.
**LICENSE AND PERMIT RATES**
Staff is working on a license and permit rate structure commensurate with others in our industry. Staff has spoken with other transit lines and is assembling rate options for transverse and longitudinal crossings and right of entry permits.

**TITLE WORK**
Miscellaneous as asked by Legal and Engineering for the Pathway.

**SPECIAL EVENT REQUESTS:**
Run Wine Country- Fit for Equality- Windsor Half Marathon - POSTPONED UNTIL MAY 2022
Penngrove Parade of Lights- Penngrove Social Firemen- Holiday Parade of the Lights- Penngrove- December 19, 2021

**RIGHT OF ENTRY PERMITS ISSUED:**
Comcast- Aerial crossing at Bellevue, Santa Rosa- Cancelled
Comcast- Aerial crossing at Main Street, Penngrove
Comcast- Aerial crossing at Hopper St., Petaluma
Comcast- Fiber Optics maintenance at Smith Ranch Rd./North Avenue, San Rafael
Sonic- Vault installation – Petaluma
Sonoma County Water Agency- Water Main maintenance- Petaluma
Sonic- Excavation at Hearn Avenue- Santa Rosa
Sonic- Excavation and Fiber Optic maintenance- 7th Street- Santa Rosa
Sonic- Excavation and new utility box installation- West Robles- Santa Rosa

**STAFF IS CONTINUING WORKING ON ISSUING RIGHT OF ENTRY PERMITS/LICENSE WITH:**
Sonic- Fiber cable pull and splice- Hopper Street- Petaluma
County of Marin- Signal light improvements- N. San Pedro/ Los Ranchitos- San Rafael
OUTFRONT MEDIA- PG&E meter and fence relocation- Rohnert Park
PG&E- Gas Pipeline Maintenance- Manuel Drive- Novato
PG&E- Gas Regulator/Pipeline Installation/Easement- Fulton Yard- Santa Rosa/Fulton
PG&E- Yearly Vegetation Management for Electrical Division
PG&E- Gas Regulator Installation- Hart Lane- Santa Rosa/Fulton
Fredric C. Divine Associates-/Homeward Bound- 1385 N. Hamilton Pkwy- Novato
County of Marin- Simmons Slough Water Management System
Marin County Flood Control – Installation of 3 pumps – Hwy 37
Metro-MCI – request to connect to Sonic fiber line

**ON-GOING PROPERTY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**
COMCAST – Staff is still working to finalize outstanding license agreement fees. Fiber Optic installation verifications in 7 locations. Legal working on Master Agreement.
AT&T- Staff is working to finalize an update Master Agreement for maintenance of existing license agreements.
License agreements for discovered local municipalities facilities on SMART Right of Way.
Annexation of Sewer Lines for 105 Roblar Drive, Novato has been executed.
Quitclaim deed research and request with Caltrans was approved by the CTC at August Meeting.
Records research for all Private and Public crossings – continued data base development.
Records research on Brazos Branch (Napa County – real estate records)
Records research for Healdsburg.
Work on Lease comparisons for updating all SMART leases.
Work on Appraisal values for various Healdsburg properties and PG&E easements.
Work with Accounting to get any past due Lessee’s accounts up to date.
Research of records for old Petaluma, Santa Rosa Rail line spur in Petaluma – downtown trestle
Research of records for Healdsburg Station – environmental records researched
Staff is continuing to work with Pacific Gas & Electric Company to refine access issues and update
Master Agreement with after discovered facilities.
Consulting with Engineering on costs.
Continue to handle property management issues from adjacent landowners.
Continue to support construction by doing property research for discovered property issues.
Research property ownership for homeless encampments on Right of Way.
Research on title issues to clarify property ownerships and survey as necessary to continue working
with property owners to remove encroachments.
Field work visiting SMART owned properties.
GRANTS, LEGISLATION, PLANNING AND REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

REGIONAL AND LOCAL PLANNING ACTIVITIES

*Local Planning Department Notification and Coordination Tracking:* SMART Planning Staff also tracks and reviews all notices sent by local jurisdictions for projects occurring adjacent to or nearby the railroad tracks. In 2021 to date SMART has received and reviewed 34 different notices while in 2020 through October SMART received 96 notices. In 2019 through October SMART received 148 notices.

