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September 16, 2026

Sonoma- Marin Area Rail Transit Board of Directors
5401 Old Redwood Highway, Suite 200
Petaluma, CA 94954

SUBJECT:

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATIONS: Receive the Monthly Ridership Report – August 2026

SUMMARY:

We are presenting the monthly ridership report for activity for the month of August 2026. This report shows trends in ridership for SMART by tracking Total riders, Average Weekday riders, and Average Saturday riders, Average Sunday/Holiday riders, as well as bicycles and mobility devices on board the trains. The report also includes total users counted on the SMART Pathway for the month, and total riders on the SMART Connect shuttles.

With the transition to the Automatic Passenger Counter (APC) in October 2022, SMART has a highly accurate method of tracking boardings and alightings at stations that does not depend on manual counts by the conductors. The APC system has been tested and validated at a 99% accuracy level and has been certified for passenger count use by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA); the system was revalidated and recertified by FTA in June 2025. Both APC-based ridership and fare-based collection rider counts are shown in the attached report to give a full picture of ridership. APC-based ridership captures all riders, including riders with passes who neglect to tag on or off, riders who fail to activate their mobile app tickets, as well as free-fare riders.

This report compares the most recent month to the same month during the prior year, as is standard industry practice for tracking trends over time. These reports also note relevant details associated with fare program discount usage and trends in riders bringing bicycles onboard as well as riders who use mobility devices. SMART's ridership data through August 2026 is posted on the SMART website (<https://sonomamarintrain.org/RidershipReports>).

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

Sincerely,

/s/
Zoe Unruh
Planning Manager

Attachment: 1) Monthly Ridership Report – August 2026

AUGUST 2026 SMART RIDERSHIP REPORT

SMART Ridership Report
Board of Directors
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August 2026 saw a slight decrease in ridership from the previous month. Average weekday ridership was 5,751, up 3% from July and up 22% over August 2025. Compared to the prior month, average Saturday ridership decreased by 11% and average Sunday ridership decreased by 26%. However, average Saturday and Sunday ridership increased 52% and 26%, respectively, compared to August 2025. Total monthly ridership was 157,637 up 26% over August 2025 and 141% over August 2019 (pre-COVID).

As background, SMART modified services in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with weekend service annulled and weekday service reduced to 16 trips. In May 2021, SMART added back 10 weekday trips. Saturday service was restored in May 2021, and Sunday service in May 2022. In June 2022, SMART added 10 additional weekday trips, and in November 2022, SMART added 2 additional midday trips, for a schedule of 38 trips per weekday. In May 2023, SMART added two evening trips on Friday and Saturday, known as the Starlighter. In November 2023, SMART suspended the Starlighter service but increased weekend service, running 16 trips total on both Saturday and Sunday. In August 2024, SMART added two additional round trips for a total of 42 trips each weekday. In late May 2025, SMART began running service to Windsor Station. On April 12, 2026 SMART increased service as part of the implementation of the Marin and Sonoma Coordinated Transit Service Plan (MASCOTS), and added three additional weekday round trips and four additional weekend roundtrips for a total of 48 trips each weekday and 24 trips on both Saturday and Sunday.

The tables below present data for August 2025 and 2026 year-over-year.

