

## B SMART and B the Change!

Phase I – 10 stations – 43 miles

- Santa Rosa (Airport Blvd., Guerneville Rd. & Railroad Square)
- Rohnert Park (Rohnert Park Expressway), Cotati (East Cotati Ave.),
- Petaluma (Downtown), Novato (San Marin/Atherton & Hamilton), and
- San Rafael (Marin Civic Center & Downtown)

The Train is A-Comin'! You've probably heard whistles blowing during system-wide testing as Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) gears up, full-steam ahead (or rather, via clean diesel), to begin service between San Rafael and Santa Rosa by late spring/early summer 2017. Proposed for completion by 2018, Phase II will include "rail with trail" service connecting a multi-use pathway system to the train, servicing a 70-mile corridor between Larkspur and Cloverdale. *"The vast majority of North Bay commuters on Highway 101 are going to jobs in Marin and Sonoma Counties, and the number of commuters to San Francisco is shrinking. The Metropolitan Transportation Commission projects 130,000 new jobs along the Highway 101 corridor in Marin and Sonoma between 2000 and 2025 – none of which will require a North Bay commuter to cross the Golden Gate Bridge."* <http://main.sonomamarintrain.org/>

The advantages of commuting by train far outweigh the disadvantages. In preparation for SMART, you can begin to make changes in your daily routine now. Make a plan – 1x a week, 3x a week, perhaps every day. **WHY?**

(1) **Good for the Planet** – It's the right thing to do. SMART's clean-diesel trains are highly energy efficient. *"According to the project's Environmental Impact Report, SMART will prevent at least 30 million pounds of GHGs from entering our atmosphere each year by removing 5,300 car trips daily from North Bay roads. But that hardly begins to describe the potential environmental benefits of SMART. The greenhouse gas savings figure doesn't include an estimated 7,000 to 10,000 trips each day on SMART's parallel 70-mile bicycle-pedestrian trail. Nor does it calculate the environmental benefits of helping to change the transportation paradigm of the North Bay by creating the north-south backbone of an interconnected transit system that can transform the way people move around Marin and Sonoma Counties in the future."* <http://main.sonomamarintrain.org/>

(2) **Efficient, Reliable, Convenient + Safe** – During peak commuter hours, trains will run every 30 minutes in both directions and travel at a top speed of 79 mph. Car-free means no more trips to the gas station, sitting in gridlock traffic, searching and paying for parking. *"Stations in the core areas of the three largest cities in the North Bay – Santa Rosa, Petaluma and San Rafael – are being designed with no park and ride facilities, helping create more walkable downtowns and allowing bus and feeder services to further enhance congestion mitigation efforts."* <http://main.sonomamarintrain.org/>

The Marin Emergency Ride Home (ERH) Program provides a free ride home in cases of emergency for employees who use alternative transportation, such as carpooling, vanpooling, public transit, bicycling, and walking. All Marin businesses are eligible to participate in this free program - [Transportation Authority of Marin Emergency Ride Home Program Fact Sheet](#).

(3) **Cost + Tax Benefits** – Your employer may have a program for tax benefits up to \$255 per month, or offer other benefits such as subsidies or transit vouchers. Check with your HR department to find out.

Businesses can purchase large quantities of tickets and pass discounts on to their employees. Students and Veterans will be given larger discounts - [SMART Fare Fact Sheet](#). Transit passes will be available through ClipperCard.com and can be used throughout the Bay Area.

If you are an employer with 50 or more employees, The Bay Area Commuter Benefits Program gives you the flexibility to offer one or more commuter benefit options. Learn more from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission website - [Commuter Benefits Program Fact Sheet](#) and register with [511.org Employer Registration](#).

(4) **Good for You!** - Catch up with friends or make some new ones because it's the place to be! Enjoy un-interrupted tech (with free Wi-Fi) by clearing your email inbox; reading your on-line newspaper and magazine subscriptions; listening to music, a podcast, a book; or learning a new language. De-stress: power down, turn off technology, close your eyes, breathe, and relax. Daydream (how will you use that new language you've mastered?). Catch some Zzzzs.

#### **Useful Websites and Links**

##### [Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit \(SMART\) Home Page](#)

- Make Safety and Information Materials available to your employees. Visit <http://www.BeTrackSMART.org> to connect to SMART's rail safety resources, schedule a FREE rail safety presentation and take the rail safety quiz.
- [SMART Fare Fact Sheet](#)
- Stay informed and get involved [SMART e-newsletter](#)
- Request information about construction in your neighborhood by calling this toll free Project Information line: (855) 312-7444

##### [Transportation Authority of Marin \(TAM\)](#)

- [TAM - Emergency Ride Home \(ERH\) Program](#)

##### [Metropolitan Transportation Commission \(MTC\)](#)

##### [511.org](#)

##### [Clipper Card - Clipper Home](#)

**What are *your* biggest obstacles and what are you looking forward to by taking the SMART train? Tell Us What YOU Think**