

Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit District



General Manager's Report – July 2020

5401 Old Redwood Highway, Suite 200
Petaluma, CA 94954
Tel: (707) 794-3330
Fax: (707) 794-3037
www.SonomaMarinTrain.org

2X daily Cleaning Protocols

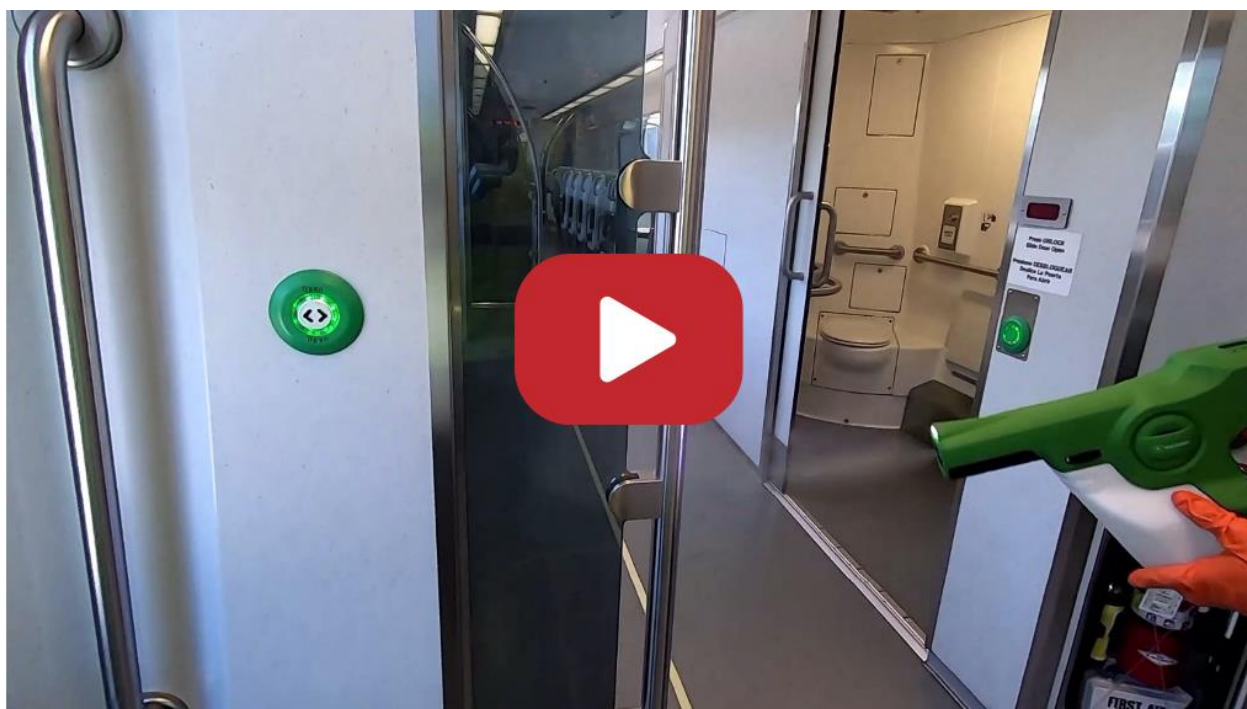


- ✓ wipe down interior surfaces, including seats, seat-back trays, tables, hand rails, windows, and luggage racks
- ✓ trains sanitized with an electrostatic spray
- ✓ refill soap dispensers and service water
- ✓ clean the train restrooms including sanitizing the toilet, sink, mirror, walls and baby changing station
- ✓ sweep, vacuum, and mop interior floors
- ✓ empty all trash and recycle bins
- ✓ hand sanitizer dispensers on all trains



The safety of our passengers and staff is our top priority. We clean our trains twice daily to ensure SMART is a clean and comfortable way to travel in the North Bay. Before each train car is put into service, SMART crews run through a checklist of enhanced cleaning protocols. Additionally, each train car has been equipped with a hand sanitizer dispenser. SMART's operation teams wear masks and gloves at all times. Facial coverings are required on board the train. SMART is proud to keep our community moving, providing essential public transportation in the North Bay.

