

Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit District



General Manager's Report – July 2021

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SMART

|| SONOMA-MARIN AREA RAIL TRANSIT

FINANCE

The Government Finance **Government Finance Officers Association** established the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in **Financial Reporting** Program (COA) in 1945 to encourage and assist state and local governments to go beyond the minimum requirements of generally accepted accounting principles to prepare comprehensive annual **financial reports** that evidence the spirit of transparency and full disclosure and then to recognize individual governments that succeed in achieving that goal.

SMART just received this award for our Fiscal Year 2020 financial statements. This is the eighth year in a row that SMART has received this distinguished award.



Government Finance Officers Association
203 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2700
Chicago, Illinois 60601-1210
312.977.9700 fax: 312.977.4806

6/10/2021

Eric Lucan
Board Chair
Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit District, California

Dear Mr. Lucan:

We are pleased to notify you that your comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020 qualifies for GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

When a Certificate of Achievement is awarded to a government, an Award of Financial Reporting Achievement (AFRA) is also presented to the individual(s) or department designated by the government as primarily responsible for its having earned the Certificate. This award has been sent to the submitter as designated on the application.

We hope that you will arrange for a formal presentation of the Certificate and Award of Financial Reporting Achievement, and give appropriate publicity to this notable achievement. A sample news release is included to assist with this effort.

We hope that your example will encourage other government officials in their efforts to achieve and maintain an appropriate standard of excellence in financial reporting.


Sincerely,

Michele Mark Levine
Director, Technical Services


COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND MARKETING

Community Outreach | Special July 4 Weekend Service

The SMART District partnered with the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District (GGT) celebrating the July 4 holiday weekend by coordinating weekend train and ferry service on Saturday, July 3, Sunday July 4, and Monday, July 5. GGT offered free Larkspur ferry service for the first time since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic. SMART has been proving passenger fares discounted by more than 40% since May 24, 2021. SMART worked closely with GGT to coordinate arrival and departure times, ensuring that passengers will be able to easily get to and from the SMART and ferry stations. Golden Gate also offered a late-night ferry run to bring passengers back to Larkspur from San Francisco 30 minutes after the San Francisco fireworks show. Golden Gate did provide a bus to transport SMART passengers to their originating train stations.

**Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit**
Published by Hootsuite · July 2 at 2:00 PM · 🌐

With the July 4th Weekend Day Pass, enjoy unlimited SMART rides all day on July 3, 4 and 5! The pass is \$10 for adults, and \$5 for youth, seniors, and people with disabilities - available only in the SMART app. 📱 Temporary schedule here: sonomamarintrain.org/schedules-fares #WelcomeBackToSMART



4,646
People Reached

79
Engagements

↑ +2.1x Higher
Distribution Score

Boost Post

👍 31


1 Comment 8 Shares

👍 Like


💬 Comment

➦ Share

Oldest ▼

**Amar Veer Singh**
Nice

Like · Reply · Message · 2w



Comment as Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit

😊 📷 GIF 🗨️



Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit

Published by Hootsuite · July 1 at 4:36 PM · 🌐

...

Get your Fourth of July weekend plans started now. SMART and the Golden Gate Larkspur Ferry will be offering special weekend service on July 3, 4 and 5. Train and ferry schedules are synched up for a seamless ride to San Francisco and back! 🎆

View the train schedule here: sonomamarintrain.org/schedules-fares

View the ferry schedule here: <http://goldengate.org/.../ggf-4th-july-free-ride-schedule...>



Media | News Coverage

- July 23, State allots \$4M for SMART freight repairs (Marin Independent Journal)
- July 19, Developer proposes 1,081 new houses at Novato's Fireman's Fund campus (Marin Independent Journal)
- July 14, Fire delays northbound SMART train (Petaluma Patch)
- July 13, SMART adds freight to its service mix (Argus Courier)
- July 13, SMART OK'd to take over North Bay freight rail (Argus Courier)
- July 13, Bay Area's SMART adds freight operations (Trains)
- July 13, SMART officially enters freight hauling (KSRO Radio)
- July 12, SMART manager delays retirement (KSRO Radio)
- July 12, SMART takes ownership of North Bay freight hauling (Marin Independent Journal)
- July 11, SMART manager delays retirement amid hunt for successor (Marin Independent Journal)
- July 6, Dick Spotswood: Unlike some Marin communities, Novato in position to hit housing mandate (Marin Independent Journal)
- July 2, Great Redwood Trail gets key funding for blueprint tied to making 316-mile path a reality (The Press Democrat)

