

SMART Pathway

Airport Boulevard to Guerneville Road (Sonoma County) and
Puerto Suello Hill to North San Pedro Road (Marin County)



**BAY AREA TRAILS
COLLABORATIVE**

PROJECT OVERVIEW

When complete, the Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit (SMART) Pathway will connect bicyclists and pedestrians to jobs, schools, transit hubs, housing and other destinations via a 70-mile multiuse trail alongside the SMART commuter rail system in Sonoma and Marin counties. Thus far, 24 miles of the pathway have been developed (15.6 of which comprise a separated bicycle and walking path), and 23 miles are either planned or funded, and soon to be constructed.¹ This project profile highlights two of the most important gaps along the pathway: Airport Boulevard to Guerneville Road in Sonoma County; and Puerto Suello Hill to North San Pedro Road in Marin County. Filling these gaps will result in increased connectivity throughout the region.

Marin County Segment: When paired with an additional already funded pathway segment, the Marin County segment will create an unbroken pathway between the City of Larkspur and the Gallinas Creek watershed and Hamilton Wetlands—comprising some of the county's premier outdoor recreational space. It will also connect northern San Rafael's disadvantaged communities with the city's downtown core.

Sonoma County Segment: The Sonoma County segment will connect to the existing pathway at Guerneville Road, resulting in a 6-mile-long continuous pathway from downtown Santa Rosa to Northern Santa Rosa at Airport Boulevard, creating new car-free connections to thousands of jobs for underserved neighborhoods in the area. The segment will also connect priority development areas (PDAs) at two SMART Stations to key destinations, including the Sonoma County Airport, Sonoma County Children's Museum, Charles M. Schultz Museum, Kashia Tribe Service Office and Sonoma County Veterans Service Office.

The SMART Pathway is one of 13 projects that the Bay Area Trails Collaborative has prioritized as critical to completing its 2,500-miles-plus regional trail network. The Bay Area Trails Collaborative is a Rails-to-Trails Conservancy TrailNation™ project—a nationwide initiative to create model trail networks that demonstrate the powerful impact trails have on communities.

TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT

Connecting Communities: The SMART Pathway priority project segments in Santa Rosa (population 179,000) and San Rafael (population 59,000) not only link equity priority communities on the outskirts of town to their city centers, but also connect these communities to the SMART commuter rail system. In both Santa Rosa and San Rafael, the Latino population is almost 30% and the poverty rate is over 10%.²

Reducing Congestion and Air Pollution: Traffic congestion along the U.S. Route 101 corridor has increased dramatically in the last decade. U.S. 101 is one of the most congested



Rendering of proposed trail along SMART train right-of-way | Courtesy Sonoma-Marín Area Rapid Transit (SMART)

freeways in the Bay Area; three of its North Bay segments made the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's "Top 50 Congested Locations, 2017—Ordered by Rank."³ Increasing active transportation in Santa Rosa and San Rafael will reduce traffic congestion and air pollution along the U.S. 101 corridor by providing a safe and enjoyable alternative to driving.

Access to Open Space: In Sonoma County, the outdoor recreation sector contributes \$731 million annually to the local economy, and provides residents and visitors access to the region's beautiful and diverse landscapes.⁴ Similarly, in 2019, Marin County saw between 12 million and 14 million visitors, contributing \$780 million in visitor spending.⁵ Completing the SMART Pathway would improve regional connections to key outdoor spaces, which would serve to strengthen both the outdoor recreation industry and the local economy.

