

# Agenda Item 8: Planning for the Future - Extensions

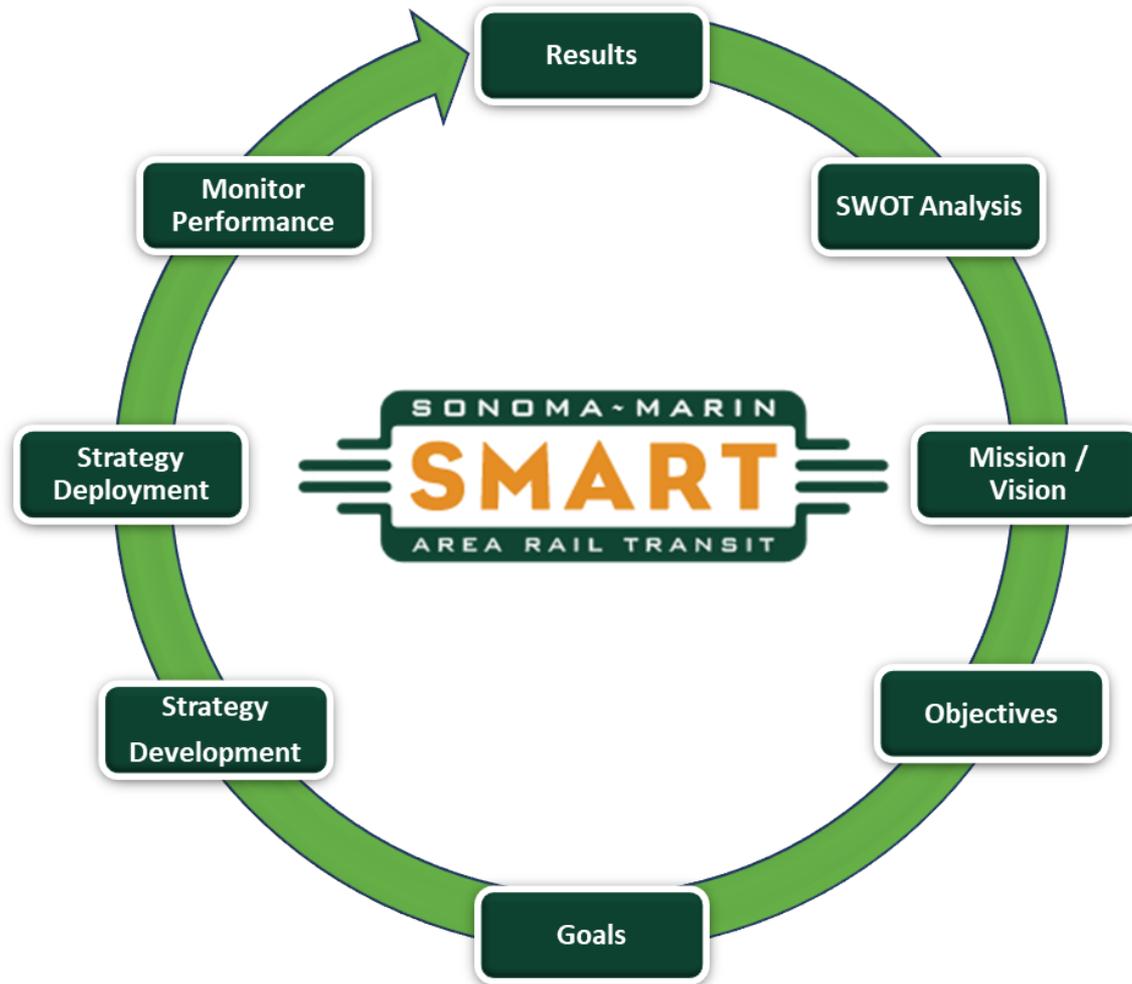


February 15, 2023

# Topics - Outline

- Planning Model/SMART House
- Listening Session Results
- East/West Extension
- North Extensions
  - Windsor/Healdsburg
  - Cloverdale
- Discussion