OPERATIONS

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE:

- Performed inspection on Diesel Multiple Unit 105 cab seat. Upon further inspection it was determined the cab seat was loose. The seat was removed and replaced with a new seat.
- Performed field modification upgrade to the Selective Catalytic Reduction brackets on Diesel Multiple Unit 102. This upgrade is performed by lifting the Diesel Multiple Unit and removing the engine and diesel power module. Once the brackets are replaced, the engine and diesel power module are reinstalled
- Performed annual maintenance on 1 Diesel Multiple Unit
- Performed mid-year maintenance on 1 Diesel Multiple Units
- Performed 500-hour oil change on 5 Diesel Multiple Units
- Automatic Train Control maintenance performed on 15 Diesel Multiple Units. This maintenance keeps us compliant with Federal Regulatory Association regulations regarding 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:

- Completed and Qualified Dispatcher training for one Engineer Conductor.
- Two internal operations staff were promoted to Conductors.

SMART Transportation Department Training:

Currently reviewing online training programs for year 2021.

Completed new hire conductor classroom training for two employees

MAINTENANCE OF WAY:

- Track, Signals, and Facilities completed their required annual Railroad Worker Protection training class
- Signal department along with Train control Manager have implemented monthly training classes for all employees with question-and-answer session.
- Signal team completed annual inspection at the Haystack Bridge in Petaluma.
- Track team completed two large homeless camp removal and trash clean up, located in Northern Healdsburg, and San Rafael.
- Track team worked two Sundays and completed track tamping at various locations throughout the Track alignment.
- Track team has worked the entire month of July on vegetation control- mowing and has eliminated the backlog of work.
- Facilities team completed Train wash Brush replacement and cleaned the wash water recycle tank.
- Facilities team completed navigation light repairs at the Black Point Bridge in Novato.

- Signal and Track team responded to a knock down of the Signal mechanism at Washington Street in Petaluma.
- Track and Signal team supported the freight car derailment work in Petaluma. Track and Signal inspections were completed.
- Signal and track team supported the engineering department for the Timber Bridge repairs south of Roblar in Novato.



Garbage on tracks – Healdsburg



Garbage near tracks - Healdsburg



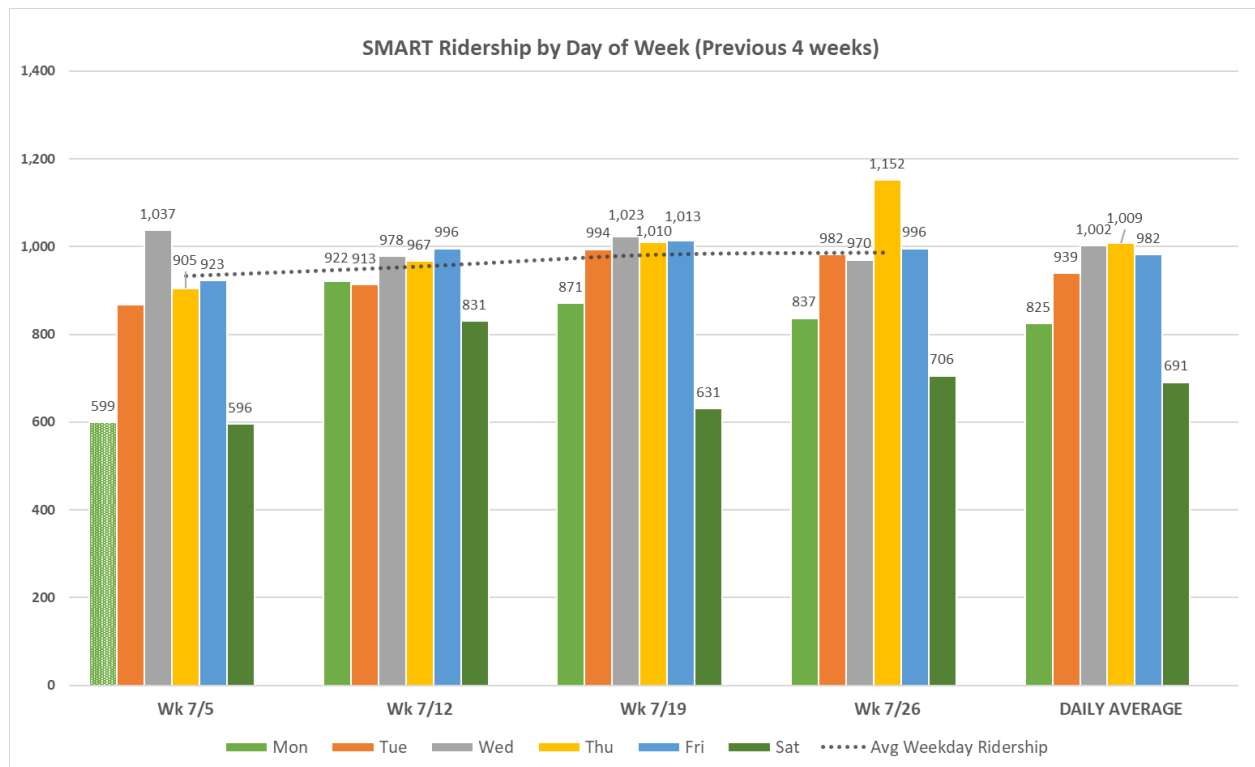
Healdsburg Garbage Towed Away by SMART Staff