Project Data

- **Total Project Miles:** 70 (54 miles planned, 16 miles of upgrades planned)
- **Miles Completed to Date:** 24 (15.6 miles comprise a separated bicycle and walking path)
- **Miles Planned/Funded:** 23
- **Total Project Cost:** \$100+ million to date (SMART estimate)
- **Total Miles in These Segments:** 4.6 (Sonoma segment), 0.5 (Marin segment)
- **Total Costs for These Segments:** \$3.1 million to \$5.5 million (Marin segment), \$5.7 million (Sonoma segment; construction only, design and permits additional)
- **Funds Secured for These Segments:** \$12.5 million from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission

PROJECT ACTION PLAN

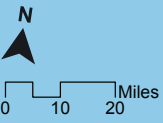
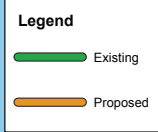
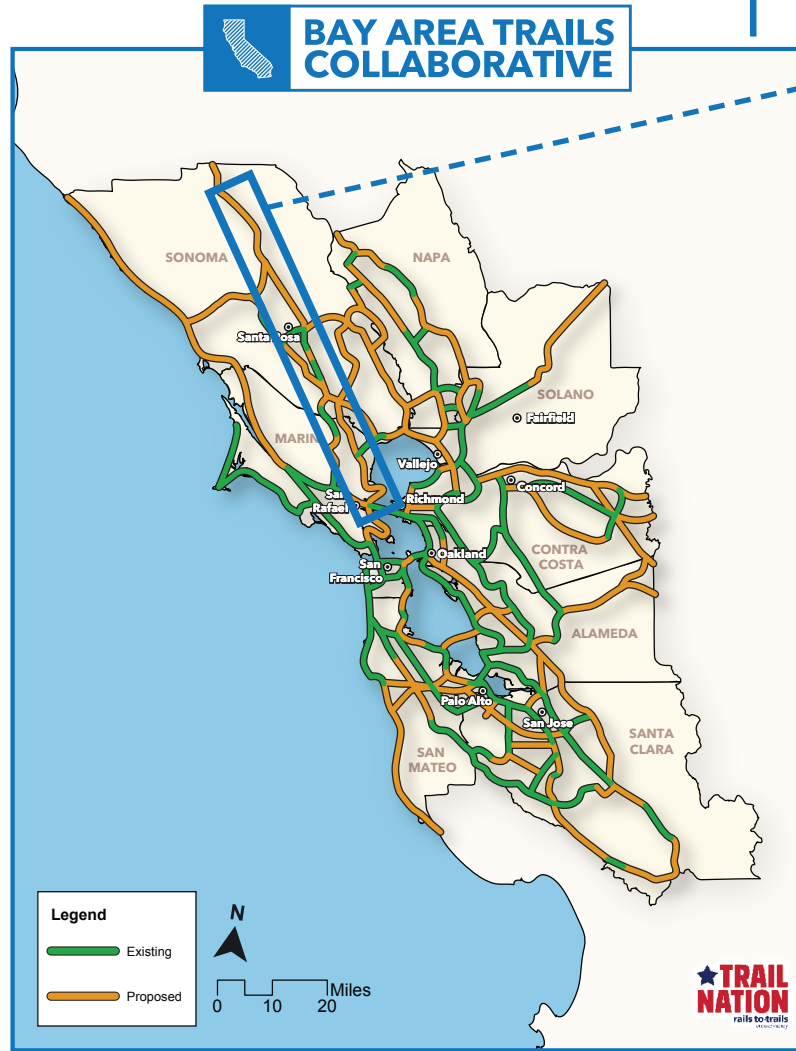
In April of 2021, SMART and the City of San Rafael jointly funded a feasibility study for the Marin County trail segment. In December 2021, the draft of the study was released for comment. Once finalized, SMART and the City of San Rafael will evaluate next steps for permitting, design and eventually construction.

A contract for the design and engineering of the Sonoma County segment was approved by the SMART Board in February 2022 as part of a contract for seven pathway segments. The goal is to make the project "shovel ready" for construction funding. The scope of the contract work includes Project Management, Engineering Design, Environmental Studies and Permitting, Surveys and Mapping, Utility Coordination, Right-of-Way Phase and Determination and Coordination with Adjacent Properties.