# Planning for the Future



# SMART House

## *Vision:*

### *Smarter Transportation for a Smarter Future*

*SMART envisions an innovative transportation system that provides integrated mobility solutions, promotes sustainable growth, and enhances quality of life.*

## **Mission: We Connect Communities**

*SMART provides safe, reliable, and environmentally responsible transportation options.*

**Ridership**

**Pathways**

**Extensions**

**Freight**

**Values: \* Safety \* Integrity \* Stewardship \* Continuous Improvement**



# Listening Sessions

## Completed

- Ridership (April 6<sup>th</sup>)
  - 45 participants (excluding SMART Staff)
  - 553 survey responses
  - 35 emails
- Pathways (April 13<sup>th</sup>)
  - 60 participants (excluding SMART Staff)
  - 183 survey responses
  - 11 emails
- **Extensions (April 20<sup>th</sup>)**
  - **54 participants (excluding SMART Staff)**
  - **203 surveys**
  - **13 emails**
- Freight (April 27<sup>th</sup>)
  - 34 participants (excluding SMART Staff)
  - 65 survey responses
  - 1 email

# Listening Sessions – Top 5 Themes

1. Complete extension to Windsor, Healdsburg, and Cloverdale
2. Shift resources to extend passenger rail to Sonoma, Napa, and Suisun City
3. Build Class 3 railroad to Healdsburg/Cloverdale to reduce cost
4. Continue northern extension to Ukiah/Willits in the future
5. Improve connectivity with other transit systems as you build out extensions to the north and east

# Listening Sessions

## Extensions Opposition:

- SMART should not consider northern extension due to cost versus ridership
- Further extensions will increase subsidy per rider
- East/west extension does not make economic or political sense

# East/West Extension – What We Know Today

## East/West Passenger Service:

- 2019 Feasibility Study = \$858 million to \$1.3 billion cost estimate in existing alignment
- No funding to date
- Estimated Ridership – Unknown
- Project included in State Rail Plan

# East/West Extension – Challenges

- Ensuring continuation of freight rail functionality
- Substantial work required to estimate cost/benefits of East/West project
- East/West Alignment requires separate multi-county funding source
- Project not in regional transportation plan - Plan Bay Area 2050
  - Restricts ability to compete for regional/state/federal funding

# East/West Extension - Opportunities and Progress Update

- SMART recently became member of Hwy 37 MOU
- Two alignment options (existing rail line or parallel to Hwy 37)
- Caltrans Rail Division conducting rail service plan study along existing alignment in 2023
  - # of trips, direction, frequency, duration, time of day
- Solano Rail Hub Study underway, including SMART's future interface at Suisun Station
- Caltrans submitting application to FRA Corridor ID Program for SMART East-West - if selected, \$\$ for project development

# East/West Extension – Proposed Strategy

- Continue participation in Hwy 37 corridor activities
- Work with partners to incorporate rail into the project
- Complete Caltrans rail service plan analysis
- Continue participation in Solano Rail Hub Study
- Partner with Caltrans and FRA Corridor ID Program through SMART East-West project development and subsequent phases

# North Extensions – What We Know Today

## Windsor/Healdsburg:

- Recent Funding Progress! - \$118M programmed
- Funding required - \$113M
  - Includes Pathway
- 2006 EIR estimated ridership – 266,700 annual weekday boardings
  - Windsor - 161,798
  - Healdsburg – 104,902

## Cloverdale Extension:

- Cost Estimate - \$308M
  - Includes Pathway - \$40M
- 2006 EIR estimated ridership – 24,892 annual weekday boardings

# Northern Extensions - O&M Funding

Does SMART have funding to operate/maintain northern extensions?