In addition to the cleaning of the Diesel Multiple Units two (2) times a day by the SMART Vehicle Maintenance Team, SMART also introduced an electrostatic application system which offers another level of surface disinfection on the Diesel Multiple Units. The system applies a disinfectant that is CDC-approved and EPA-registered against COVID-19. The electrostatic application system positively charges droplets of liquid that naturally seek out surfaces with a negative or neutral charge to adhere to. Just like magnets, they are drawn to each other and attach when one surface is more positively charged than the other. Adding another level of disinfection ensures exposed surfaces on the Diesel Multiple Units are frequently and comprehensively disinfected on a daily basis. This new tool is now a permanent addition to SMART's enhanced cleaning protocols.





Join us for a community **LISTENING TOUR**

Help shape the future of SMART

Conducted on Zoom

The SMART Board of Directors is preparing to host a series of Listening Forums across Sonoma and Marin counties to bring community members together to exchange ideas on how to best position SMART for the future. The sessions will be free to attend and hosted via Zoom teleconference, beginning in August. Information on how to attend the Listening Forums will be posted on SMART's website, as well as Facebook and Twitter.

Your participation in these conversations will help shape the future of SMART and will inform the agency's role as an integral part of the region's economy as we recover from the COVID-19 health and economic crisis. We look forward to hearing from you!



COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND MARKETING

Community Outreach | Safety Education and Awareness

Staying Apart Keeps Us Moving

The Communications and Marketing department has been preparing a new social media campaign to highlight the importance of simple steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The “Staying Apart Keeps Us Moving” campaign seeks to demonstrate that there are easy and effective ways to practice safe and healthy habits. Transit agencies across the Bay Area have embraced this messaging, encouraging public transit riders to help create a comfortable and healthy way to travel in the Bay. SMART’s campaign will feature the 3W’s: wear a mask, wash your hands, and watch your distance.

<p>Wear a facial covering</p> 	<p>Wash or sanitize your hands</p> 
	
<p>Watch your distance</p> 	<p>The 3Ws help reduce the risk of COVID-19</p> 

#StayingApartKeepsUsMoving

<p>Mascarilla puesta</p> 	<p>Manos limpias o desinfectadas</p> 
	
<p>Manten tu distancia</p> 	<p>Las 3Ms reducen el riesgo de COVID-19</p> 

#ConDistanciaSeguimosAdelante



Meet Antonio.

Engineer and Conductor

He’s an artist and world traveler from Atlanta.

He wears a facial covering everyday. When you wear yours on the train, you help protect essential workers like Antonio.

#StayingApartKeepsUsMoving

Community Outreach | Construction Updates

SMART is working to bring passenger rail service to the Town of Windsor in 2021. The Communications team provides updates on construction activities for the public across all of our social media channels, the SMART website, and through a dedicated e-newsletter. NextDoor is an important platform that allows us to share information on construction activities happening in specific neighborhoods along the right-of-way. The old track and railroad ties have been removed and new rail, railroad ties, and grade crossing roadway panels are being installed.

To stay up-to-date on construction activities, subscribe to the Windsor Extension Project e-newsletter:

<http://sonomamarintrain.org/Windsor-Extension>



Digital Programs | Social Media

Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit
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Summertime views from the SMART train. We can't wait to welcome all of our riders back on board again! Show us your favorite pictures from your ride using #SMARTtrain.


12,638 People Reached 939 Engagements Boost Post

👍❤️😂 68 33 Comments 7 Shares

SMART shares information and updates with the public across all social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Messaging includes safety information for cyclists, pedestrians, and motorists, construction updates, and instructions on how to attend a Board of Directors meeting via Zoom.