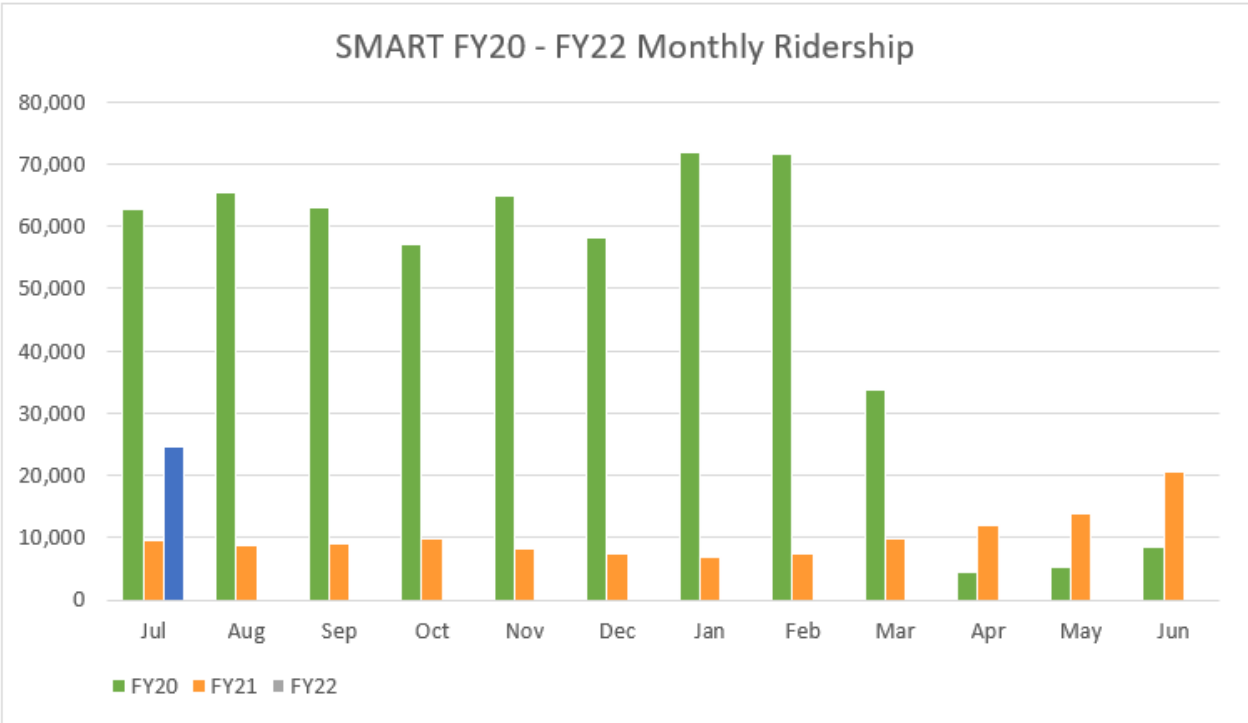
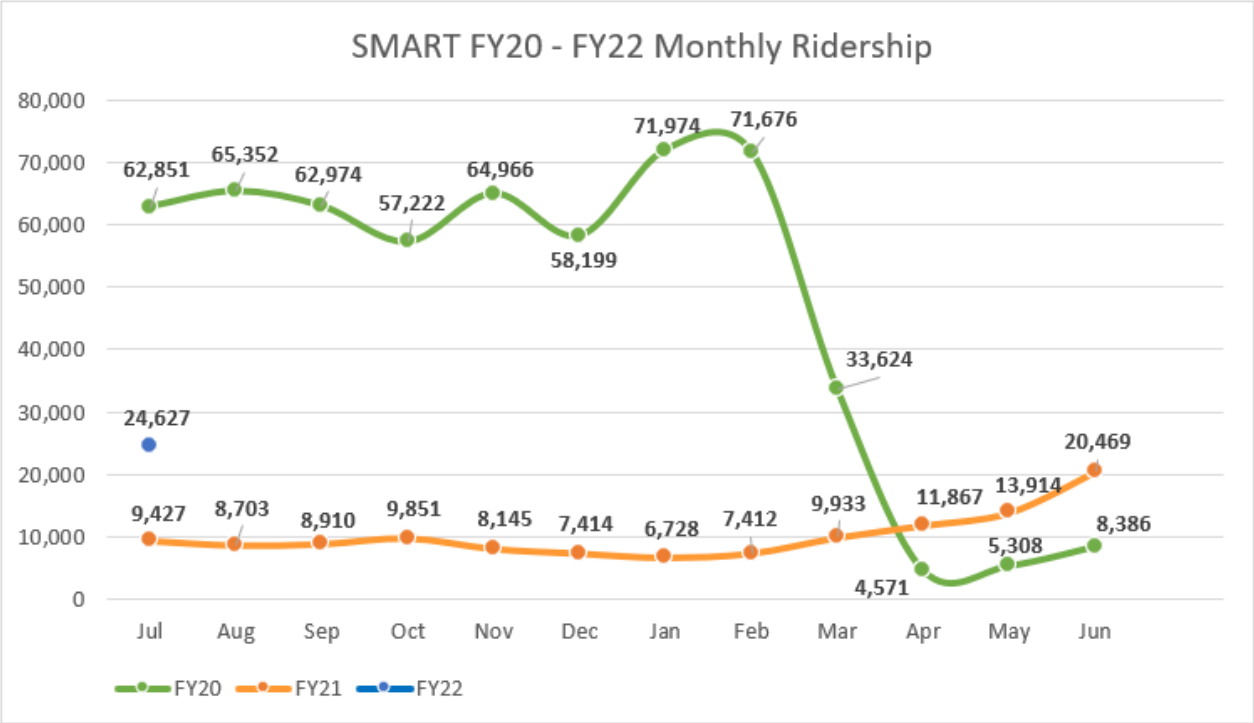


