



**For Immediate Release**

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## **City officials prepare for SMART passenger train to arrive in downtown San Rafael**

Petaluma, CA – Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit (SMART) is partnering with the city of San Rafael to bring a passenger train to the downtown station for the first time in more than 50 years.

San Rafael city officials and members of the SMART Board of Directors are expected to greet SMART's two-car train on Friday, March 4, at noon. The public will have the opportunity to board the train and see what the cars will offer commuters once service officially begins by the end of the year.

"We are incredibly excited to welcome SMART to downtown San Rafael," said Mayor Gary Phillips, who is also a member of SMART's board of directors. "2016 is a big year for SMART and I look forward to celebrating our achievements with the community."

"This is an excellent opportunity for the public to come out and experience what the new train cars are like before SMART's big launch," said SMART Board Chairwoman Judy Arnold. "This will be a great moment for the city of San Rafael and for SMART."

The last regular passenger train in downtown San Rafael made its final run on November 11, 1958, with a special one-time excursion train last visiting the station there in 1962, according to the Northwestern Pacific Railroad Historical Society.

The SMART train and pathway project is 70-mile rail system designed to provide a new regional transportation network that will improve transit options for North Bay residents. The first 43-mile phase, from San Rafael to Santa Rosa, is scheduled to begin service by the end of 2016. For more information on SMART visit [www.SonomaMarinTrain.org](http://www.SonomaMarinTrain.org).

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