SMART's most popular post on Facebook shared a snapshot from onboard the train, reaching over 12,000 users. Riders can share their pictures and videos using #SMARTtrain.

SMART was voted Best Transportation Agency by readers of the Bohemian and the Pacific Sun in Marin and Sonoma counties. The following ad will run in the next edition of each publication, thanking our communities for their support. The ad also features the 2x daily cleaning protocols performed by our operations staff that keep our trains clean.



THANK YOU

for voting us Best Green Commute!

We are proud to keep the North Bay moving and provide our community with a clean and comfortable essential transit service.

2X daily Cleaning Protocols

- Sonoma County Airport
- Santa Rosa North
- Santa Rosa Downtown
- Rohnert Park
- Cotati
- Petaluma Downtown
- Novato San Marin
- Novato Downtown
- Novato Hamilton
- Marin Civic Center
- San Rafael
- Larkspur

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Media | News Coverage

- July 26, *Marin challenges outlined in long-term regional plan* (Marin Independent Journal)
- July 26, *SMART seeks support for low-income discount program in ticket price review* (The Press Democrat)
- July 25, *Marin Voice: Extensive public outreach informed SMART train budget planning* (Marin Independent Journal)
- July 24, *CA: Marin transit agencies closer to \$31M aid influx* (Mass Transit Magazine)
- July 23, *Petaluma expects affordable housing plan at Corona Station* (Petaluma Argus Courier)
- July 22, *Marin transit agencies closer to \$31M aid influx* (Marin Independent Journal)
- July 15, *SMART makes progress toward 2021 opening of Windsor extension* (The North Bay Business Journal)
- July 14, *Bicyclist killed by SMART train in San Rafael identified* (The Press Democrat)
- July 14, *Man fatally struck by SMART train earlier this month identified* (SF GATE)
- July 14, *Marin coroner ID's bicyclist struck, killed by SMART train* (Marin Independent Journal)
- July 6, *The Bay Area's transit dilemma: too many agencies, not enough riders* (Bloomberg CityLab)
- July 6, *Bicyclist killed by SMART commuter train in San Rafael* (San Francisco Chronicle)
- July 5, *San Rafael man riding bike hit by SMART train dies* (The Press Democrat)
- July 4, *SMART train strikes pedestrian in San Rafael* (KPIX/CBS Channel 5)
- July 4, *Bicyclist struck, killed by SMART train at San Rafael crossing* (Marin Independent Journal)
- July 3, *SMART train strikes pedestrian* (SF GATE)
- July 2, *Editorial: SMART deserves aid, but must find more ways to cut costs* (Mass Transit Magazine)
- July 1, *Marin transit agencies in line for \$77M more in aid* (Marin Independent Journal)
- July 1, *Editorial: SMART deserves aid, but must find more ways to cut costs* (Marin Independent Journal)
- June 30, *Legal ruling could unleash delayed funding for Bay Area transit, road projects* (The Press Democrat)
- June 26, *New SMART station coming to Petaluma* (The Community Voice)
- June 24, *SMART to build east Petaluma station* (Petaluma Argus Courier)
- June 22, *Uber app to host Marin transit options, local discounts* (Marin Independent Journal)

CAPITAL PROJECTS

- Removal of the old track is completed.
- Coordination with the Town of Windsor and County of Sonoma is on-going.
- Design work is on-going.
- Environmental permitting is on-going.
- Tree and stump removal is on-going.
- Removal of old bridge structures has begun.
- Building of drainage structures has begun.
- Rail welding has begun.



Building of Drainage Structures South of Shiloh Road



Chipping Tree Debris



Prepping Rail for Welding



Installing Signal North of Starr Road



Replacing Ties at North End of the Project Between Windsor Road and Starr Road

Multi-Use Pathway Project

Sonoma County Pathway Gap Closure Project:

- South Point Boulevard in Petaluma to Main Street in Penngrove (4.4 miles)
- Golf Course Drive in Rohnert Park to Bellevue Avenue in Santa Rosa (4.5 miles)

GHD Inc. and subcontractors are working on gathering preliminary engineering data for design including environmental, geotechnical, and survey.