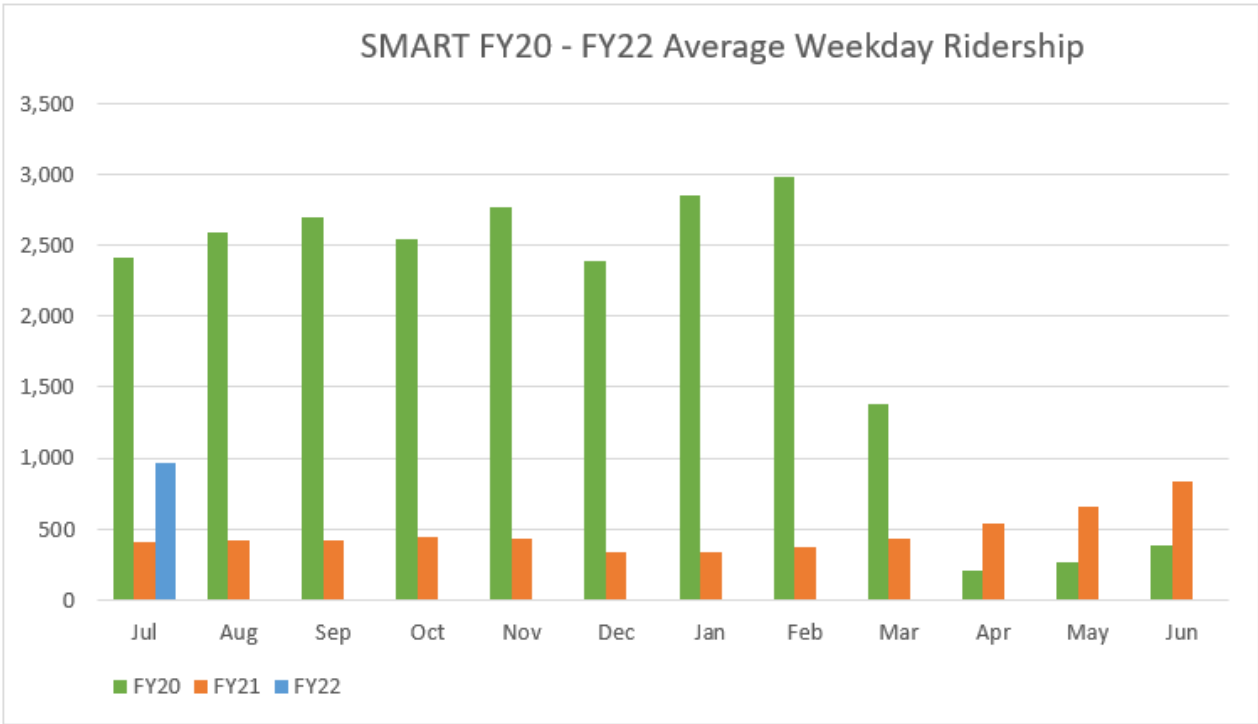
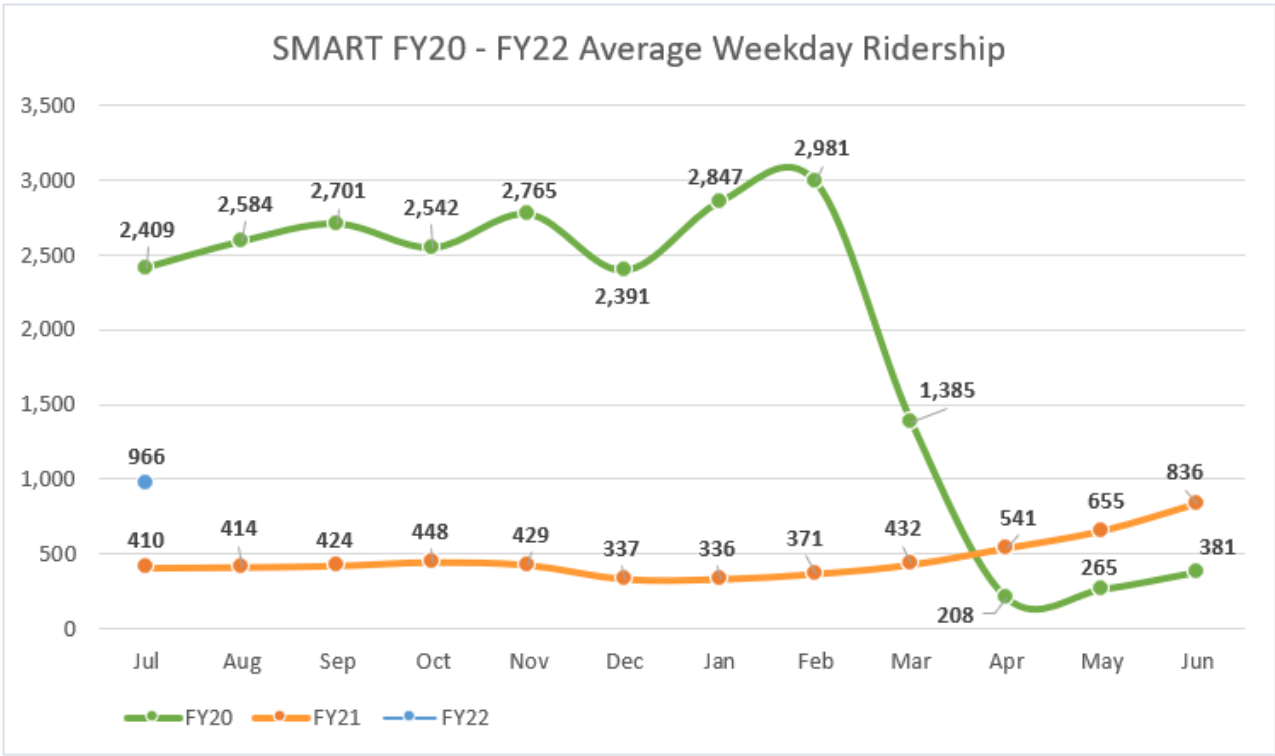
Homeless Encampment in the Paloma Area – San Rafael

