

From: [Joanne Parker](#)
To: [Plan BayArea Info](#); [Andrew Fremier](#)
Cc: [Eddy Cumins](#)
Subject: SMART - Amendment Support Letter
Date: Monday, September 9, 2024 1:13:20 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[SMART_PBA2050Amendment_September2024_Support.pdf](#)

You don't often get email from jparker@sonomamarintrain.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

External Email

Andy,

On behalf of Eddy, please find PBA2050 Amendment support letter attached.

Thank you,

Joanne Parker

Grants & Legislative Affairs Manager
Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit District
5401 Old Redwood Highway, Suite 200
Petaluma, CA 94954
Main: 707-794-3330
Fax: 707-794-3037

www.sonomamarintrain.org



CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This message, together with any attachments, is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to whom it is addressed and may contain information that is confidential and/or privileged and prohibited from disclosure. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, or copying of this message, or any attachment, is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please notify the original sender immediately by telephone or by return e-mail and delete this message along with any attachments.



Eric Lucan, Chair
Marin County Board of Supervisors

Melanie Bagby, Vice Chair
Sonoma County Mayors' and
Councilmembers Association

Kate Colin
Transportation Authority of Marin

Chris Coursey
Sonoma County Board of Supervisors

Rachel Farac
Transportation Authority of Marin

Debora Fudge
Sonoma County Mayors' and
Councilmembers Association

Patty Garbarino
Golden Gate Bridge,
Highway/Transportation District

Barbara Pahre
Golden Gate Bridge,
Highway/Transportation District

Gabe Paulson
Marin County Council of Mayors and
Councilmembers

David Rabbitt
Sonoma County Board of Supervisors

Chris Rogers
Sonoma County Mayors' and
Councilmembers Association

Mary Sackett
Marin County Board of Supervisors

Eddy Cumins
General Manager

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

September 9, 2024

Andrew Fremier, Executive Director
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Bay Area Metro Center
375 Beale Street, Suite 800
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: Plan Bay Area 2050 Amendment - Support

Dear Mr. Fremier,

On behalf of the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit District (SMART) and the communities we serve, I am writing to express support for the pending Plan Bay Area amendment for the SMART expansion connecting Healdsburg to the SMART Rail and Pathway network.

SMART is experiencing ridership higher than ever before, currently 30% higher than pre-pandemic. We have implemented multiple changes to adapt to the new post-pandemic travel patterns, including increased weekday and weekend frequency, improved first and last mile solutions, and free fares for youth and seniors. Additionally, SMART is well known for clean and safe trains with an impressive 96% on-time performance rate. This combination of improvements and sustained performance has enabled SMART to have the highest ridership recovery rate in the Bay Area and the second highest among Commuter Rail agencies in the country.

In the past few months, SMART has broken all-time records for monthly ridership, weekday ridership, weekend ridership, bicycles carried onboard, and monthly passenger miles travelled. SMART has strong bi-directional commute patterns and trip origins and destinations spread throughout the corridor; post-pandemic, demand has grown rapidly for off-peak and weekend travel, with midday train loads rivaling commute hours during the summer months. Youth and senior ridership of SMART has soared in recent months, estimated to make up nearly half of SMART's daily ridership, mirroring the demographic of the counties.

Thanks to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) for conducting a regional onboard transit survey, including on the SMART system, during the period of September 2023 through February 2024. Results from that survey show a third (32%) of SMART riders responding earn less than \$60,000 in household income annually and over half of riders (54%) earn less than \$100,000 annually.

SMART is actively expanding the rail and path system today. The Petaluma North infill station started construction in November 2023 and will be open for revenue service at the end of 2024. The Windsor rail and pathway (3.1-mile) extension re-started construction in November 2023 and will be open for service in late Spring 2025. Over 9-miles of SMART Pathway/Great Redwood Trail segments are currently under construction and anticipated to open around the end of 2024, bringing the total completed pathway to 38-miles. Many of these pathway segments cross significant barriers and safely connect communities across our corridor where no pedestrian/bike path of travel currently exists. Thank you to MTC, which has been a strong partner in funding these critical pathway projects, including regional Active Transportation Program and One Bay Area (Quick Strike) grant funds.

We hear every day from our constituents onboard the trains and in each of our communities about the regional significance of the SMART system. In addition to providing a climate friendly transportation option, the SMART system provides access to opportunity, supports economic development, and extends the reach for businesses seeking employees. Amending the Healdsburg extension into Plan Bay Area 2050 will enable SMART to compete for funds and ultimately construct this critical segment further strengthening the SMART system.

Thank you for this consideration of amending Plan Bay Area 2050 so that the region and the North Bay can have a healthier transportation future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eddy Cumins', written in a cursive style.

Eddy Cumins
General Manager

C: SMART Board of Directors