Pathway Segment Between South Point and South McDowell Boulevard in Petaluma



Pathway Segment Near Main Street in Penngrove



Biologists Evaluating Environmental Conditions in Petaluma

OPERATIONS

MAINTENANCE OF WAY:

- Staff completed a fence install at the south Abutment of the Corte Madera Bridge.
- Facilities team completed the securing of the house at the Black Point Swing Bridge on the Brazos Jct. Subdivision.
- Signal team supported SMART contractor for the install of the pedestrian gates that were installed at 3rd street in Downtown San Rafael.
- Track and Signal department worked together to replace a falling insulated rail joint leaking voltage north of Redwood Land Fill.
- Signal team completed 6-interviews for the Signal Maintainer open position.
- Track Maintenance completed welding maintenance on the Ignacio Wye on SMART's Mainline Subdivision.
- Facilities team made fence repairs at 7 location along the right of way.
- Track team provided an average of 2 flaggers per day this month for various projects including new 101 freeway overpass in Petaluma, PG&E vegetation projects, MUP path design activities (surveyors, biologists, soil drillers), and county paving projects.
- Signal team installed additional flashing backlights at 10 crossing locations this month to enhance driver visibility of the warning devices.



Fencing along SMART's Right-of-Way



Track Welding

TRANSPORTATION:

SMART Transportation Department Training:

- Currently up-dating Absorb online training for year 2020.
- Engineer training is continuing for one employee; One Engineer was certified as an Engineer on July 22, 2020.
- SMART's Engineers-Conductors finished 17 weeks of the new Revised Train Schedule during the COVID-19 pandemic.

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE:

- Changed out fly wheels on Diesel Multiple Units 101, 106, 112 and 113 due to a defect found on each fly wheel. This involves jacking each Diesel Multiple Unit and removing the engine.
- Changed out fire suppression extinguisher's on Diesel Multiple Unit 111.
- Performed mid-year maintenance on 1 Diesel Multiple Unit.
- Performed 500-hour oil change on 6 Diesel Multiple Units.
- Automatic Train Control maintenance performed on 13 Diesel Multiple Units. This maintenance keeps us compliant with Federal Regulatory Association regulations in regards to positive train control.
- Replaced the master controller on Diesel Multiple Unit 111. After further inspection it was determined the full power percentage was at the lower limit which caused the master controller to respond slowly.