- Financial analysis indicates SMART can operate and maintain service to Cloverdale
- Assumptions include:
  - Sales tax extended beyond 2029
  - Windsor – FY 2025 opening
  - Healdsburg – FY 2026 opening
  - Cloverdale – FY 2028 opening
- Cost required to operate/maintain northern extensions limits SMART's ability to bond in the future

# Windsor/Healdsburg Extension – Progress Update

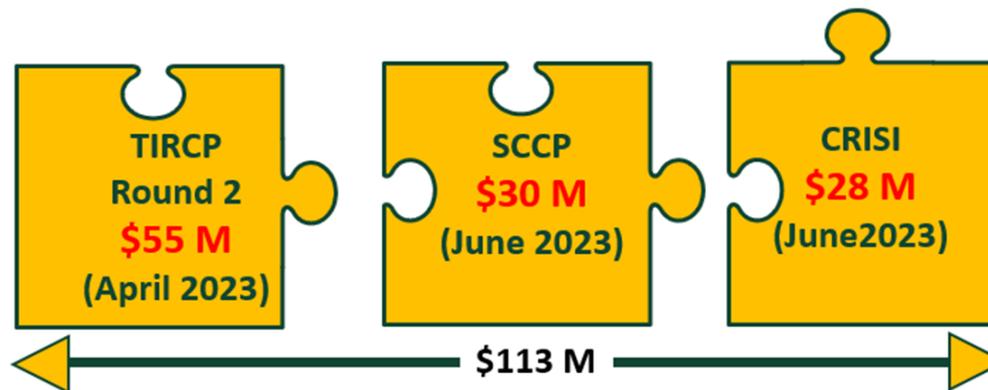
- Windsor extension 30% constructed
- Regional Measure 3 recently decided (\$40M)
- Received \$34M from TIRCP Round 1
- Acquired federal appropriation, state funds, and Measure M (\$44M)



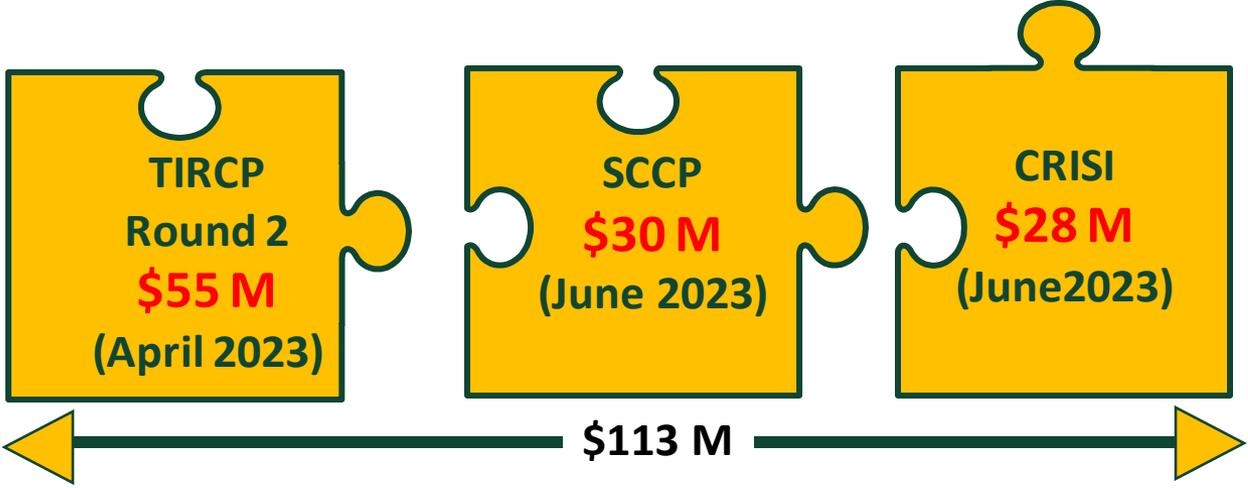
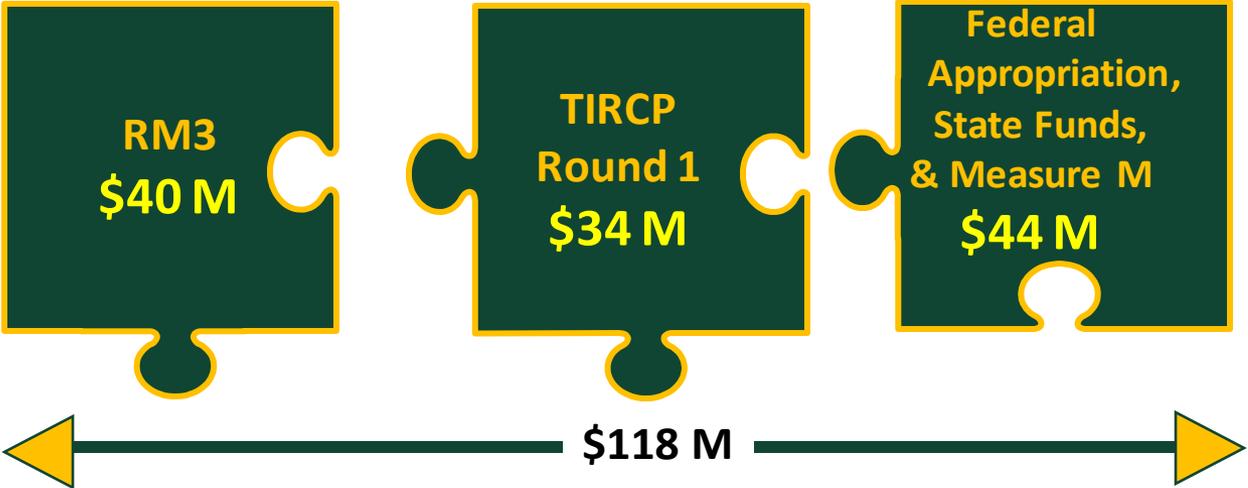
# Windsor / Healdsburg Extension - Proposed Strategy