RIDERSHIP INFORMATION

FY22 SMART Ridership Weekly Report (DRAFT; COVID-19)											
Week of	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Weekly Total (Onboard Counts)	Avg Weekday Ridership	Bikes	Wheelchairs
6/7/2021	698	812	813	774	814	544		4,455	782	832	44
6/14/2021	742	856	851	856	885	465		4,655	838	760	30
6/21/2021	802	931	1,026	958	1,052	569		5,338	954	928	45
6/28/2021	668	837	910	957	967	718	265	5,057	868	810	39
7/5/2021	599	868	1,037	905	923	596		4,928	933	769	39
7/12/2021	922	913	978	967	996	831		5,607	955	930	12
7/19/2021	871	994	1,023	1,010	1,013	631		5,542	982	879	41
7/26/2021	837	982	970	1,152	996	706		5,643	987	937	23
Average (4 week)	825	939	1,002	1,009	982	691					
Fiscal Year (FY22) began on Thursday, July 1st (line indicates new fiscal year)											
Blue indicates holiday service											







WINDSOR EXTENSION PROJECT

Construction has been suspended because the Regional Measure 3 (RM3) Bridge Toll funding has not been distributed due to a lawsuit against Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC). The lawsuit questions whether the toll fee should be treated as a tax as opposed to a user fee. In October of 2020, the State Supreme Court agreed to hear the appeal case, which will continue to delay the funding until the outcome is determined by the court.



MULTI-USE PATHWAY PROJECT

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:

- Evaluating utility conflicts and impacts to environmental features along the pathway alignment.
- Finalizing at-grade crossing applications for submittal to the local jurisdictions and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for approval.
- Finalizing the environmental permit applications to be submitted to the regulatory agencies.
- The consultant design team and SMART jointly reviewing the 90% level design packages.
- SMART and the City of Petaluma are coordinating elements of the North McDowell Blvd. Complete Streets and the SMART Pathway Projects.



Evaluating Drainage Issues Along the Pathway in Sonoma County

Marin - Sonoma County Pathway Design and Permitting: \$5.5M

- McInnis Parkway to Smith Ranch Road in San Rafael: 0.74 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 Court 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
- 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:

- Investigating potential alignment and grade crossing concepts.
- Compiling data and documents to include in the request for proposal to hire designer.



Future Pathway Crossing of Smith Ranch Road

SAN RAFAEL CREEK RIPERIAN ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

The project addresses the revegetation and plantation of riparian plants along the San Rafael Creek area in the City of San Rafael.

The SMART team is focusing on:

- Preparing the Request for Proposal and contract documents to hire a contractor.



Mitigation site along San Rafael Creek

HUMAN RESOURCE

CURRENT OPEN RECRUITMENTS:

- Track Supervisor
- Engineer Conductor
- Conductor
- Vehicle Maintenance Technician
- Community Outreach Coordinator
- Controller Supervisor
- Storeroom Parts Clerk
- Track Maintainer

NEW HIRES/PROMOTIONS

- Real Estate Manager was hired on July 26, 2021.
- Vehicle Maintenance Laborer was hired on July 12, 2021.

INTERVIEWS

- Community Outreach Coordinator
- Vehicle Maintenance Technician
- Engineer Conductor
- Track Maintainer
- Laborer

MISCELLANEOUS

A one-year Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Teamsters Union representing the District's Track Supervisors was approved and will be effective through June 30, 2022.

REAL ESTATE

PRIVATE CROSSINGS

Staff has created files for the private crossings north of Healdsburg.

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 working on reviewing documents from NCRA on the properties that have been transferred to SMART as they come in.

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

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

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 Willits.

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.