*Federal Transit Administration – Sustainable Transit for a Healthy Planet Challenge:* On June 15, 2021, FTA launched the **Sustainable Transit for a Healthy Planet Challenge** to encourage transit agencies to build on progress already made and to further reduce GHG emissions from public transportation in support of greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals set by President Biden on April 21, 2021, Earth Day. The goal for the United States is to achieve a 50-52 percent reduction from 2005 levels in economy-wide net GHG pollution in 2030. The State of California’s current goal is to reduce its GHG emissions by 40% below 1990 levels by 2030.

The FTA’s **Sustainable Transit for a Healthy Planet Challenge** encourages transit agencies to take bold actions and investments to cut GHG emissions. The challenge calls on transit agencies to develop climate action strategies with measurable goals to achieve GHG emission targets. All transit agencies nationwide, regardless of size or service area, are encouraged to develop climate action or sustainability plans that detail GHG reduction strategies, such as converting fleets to lower emissions and making facilities more energy efficient. The end of October 2021 was the deadline for participating transit agencies to sign up for the challenge. The FTA will be providing guidance and best practice support for participating transit agencies through the Winter and Spring 2022.

Area transit agencies who have signed up to participate in this FTA challenge includes SMART, BART, SF Bay Ferry (WETA), San Francisco Municipal Transit Agency (MTA), Alameda-Contra Costa (AC) Transit, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), Napa Valley Transportation Authority (Napa VINE), and Mendocino Transit Authority (MTA).

SMART staff will be compiling recommended elements for an FTA-supported Climate Action/Sustainability Plan and present to the results to the SMART Board in the Spring 2022. Deadline for agencies to submit their climate action strategies with measurable goals to achieve GHG emission targets will be April 15, 2022.

**TRANSIT COORDINATION MEETINGS**

- **October 6, 2021** - Staff participated in the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) monthly **Transit Finance Working Group** meeting. Discussions included several standing item updates including legislative, funding notices, upcoming State discretionary grant programs and MTC respective endorsement strategies for each of the funding opportunities.

- **October 13, 2021** - Staff participated in the monthly Sonoma County Transportation Authority Transit TAC.

- **October 5, 12, 19, & 26 - 2021** – Bay Area Transit Operator ongoing coordination meetings. SMART staff met with the Bay Area’s smaller transit operators, defined as any except the seven largest transit operators, weekly. This month’s focus was on the Metropolitan Transportation Commission’s (MTC) distribution of American Rescue Plan Act Federal Transit Administration 5307 funds, ongoing operator pandemic response including staff testing and vaccination, and MTC Regional Blue Ribbon Transit Task Force efforts to create a Regional Transit Network Manager role including development of a Business Case for that role as a next step. Additional topics included MTC presentation on their strategy for upcoming endorsement of any “mega-regional” proposed capital and rail projects.
SAFETY AND SECURITY

At 1:39 am Marin County sheriff called to report a car on the tracks at Atherton Ave and the 101 overpass. SMART Field Supervisor arrived on scene at 2:17 am and determined the cars location was at MP 29 just north of Novato San Marin Station. A single vehicle drifted off 101 and rolled, ending up on the other side (west side) of tracks. 2 people were in the vehicle, both went to the hospital including one that was flown out by CHP H-30.

The car was cleared of the tracks at 3:18 am and tracks were inspected by 3:25 am with no damage found. At 3:44 am all emergency personnel were clear of the right of way with no effect on revenue service.
Trespasser near Haystack Bridge, Petaluma

Trespasser on Lakeville Bridge, Petaluma
Trespasser sleeping near tracks on 7th and 8th Street, Santa Rosa

Trespassers drinking along pathway near 9th Street, Santa Rosa