Secure funding and extend rail line to Healdsburg:

- Recently applied for TIRCP Round 2 funds (\$55M) – April 2023 announcement
- Caltrans nominated Windsor Extension for State Solutions for Congested Corridors funds (\$30M) – June 2023 announcement
- Applied for federal Consolidated Rail Infrastructure Safety Improvements (CRISI) funds (\$28M) – May/June 2023 announcement



# Windsor / Healdsburg Funding



# Cloverdale Extension - Progress Update

- **2008** State Environmental Clearance completed
- **2010** Advanced Conceptual Engineering complete (5-10% design)
- **2021-22** Right of Way secured with transfer by State
- **2018 & 2023** Cloverdale Extension included in State Rail Plan
- **2023** State funding technical and engineering studies to “expedite project delivery to Cloverdale” (fund grant language)
- **2023** Caltrans conducting SMART Rail Service Plan studies throughout system, including service plans for Cloverdale
  - Number of trips, direction, frequency, duration, time of day

# Cloverdale Extension - Challenges

- Perception that Cloverdale population does not justify capital investment of the 17+ mile project
- Extension to Cloverdale will likely increase SMART's subsidy per rider
- Not enough Measure Q to build, operate, and maintain extensions
  - Like all SMART extensions, outside grant funds required
- Extensions north of Windsor not in Plan Bay Area 2050 – making the project ineligible to apply for many fund sources
- Strong competition for transportation funding in Bay Area
- SMART will need to be a good neighbor and invest in maintenance of the right of way whether it is used for rail or not

# Cloverdale Extension – Opportunities

- Determine savings associated with utilizing the Cloverdale rail yard versus purchasing more land to expand rail operations center capacity?
- Engage business community to voice support for Cloverdale extension
- Leverage freight service for capital investment
- Federal funds are prioritized to rural with 40% targeting “Justice 40” communities – Cloverdale qualifies