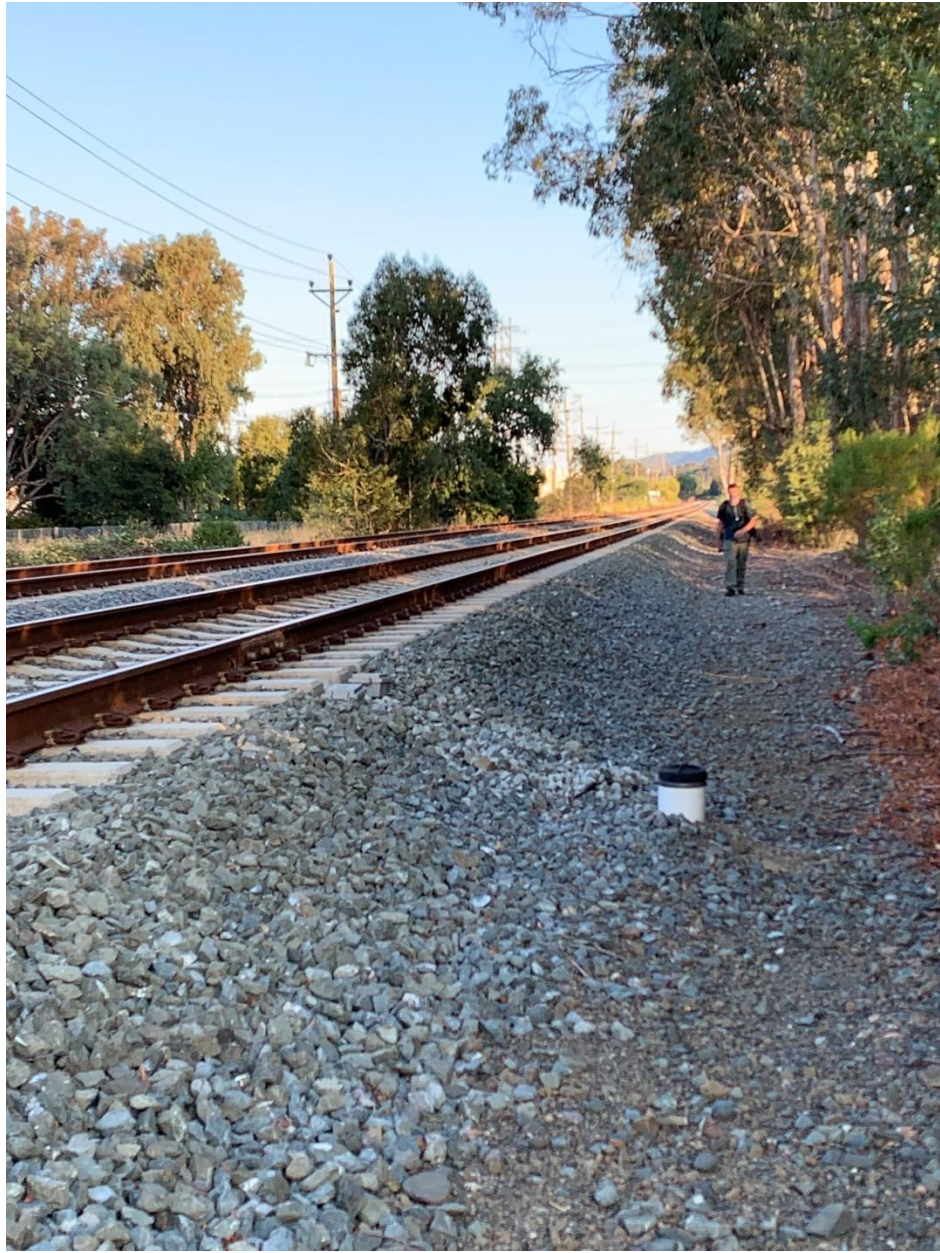
SAFETY AND SECURITY



Trespasser at Downtown Santa Rosa Station



Trespasser at Riverbend Road, Petaluma



Trespasser walking near tracks at Ignacio Pedestrian Crossing in Novato



Trespasser at Roblar Drive, Novato



Trespasser walking near tracks at San Rafael Downtown



Trespasser walking near tracks at East Railroad in Petaluma



Trespasser near Santa Rosa Downtown



Trespassers near tracks at Hearn Avenue



Vandalism in Larkspur (sticker over trespassing sign)

REAL ESTATE

Private Crossings

A property owner on the Brazos Branch, that is immediately adjacent to the tracks, requested a private crossing agreement which was sent to the owner. Staff has responded to their comments and is waiting for the owner to respond.

Property Acquisitions (in process)

Downtown Petaluma Station Property: Staff is continuing to work with the developer finalizing a fiber optics easement with Union Pacific Railroad. Staff is waiting for Union Pacific to respond. Staff is continuing to work with the proposed buyer and City of Petaluma staff by giving them access to property for their work.

Windsor Extension Project: Staff is continuing to research property rights that were granted to third parties on or along the new extension. Staff is working to remove any encroachments on SMART property. Staff is working with the various utilities along the extension on a variety of property issues.