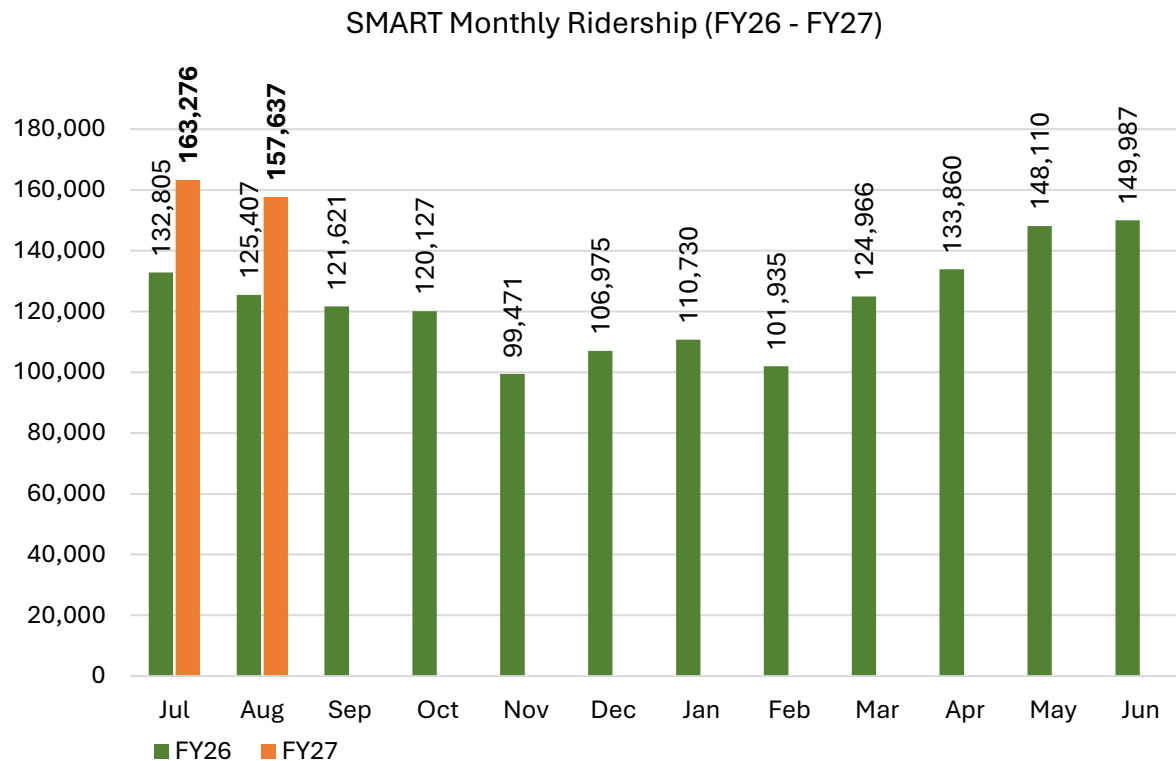
MONTHLY TOTALS YEAR-OVER-YEAR	AUGUST 2025	AUGUST 2026	% Change
Ridership	125,407	157,637	26%
Fare-based Ridership (Clipper + App Only)	62,056	75,247	21%
Average Weekday Ridership	4,710	5,751	22%
Average Saturday Ridership	2,691	4,080	52%
Average Sunday Ridership	2,607	3,294	26%
Bicycles	16,583	20,508	24%
Mobility Devices	429	544	27%

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FISCAL YEAR (Jul - Aug)	Fiscal Year 2026	Fiscal Year 2027	% Change
Ridership	258,212	320,913	24%
Fare-based Ridership (Clipper + App Only)	125,820	150,736	20%
Average Weekday Ridership	4,736	5,657	19%
Average Saturday Ridership	2,917	4,316	48%
Average Sunday Ridership	2,850	3,882	36%
Bicycles	31,642	38,915	23%
Mobility Devices	879	1,014	15%

The following charts compare the average weekday ridership, average weekend ridership, and monthly totals for FY26-FY27.