# Cloverdale Extension – Benefits

- Acknowledge ridership alone may never justify Cloverdale extension
- Focus justification on “Benefits” of Cloverdale extension
  - **Access to opportunity**
  - **Equity**
  - **Environmental Impact**
  - **Bi-directional workforce transport**
  - **Broadband Partnership**
  - **Economic Development**
  - **Affordable Housing**
  - **Active Transportation**
  - **Emergency response**
  - **Freight Opportunities**

# Measure Q Language

Section 3. PURPOSE. This ordinance is adopted to achieve the following, among other purposes, and directs that the provisions hereof be interpreted in order to accomplish those purposes:

A. To provide funding for the design, construction, implementation, operation, financing, maintenance and management of a passenger rail system and a bicycle/pedestrian pathway connecting the 14 rail stations from Cloverdale to Larkspur.

# Plan Bay Area 2050

**PLAN BAY AREA**  
**2050**  
The Four Elements

 HOUSING	 ECONOMY	 TRANSPORTATION	 ENVIRONMENT
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**PLAN BAY AREA**  
**2050**  
Guiding Principles

 AFFORDABLE	 CONNECTED	 DIVERSE	 HEALTHY	 VIBRANT
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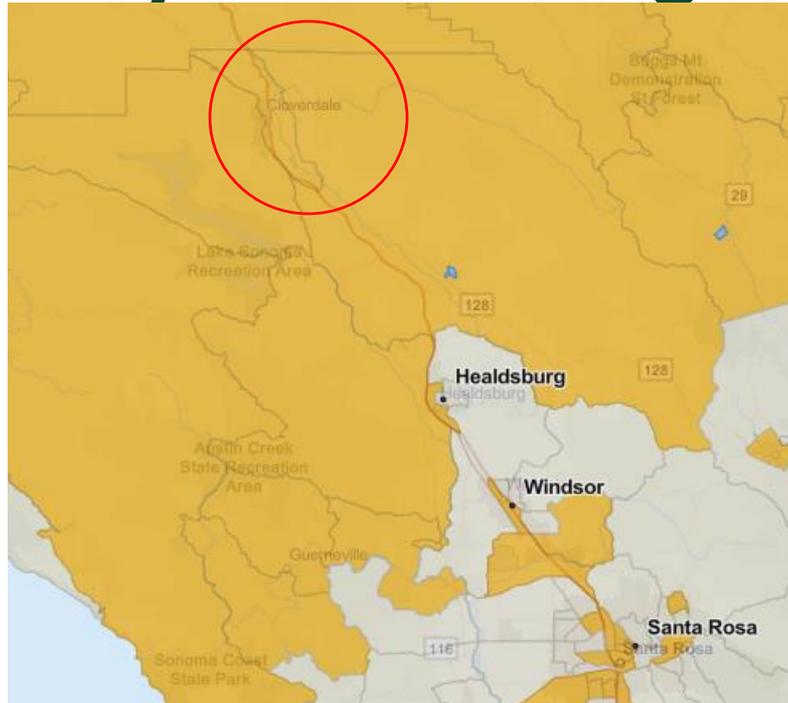


# Plan Bay Area 2050 – Equity Principle

## Advancing Equity

MTC and ABAG define equity for Plan Bay Area 2050 as “just inclusion in a Bay Area where everyone can participate, prosper and reach their full potential.” The agencies strive to advance equity through careful consideration of investments and policies that affect historically and systemically marginalized, underserved and excluded groups, including people with low incomes, people with disabilities and communities of color. Each strategy in Plan Bay Area 2050 has been crafted to advance equity, with particular attention paid to the needs of people living in Equity Priority Communities, which are geographic areas that have a concentration of both residents of color and residents with low incomes, or that have a concentration of residents with low incomes and other factors such as limited English proficiency, seniors or people with disabilities.

