

FACTSHEET



SMART Healdsburg Extension

Nominating Agencies: California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission; Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit District (SMART) will be the implementing agency

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Project Location:

The SMART rail service is in Marin and Sonoma counties in the northwestern San Francisco Bay Area, parallel to US 101. In Sonoma County, the **SMART Healdsburg Extension Project** (Project) will extend rail and pathway to Healdsburg, a city and international tourist destination 15 miles north of Santa Rosa and 70 miles north of San Francisco.

Project Scope:

The Project will include 5.5-miles of Class IV mainline track between Windsor and Healdsburg and a 5.5-mile extension of the active transportation SMART Pathway (also known as the Great Redwood Trail). The Project will also include a new station with amenities, six bridges, including the Russian River Rail Bridge, freight accommodating infrastructure such as spurs and station gauntlet tracks, upgrades to SMART’s dispatch system and rail operations center, and new broadband capacity. It will also include 14 at-grade crossings, federally mandated Positive Train Control rail safety systems, and Zero Emissions (ZE) Battery Electric switcher locomotive.



Figure 1 – Project Map. SMART Passenger Rail and SMART Pathway in the northwestern San Francisco Bay Area

Project Cost:

Total Project Cost	Total SCCP Request
\$192 million	\$62 million

Project Schedule:

Project Approval & Environmental Document	Ready to List (Contract Award)	Design within Progressive Design-Build *	Right-of-Way	Construction
July 2008	March 2026	Jan. 2025-March 2026	March 2021	April 2026

* Project is using an innovative Progressive Design-Build process where Contract Award occurs before Design to improve deliverability

Project Benefits:

SMART is one of the few transit agencies across the nation to see ridership not only return to pre-COVID-19 (Pandemic) levels, but surpass them.

[As of September 2023, overall transit ridership in the United States has only recovered to 74% of pre-Pandemic levels.](#)

SMART's impressive ridership trend, shown in Figure 2 at right, demonstrates the demand for high quality transit in the northern-Bay Area. The Project will provide an extension of a high-quality transit option and improve multimodal connectivity and

active transportation accessibility **to address extensive congestion on US 101**, reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and associated greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Additional benefits include the support of transit oriented and affordable housing developments, the extended tracks which allow for freight rail service which supports economic development, and increased transit options for the community and high number of tourists traveling to the region.

Air Quality

The rail-only portion of the Project between Windsor and Healdsburg is conservatively** estimated to see a **20-year total GHG reduction of 193,717 metric tons of Carbon Dioxide and 93,684 daily VMT.**

**These benefits do not include the ZE Battery Electric switcher locomotive or active transportation SMART Pathway extension, both which will provide additional air quality improvements.

Equity

The Project will facilitate access to healthcare by providing people with increased connections to basic care, general hospitals, and specialty care in more centralized locations like Santa Rosa. The provider for Covered California, California's subsidized health care insurance plan, is Kaiser Permanente in Santa Rosa. The Project will allow those in Healdsburg a car-free way to reach care. Tracts around Healdsburg are Disadvantaged in areas including Climate & Disaster Risk Burden, Environmental Burden, and Transportation Insecurity; this Project improves all areas.

Outcomes and Other Benefits

The Project provides the catalyst and cornerstone for Healdsburg to have a transit-oriented development (TOD) with high quality transit in the downtown district. A TOD can improve the quality of life for the community by creating a vibrant city center with more affordable housing, job opportunities, and health care access. Preserving the rural environment is a top priority for Marin and Sonoma County residents and SMART enables communities to focus housing development around transit nodes.

Sonoma County tourism annually generates \$2.3 billion in travel spending from 10.3 million visitors, 46% staying overnight. Despite having only 11,518 residents, Healdsburg has an outsized impact on the region, being one of the **top 10 trip generating areas** in Sonoma County. Extending SMART service to Healdsburg will support local and regional economic health, while minimizing transportation environmental impacts.

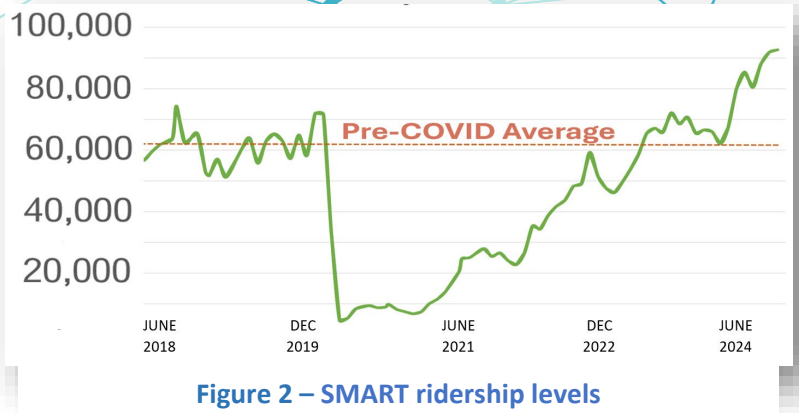


Figure 2 – SMART ridership levels