SPECIAL EVENT REQUESTS:

Multiple Sclerosis Society- Waves to Wine Bike Ride, Rohnert Park/Santa Rosa- September 18/19, 2021

RIGHT OF ENTRY PERMITS ISSUED:

Dryco- City of Petaluma Repaving Project in multiple locations

STAFF IS CONTINUING WORKING ON ISSUING RIGHT OF ENTRY PERMITS/LICENSE WITH:

PG&E- Yearly Vegetation Management for Gas Transmission Division

PG&E- Tree removal for electrical- Rohnert Park

Comcast- Aerial crossing at Hopper St., Petaluma

Comcast- Fiber Optics maintenance at Smith Ranch Rd./North Avenue, San Rafael

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
Danco Group of Companies- 80 College Avenue- Santa Rosa
County of Marin- Simmons Slough Water Management System
Fredric C. Divine Associates- 826 State Access Road/ 1385 N. Hamilton Pkwy- Novato
Marin County Flood Control – Installation of 3 pumps – Hwy 37
West Coast Solar Company – Solar Project – Lagunitas Brewing – Petaluma
Sonic – Numerous Access Permits issued for work on fiber optics lines.
Metro-MCI – request to connect to Sonic fiber line
COMCAST – Staff is still working to finalize outstanding license agreement fees. Fiber Optic installation verifications in 7 locations. Agreements to be revised.
AT&T- Fiber optic relocation at 8th Street. Santa Rosa- Staff is working to finalize an update Master Agreement for maintenance of existing license agreements.

ON-GOING PROPERTY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

License agreements for discovered local municipalities facilities on SMART Right of Way.
Annexation of Sewer Lines for 105 Roblar Drive, Novato
Quitclaim deed research and request with Caltrans.
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 Appraisal values for various Healdsburg properties and PG&E easements.
Work with Accounting to get any past due Lessee's accounts up to date.
Review and evaluation of requests to lease SMART properties.
Records Management
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.

PLAN BAY AREA 2050 UPDATE

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) closed the comment period for the Draft Plan Bay Area 2050 on July 20, 2021. SMART submitted comments advocating for inclusion of SMART projects north of Windsor and connecting east-west between Marin and Solano Counties. In addition to SMART, similar comments were submitted by Caltrans District 4, a joint letter from Windsor, Healdsburg, Cloverdale and Office of the District 4 Sonoma County Board, Sonoma County Transportation Authority – Regional Climate Protection Authority and Cloverdale Rancheria of Pomo Indians.

Plan Bay Area is the long-range transportation and land use planning document for the nine-county Bay Area, focusing on the economy, environment, housing, and transportation. Inclusion in the financially constrained future transportation investment plan allows projects to compete for discretionary grant funds when those funds become available through an application process.

More information on the next steps in adoption of Plan Bay Area 2050 can be found here: <https://www.planbayarea.org/news> .

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 2019 staff received and reviewed 105 different notices through July, in 2020 there were 79 notices and in 2021 to date SMART has received and reviewed 28 different notices.

State Route 37 – Planning Processes Underway:

- SR37 Policy Committee (Resilient SR37);
- SR37 Caltrans Planning and Environmental Linkages Study (SR37 PEL Study);
- US 101-SR 121 Environmental & Design Alternative Analysis (DAA), now merged with PEL;
- SR37 Caltrans Comprehensive Multi-Modal Corridor Plan (SR37 CMCP);
- Sears Point to Mare Island (Congestion Relief) – Environmental Impact Report Scoping.

A quarterly **State Route 37 Policy Committee (Resilient 37)** meeting took place in January 2021, with the next meetings of the group scheduled for Fall 2021. The Joint Baylands Core Team and Resilient 37 Project Leadership Team have been meeting to provide technical support of the Resilient 37 Policy Committee, most recently on July 16, 2021, with SMART staff invited and a discussion of SMART's future on the corridor scheduled as an agenda item.

The **SR37 Planning and Environmental Linkages (SR37 PEL) Study** meetings are taking place approximately quarterly the most recent meeting included a discussion of The US101 to SR121 Design Alternative Analysis (DAA), which has been merged with the SR37 PEL Study, on July 30, 2021. At the meeting, input was received on a draft purpose statement and on the DAA alternatives for State Route 37 future alignment alternatives (photo below).

Conceptual depiction - For review & discussion purposes only



SMART staff has been asked to present to the Quarterly PEL meeting September 24, 2021, on SMART's activities along the corridor.