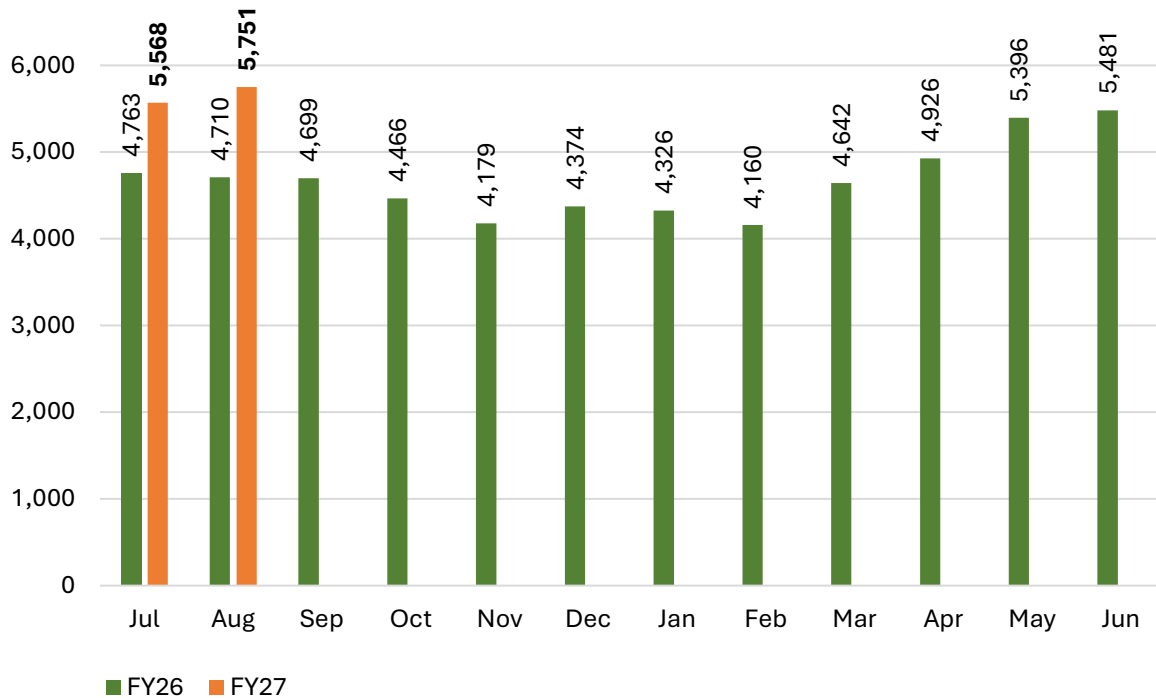
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SMART Ridership Report

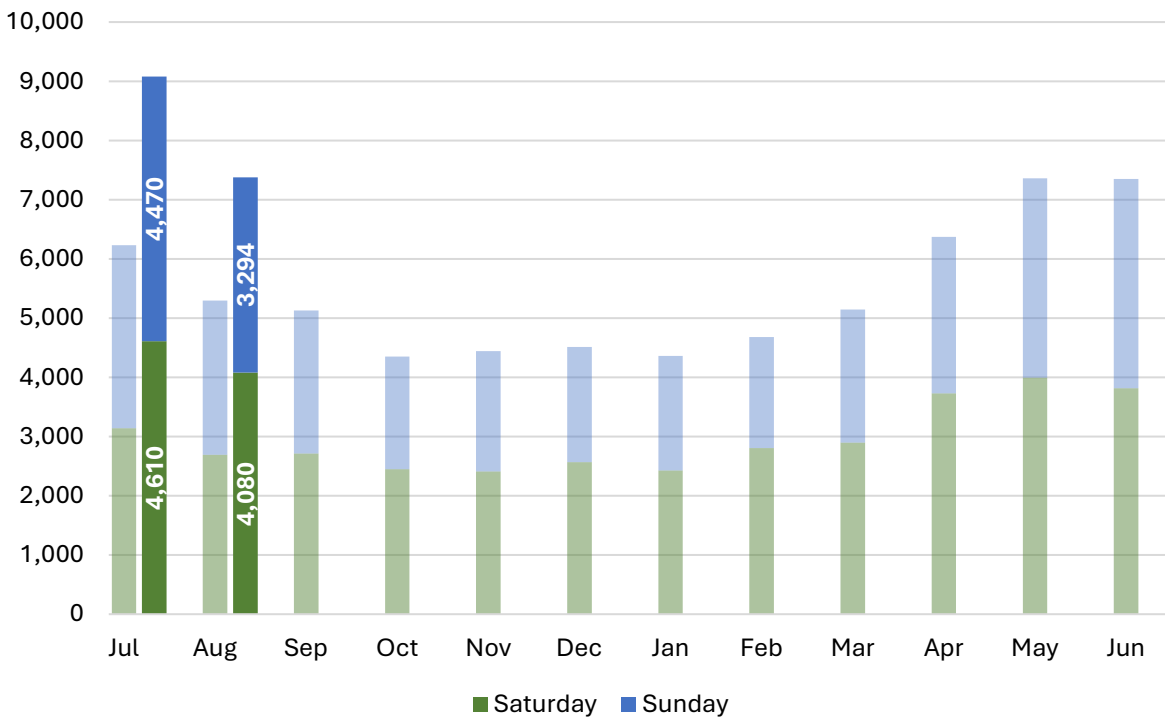
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SMART Average Weekday Ridership (FY26 - FY27)