# U.S. DOT - Areas of Persistent Poverty and Historically Disadvantaged Communities

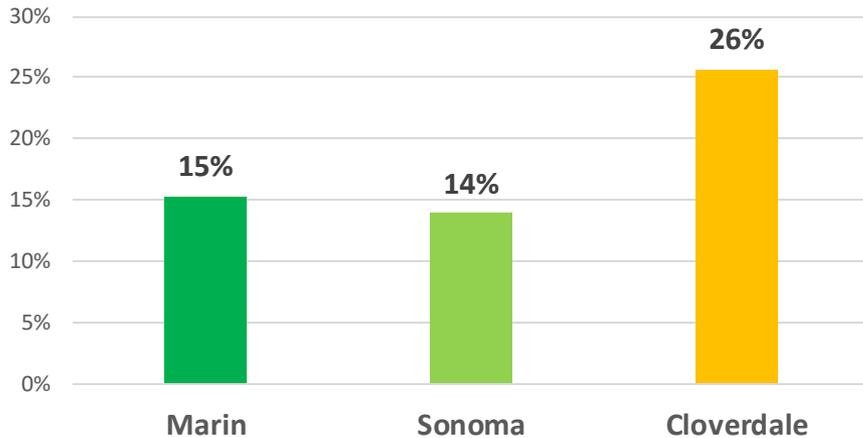


Orange area identifies areas of persistent poverty and historically disadvantaged communities

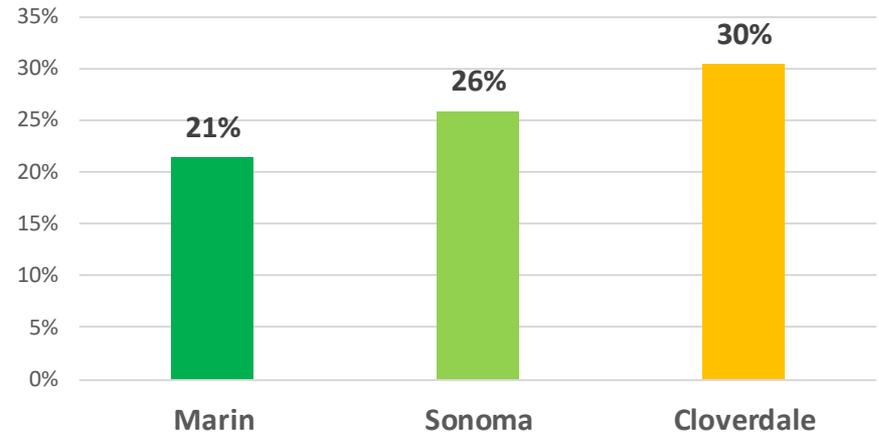
- Cloverdale designated as historically disadvantaged community
- Mendocino County (3 miles north) designated as federal area of persistent poverty