North Coast Rail Authority (NCRA): Staff is continuing research on the real property assets that will be transferred if the agreement is approved by all the authorizing agencies.

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 address a variety of requests from adjacent property owners, such as, removal of dead trees, vegetation removal, trash, abandoned vehicles, boarding up the old bridge tenders house on the Brazos Branch and research of location where telecommunications companies are crossing SMART property.

Special Event Requests

Waves to Wine Bike Ride- National Multiple Sclerosis Society- September 12-13, 2020

Right of Entry Permits Issued

PG&E- Vegetation Maintenance Yearly Renewal Permit- New Process for entire Right of Way

ATT- 8th Landing Way, Petaluma

Keely Kyne- Retaining Wall Replacement- Novato

City of Novato- Grant Avenue Pavement work- Novato

County of Sonoma- Pavement work on Old Adobe Rd.- Penngrove

County of Sonoma- Pavement work on Todd Rd.- Santa Rosa

GHD/Crawford & Associates- Boring work for SMART MUP

GHD/WRA, Inc.- Wetlands Mapping and tree survey work for SMART MUP

GHD/Stantec- Botanical and Wildlife survey for SMART MUP

GHD/Cinquini & Passarino Inc. Land survey work for SMART MUP



Staff is continuing working on issuing Right Of Entry Permits/License with:

Buckler Family Vineyards LLC – Adobe Road Winery utility connection – Petaluma
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
PG&E- Electrical Pole Replacement- Bell Road-Windsor
PG&E- New Electrical installation on Windsor Road- Windsor
PG&E- New regulator and vault installation on Fulton Road- Fulton
Sonoma Land Trust- Erosion Control and Dirt hauling on Brazos branch- Sonoma
Ghilotti Construction Company- Pavement Overlay project on River Road- Fulton
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.

On-Going Property Management Activities:

Records research for all road and track intersection – 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.
Work with Accounting to get any past due Lessee’s accounts up to date.
Finalized Right of Entry process with Accounting and Operations
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 Payran Pathway – sewer line ownership questions
Research of records for Healdsburg Station – environmental records researched
Research of records for sidewalk at Santa Rosa Downtown Station.
Working on access protocols with Sonoma County Water Agency.
Staff is continuing to work with Pacific Gas & Electric Company to refine access issues.
Refinement of maintenance and insurance issues.
Research of title issues regarding property rights.
Consulting with Engineering on costs.
Consulting with Permitting Agencies on mitigation issues.
Continue to handle property management issues from adjacent landowners.
Continue to support construction by doing property research for discovered property issues.
Research on title issues to clarify property ownerships and survey as necessary.
Continue working with property owners to remove encroachments.
Continue to define property ownership issues.
Title reports ordered and being reviewed.
Meetings held with private property owners.
Field work visiting SMART owned properties.

HUMAN RESOURCE

RECRUITMENT:

The District interviewed six candidates for Signal Technician. Three candidates have been selected for further screening.

HIRES:

The District has not hired any new staff in this month.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Human Resources staff completed a successful Federal Railroad Administration audit of SMART's 49 CFR Part 219 Drug and Alcohol Program. SMART passed the audit with no violations and were commended by the auditor on their knowledge of the program and the Part 219 regulations.

GRANTS, LEGISLATION, PLANNING AND REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

GRANT ACTIVITIES

Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act: The Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) provides funding to public transit agencies to support operations retro-active to January 20, 2020. SMART received a first grant on May 18 totaling \$10,375,471 from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), as concurred to by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC).

A second programming of CARES Act funding has been approved by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and is in the process of being awarded a grant from the FTA to SMART for \$4,577,061. The total CARES Act FTA Section 5307 funding received by SMART is \$14,952,532, which is over \$1.6 million less than budgeted.

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 171 different notices, with 106 notices by July 2019. To date in 2020, SMART has received and reviewed **76** different notices.