TRANSIT COORDINATION MEETINGS

- **July 6, 13, 20 & 27 - 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 Blue Ribbon Task Force policy implementation future.
- **July 7, 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, Plan Bay Area 2050 and Transportation Improvement Program updates.
- **July 14, 2021** – Staff attended the monthly Sonoma County Transportation Authority’s **Transit Technical Advisory Committee** where discussions included transit operator updates on transit ridership increases.
- **July 20 & 28, 2021** – SMART staff attended a coordination meeting for the Marin-Sonoma Bikeshare Program, centered around SMART stations. Discussed were space allocations, processes, concerns and technical specifications.
- **July 21 & 23, 2021** – Coordination meetings between SMART staff and Marin/Sonoma County Bicycle Coalitions. Solicited their input on bikeshare, Pathway performance metric development including counter locations, developing a SMART Pathway wayfinding program and opportunities for increased coordination between SMART and the bicycle coalitions.
- **July 26, 2021** – Staff attended the **Blue-Ribbon Transit Task Force** meeting virtually. The agenda included final presentations on the transit **Network Management** including a proposal to create a new Bay Area-wide regional transit agency, separate from MTC, to have the mission of implementation of a regional transit system with a new elected policy maker body that is either appointed or directly elected.
- **July 27, 2021** – Staff attended the **Blue-Ribbon Transit Task Transit Caucus – Planning and Operations Subcommittee** meetings remotely. The agendas have included ongoing Blue Ribbon Transit Task Force initiative updates.

GRANT ACTIVITIES

American Rescue Plan (ARP): The Federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) was passed on March 11, 2021. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) posted the apportionment table on March 29, 2021, for the Section 5307 funds for distribution to Urbanized Areas across the nation for transit use. The Bay Area will receive \$1.7 billion, directed to the multiple urbanized areas that comprise the Bay Area, of which \$1.3 billion will be directed to transit operators reporting to the San Francisco-Oakland urbanized area. \$2 million was apportioned to the Petaluma urbanized area and \$27 million was apportioned to transit operators reporting to the Santa Rosa urbanized area, including SMART.

MTC has commenced its process to re-distribute the FTA apportionments. A partial first tranche allocation of these funds is expected at their July 28th Commission meeting and MTC staff recommended apportioning a first tranche of \$9.3 million to be divided between SMART, Santa Rosa CityBus, Sonoma County Transit, and Petaluma Transit. Subsequent allocations will be completed at a time and scale to be determined later, with likely allocations in September and/or December 2021.



Affordable Housing Sustainable Communities (AHSC): SMART, the City of Petaluma and Danco Communities have partnered on the submittal of a joint application for construction of the second Petaluma infill SMART station, SMART Pathway improvements across McDowell Boulevard, bicycle and pedestrian improvements on McDowell Boulevard and construction of 131 affordable housing units (Meridian at Corona Station). SMART would receive \$8.5 million from the grant, if awarded, with SMART providing \$2 million in matching funds, as recommended in SMART's Capital Plan, and Petaluma providing \$2 million in matching impact fees for the station construction.

On June 23, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission endorsed all applications that were submitted for Bay Area projects, including this SMART/Petaluma/Danco proposal. Awards will be announced in October.

Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE): The U.S. Department of Transportation has released a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to apply for \$1 billion in Fiscal Year 2021 discretionary grant funding through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grants. RAISE, formerly known as BUILD and TIGER, will provide maximum awards of \$25 million, with no State being awarded more than \$100 million in total. This program is highly competitive with approximately 7% of requests being funded.

The State of California (Caltrans) has selected three projects to be official State submittals for the RAISE competition and the SMART Windsor Extension Project is one of those three submittals. Caltrans submitted the application by July 12, 2021. There is no public date issued for an expected announcement on grant awards.

SAFETY AND SECURITY



Trespasser at Sebastopol Crossing, Santa Rosa



Trespasser near tracks at Payran Street, Petaluma



Trespasser at Alexandra Valley Crossing, Petaluma



Trespasser near track at Sebastopol Avenue, Santa Rosa



Car crash near tracks – Highway 101, Novato



Cow near tracks refusing to move - Penngrove



Trespasser near tracks at 3rd Street, Santa Rosa