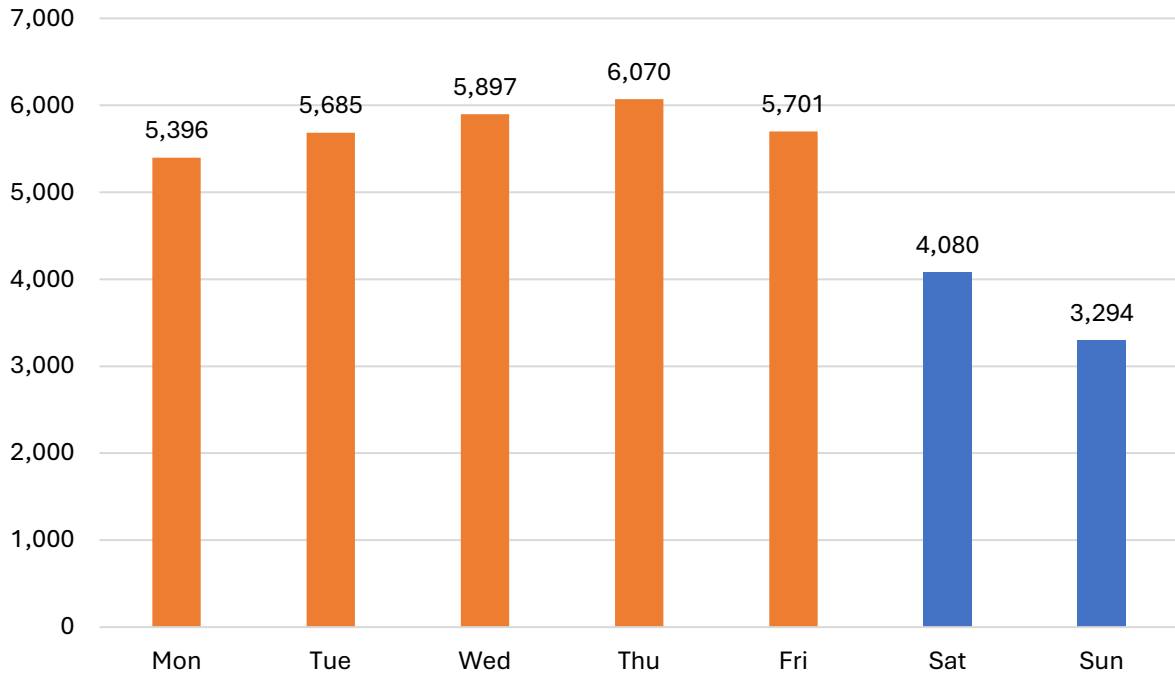
SMART Average Weekend Boardings (FY26 - FY27)



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Average Boardings by Day of the Week (August 2026)