Santa Rosa Downtown Station Area Specific Plan (DSASP): The City of Santa Rosa has been working on updating the DSASP in order to explore options for addressing the community's unmet housing needs as well as land use, transportation, economic development and historic preservation issues associated with the intensification of housing development downtown. The Draft Specific Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report was released for public viewing on Wednesday July 15, 2020 and staff attended an open house to receive a presentation on the DSASP.

SYSTEM ACCESS PLANNING ACTIVITIES

Bike Share: The Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA) and Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) are implementing a Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)-funded bike share system in close proximity to the SMART stations as a First/Last-Mile access solution. SCTA & TAM have selected Gotcha Mobility as the operator of the Bike Share Pilot Program. The pilot program will roll-out 300 GPS-enabled electric bicycles for three years centered around SMART stations. The Bicycle Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), which is comprised of representatives from each jurisdiction along the SMART line, including SMART, met remotely on Wednesday July 22, 2020. Due to COVID-19, the program implementation timeline has been impacted by community outreach and manufacturing limitations. Additional program modifications regarding COVID related protocols are under development and will be discussed in future TAC meetings.

Clipper START Program: In 2015 MTC launched a study to determine if a transit fare program based on household income would be feasible and effective. SMART has been participating in the MTC-hosted Clipper START Program, with monthly meetings and a recent launch of a Clipper-based means-based fare 18-month pilot program on selected regional transit operators, which include BART, SFMTA, Caltrain & Golden Gate Bus and Ferry. Information on the program and how to enroll can be found here: <https://www.clipperstartcard.com/s/>

At the February 5, 2020 meeting, SMART Board unanimously approved Resolution Number 2020-05 which authorized SMART's formal request to participate in the regional Clipper START Low Income Fare Program. MTC recently announced they are now able to accept new operators into the pilot program using \$5.1 million of CARES Act regional funds to help offset up to 10% of lost fares. SMART is working with MTC to join the program by November 2020.

Regional Transit Mapping and Wayfinding Project: Workshop #2 "Tiers Development": MTC's Regional Transit Mapping & Wayfinding project aims to make it easier to navigate and explore the Bay Area using public transit and connecting services. The project is currently in Phase 2, which consists of system concept and business cases. SMART staff participated in the first meeting of Phase 2 on Wednesday July 1, 2020.

Transit Coordination Meetings:

- **July 1, 2020** - Staff participated in the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) monthly **Transit Finance Working Group** meeting. Discussions included legislative updates, funding notices, Transportation Improvement Program update, Cap and Trade Update, FY17-FY20 Transit Capital Priorities Programming update, California Air Resources Board Innovative Clean Transit Regulation Update, Transit Capital Program update, and COVID-19 response.
- **July 8, 2020** – Staff participated in Sonoma County Transportation Authority's monthly **Transit Technical Advisory Committee** meeting. Discussions included transit operator updates, regional funding updates, and Bay Area Transit Safety & Health Plan.
- **July 20, 2020** – Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force Meeting #4 – Staff attended the fourth Regional Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force meeting on July 20. The Task Force is assembled by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Task Force's agenda includes Near-term Transit Recovery Strategies post COVID-19 and other topics as determined by the Task Force.
- **July 1, July 8, July 15, July 22, July 28** – Bay Area Transit Operator coordination meetings. SMART staff met with the Bay Area's smaller transit operators, defined as any except the seven largest, weekly to coordinate comments and activities associated with COVID-19 response and presentation preparation requested by the MTC Blue Ribbon Task Force.
- June 23, 2020 - **Transit Recovery and Resiliency Workshop #2** – Staff participated in the second SPUR-hosted workshop on Tuesday June 23rd, brainstorming how Bay Area transit operators can successfully recover from the current COVID-19 crises.
- **COVID-19 Transit Coordination Phone Calls** – Staff is calling into biweekly phone meetings with Sonoma County Transit, Santa Rosa City Bus, Petaluma Transit, and Golden Gate Transit to discuss how transit services are being affected by COVID-19.