

Council-Supported SMART Train in N. Bay Speeds to Nov. Ballot

This week, the Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit - or SMART train - got a serious head of steam as it rolls to the November ballot in Marin and Sonoma when two competing measures were yanked from the ballot. Recent polling results peg support in the two-county district at 77%. It needs 66.6% to pass, and lost a squeaker two years ago when it garnered 65.3% on Election Day. This November's ballot will ask voters to raise the sales tax a quarter of one-percent to build and operate the train. The measure faced a challenge from two competing tax measures in Sonoma and Marin, yet in a magnanimous act, supervisors in Marin and city council members in Santa Rosa refused to place the competitors on the ballot, clearing the way for SMART.



SMART is a North Bay passenger train service proposal with a companion bicycle/pedestrian pathway paralleling Highway 101 from Cloverdale to Larkspur. The proposal calls for two-way passenger train service every 30 minutes during weekday rush hours, with weekend service, and connections to established bus and ferry service along its north-south rail line. The Marin-Sonoma Highway 101 corridor is the 4th most congested corridor in the Bay Area and SMART will remove more than 1.4 million car trips from Highway 101 each year. It will run on environmentally friendly, efficient onboard engines and odorless clean fuel cutting Marin and Sonoma's carbon dioxide emissions an estimated 120,000 pounds per day. It is considered fiscally responsible and cost-effective because the rail right-of-way is already publicly owned, an asset valued at more than \$1 billion.



The Bay Area Council is pleased to be serving on the Executive Committee of the campaign run by our partner, the North Bay Council. Our PAC has contributed \$10,000 to the campaign and countless hours and "soft" contributions to the effort. We encourage our members to contribute to the campaign at www.smartrain2008.org.

Article of the Week

Dean of the Capitol press corp. [Dan Walters explores](#) Californian's sudden support for offshore oil drilling.

Quote of the Week

"There is only one way to stop the apologies, stop the press releases, stop the hearings, stop the stopgap measures. Finish the budget." - [SF Chronicle Editorial](#)

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