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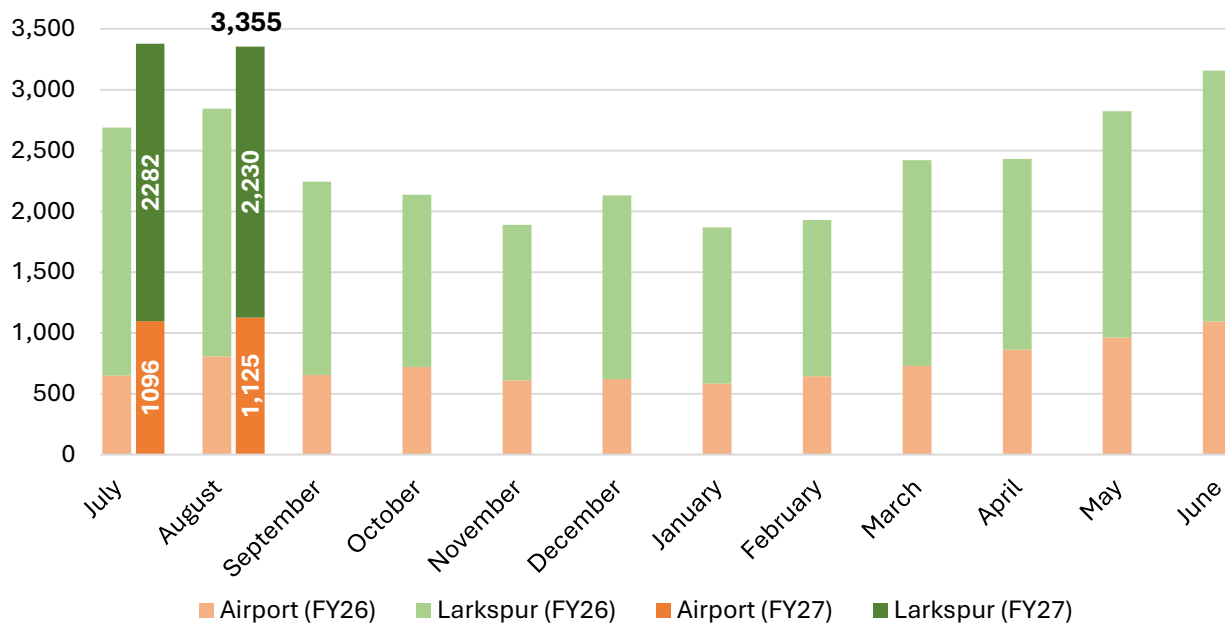
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SMART Connect Program

SMART currently operates two on-demand shuttles, SMART Connect Airport and SMART Connect Larkspur. SMART Connect Airport, launched in June 2023, serves the SMART Sonoma County Airport station, the Charles M. Schultz Sonoma County Airport, and the surrounding area. SMART Connect Larkspur, launched in June 2024, serves the SMART Larkspur station, the Golden Gate Larkspur Ferry Terminal, and the surrounding Larkspur Landing area. The goal of the SMART Connect program is to facilitate first-and-last mile connections from SMART stations through the provision of a reliable on-demand shuttle that SMART riders can use for transit transfers, work and school commutes, and other destinations. SMART Connect uses microtransit software from The Routing Company called Ride Pingo, which allows users to pre-book trips or book a ride on-demand. Riders can also book by phone or walk-on, space available. In April 2025, Connect Shuttle service hours at Larkspur were expanded from 4 to 7 days per week; both shuttle locations now offer daily service.

Total August monthly ridership for the SMART Connect program was 3,355 riders.

SMART Connect Ridership (FY26-FY27)



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SMART Pathway

As of May 2025, SMART has installed 14 counters on the Pathway, with six in Marin County and eight in Sonoma County. The counters differentiate between bicycles and pedestrians, and track data by time of day and day of the week. The counters cannot distinguish between unique users, but based on the estimated average trip length of 3 miles, and the average spacing between counters of 3.7 miles, the counts are considered an accurate estimate of monthly pathway usage. As additional pathway segments are constructed, counters will be placed on those segments to measure pathway usage. To date, count data has shown a fairly even split between pedestrians and bicyclists.

In August 2026, SMART counted 135,012 users on the pathway.