# 2020 Census Demographics

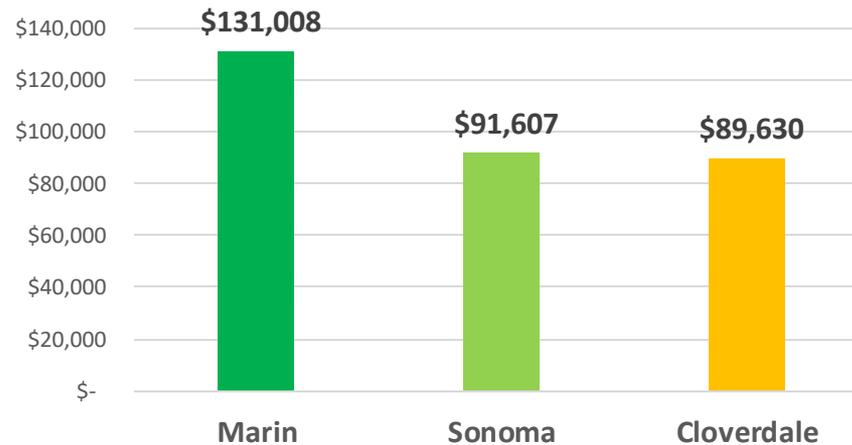
## Minority Population



## Language other than English Spoken at Home

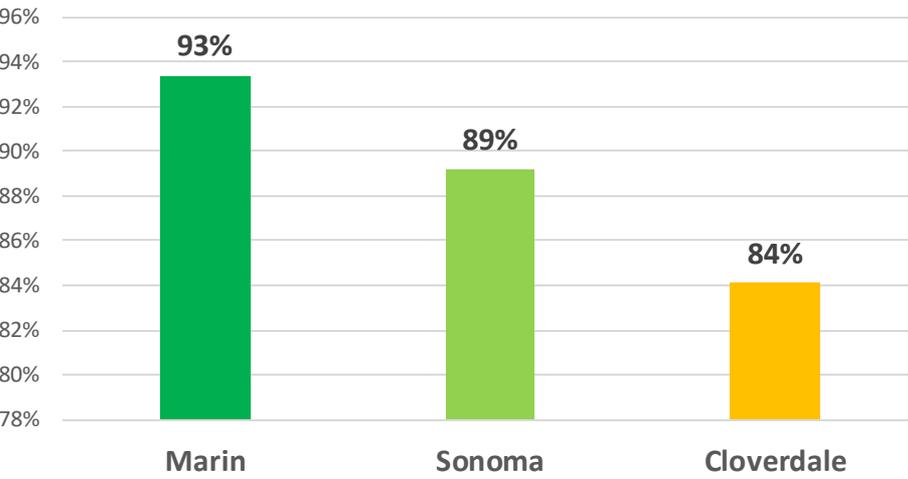


## Median Household Income

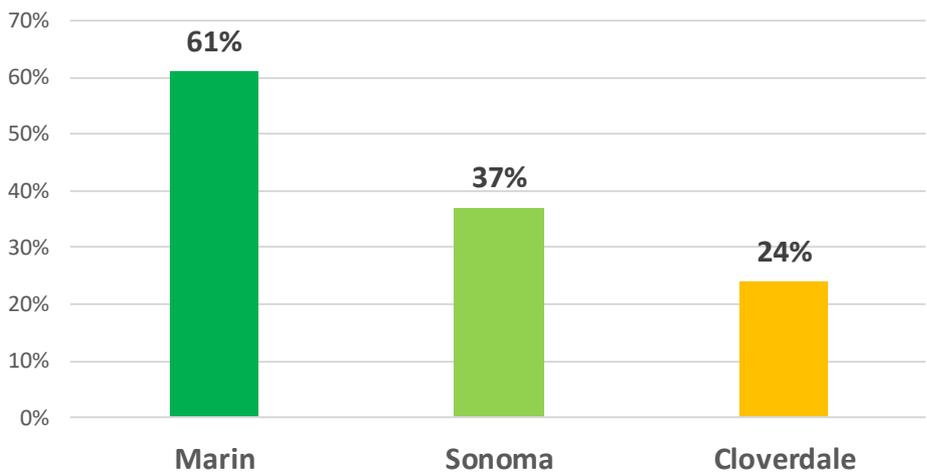


# 2020 Census Demographics

### High School Graduate



### Bachelor's Degree



# Cloverdale Extension

## Why should SMART extend to Cloverdale?

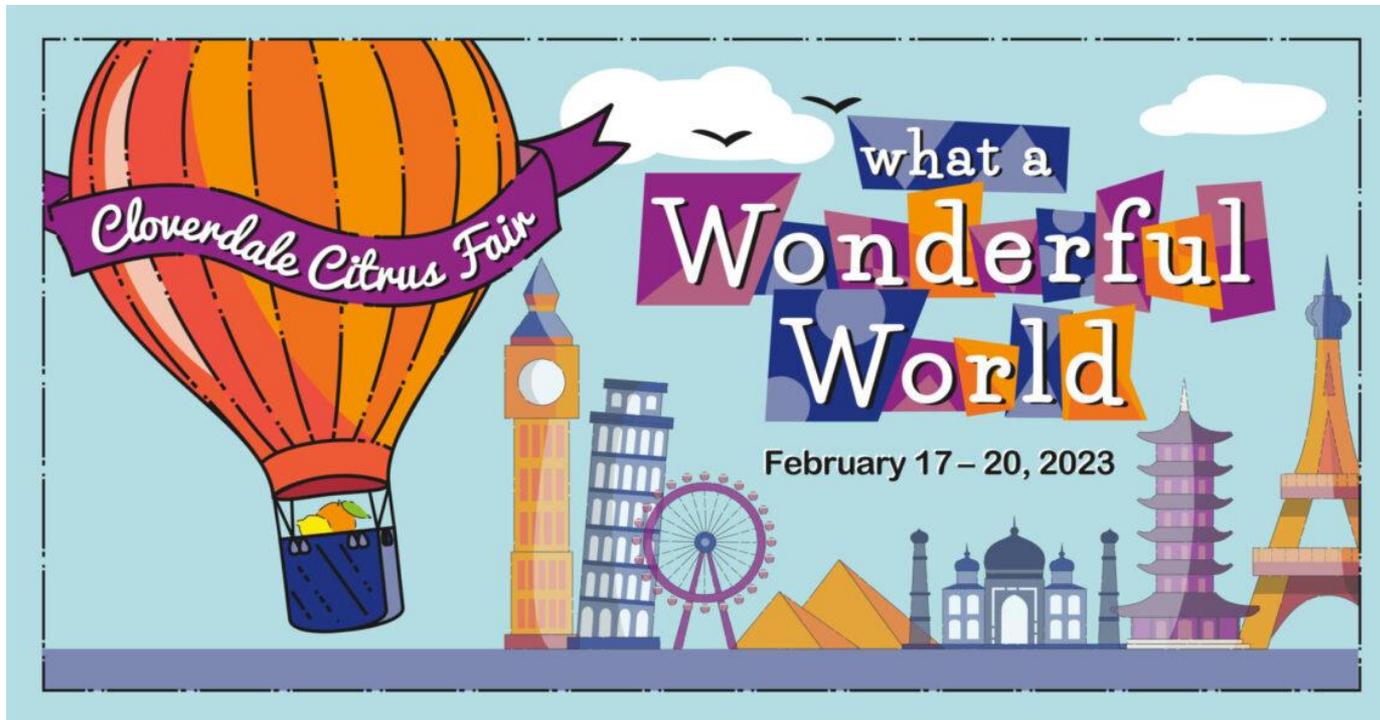
- Cloverdale is specifically identified in Measure Q language
- Cloverdale extension provides community benefits beyond ridership
  - Infrastructure investment will enhance quality of life along alignment, promote equity, and provide access to opportunities
- State supports investment in bus interregional connections in Cloverdale
  - Humboldt Transit, Mendocino Transit, Amtrak & Lake County Transit
- Cloverdale will be a destination for Great Redwood Trail visitors
- Affordable housing projects being developed in “transit oriented” zones
- Tribal nations support Cloverdale completion
  - Cloverdale and Dry Creek Rancherias have submitted letters of support to MTC for completion of Cloverdale extension

# Cloverdale Extension – Proposed Strategy

- Conduct updated market and ridership analysis
  - State conducting service plan in 2023
  - Targeting planning grant funds for additional SMART efforts in 2023
- Conduct updated freight market analysis
- Identify/clarify community and system benefits associated with Cloverdale extension
- Get project into Plan Bay Area and successor plans (*Transit 2050+*)
- Continue to seek federal and state capital grant funding
  - Traditional / Rural / Freight

# Cloverdale and SMART Today

- SMART and SCTA partnering with City of Cloverdale as a finalist in the new **US DOT Thriving Communities** technical assistance program with **30** sites to be selected nationwide
- Join us at the **Cloverdale Citrus Fair!**



# Discussion

# Connect with us:

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



## Customer Service:

[CustomerService@SonomaMarinTrain.org](mailto:CustomerService@SonomaMarinTrain.org)

(707) 794- 3330