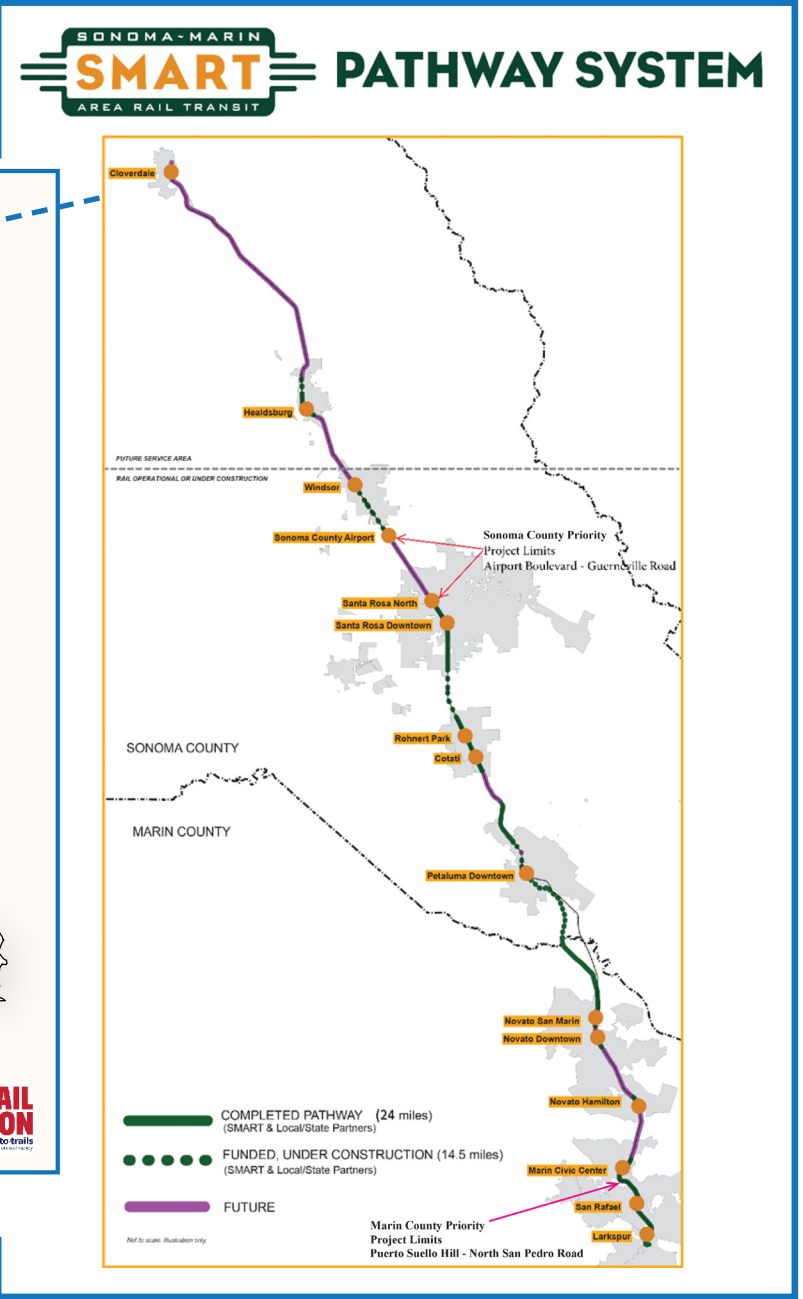
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PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS



Explore the map at: railstotrails.org/bayareamap
 Learn more about the Bay Area Trails Collaborative at: railstotrails.org/batc



- "SMART Pathway Connecting Stations," Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit, April 2021, https://sonomamarintrain.org/sites/default/files/Board/COC%20Documents/09_Pathway%20Segments%20April%202021%20Table.pdf.
- "Santa Rosa, CA," Data USA, last modified February 10, 2022, <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/santa-rosa-ca>; "San Rafael, CA," Data USA, last modified February 10, 2022, <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/san-rafael-ca>.
- "Top 50 Congested Locations, 2017—Ordered by Rank," Metropolitan Transportation Commission, last modified 2017, https://mtc.ca.gov/sites/default/files/top_50_congestion_locations-2017.pdf.
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- "2020 Annual Report," Marin Convention and Visitors Bureau, 2020, <https://indd.adobe.com/view/c5546afa-bb13-4fab-90ad-83a2f6feb275>.