

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Programming and Allocations Committee**

December 10, 2025

Agenda Item 2b-25-1489

MTC Resolution No. 4710, Revised

Subject:

The proposed action allocates \$3.1 million in FY2025-26 State Transit Assistance (STA) funds to Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) to support transit operations and capital projects in the region.

Background:

This month's proposed actions continue the annual allocation process of these funds for FY2025-26. SMART is requesting STA allocations this month that exceed the \$1 million Delegated Authority limit. Allocation requests that are less than \$1 million are approved separately through the Executive Director's Delegated Authority process. These funds comprise a significant share of the revenue for agencies' operating budgets.

The proposed allocation amounts are based on the programming levels identified in the FY2025-26 Fund Estimate (MTC Resolution 4688, Revised). The proposed allocations are summarized in the following table:

Allocation Amounts by Entity¹

Entity	STA (Res. 4710)	Grand Total
SMART	\$3.1	\$3.1
Total	\$3.1	\$3.1

Note that amounts may not sum due to rounding

Information regarding the FY2025-26 operating budgets and current and future operations for SMART is provided in Attachment A.

Issues

None.

Recommendations:

Refer MTC Resolution No. 4710, Revised to the Commission for approval.

Attachments:

- Attachment A - Transit Operator Budget Summary
- MTC Resolution No. 4710, Revised
 - Attachment A



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¹Includes allocations to be approved in the resolution listed above, the details of which are provided in Attachment A, including allocations for transit capital or planning and administration. Not inclusive of allocations approved by Executive Director's Delegated Authority as allowed by MTC Resolution No. 3620, Revised.

Attachment A – Transit Operator Budget Summary

Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit/ SMART

FY 2025-26 Operating Budget	\$50.9 million
FY 2024-25 Operating Budget	\$41.1 million
Increase in Budget compared to FY2024-25	23.8%
Projected Ridership (Estimated FY 2025-26 as a percentage of FY 2018-19 actual)	141.7%
Total Proposed FY 2025-26 Operating Allocation ¹	\$4.2 million
Proportion of Operating Budget Funded with Allocations	8.2%

Budget and Operating Highlights

Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit (SMART) is a two-way passenger and freight rail system that services Marin and Sonoma County. SMART serves a regional rail market for North Bay cities and intercounty travel, as well as providing connections to ferry service at Larkspur Station due to proximity to the Golden Gate Ferry’s Larkspur Ferry Terminal. Currently, SMART operates 42 one-way trips each weekday with plans to add additional trips in 2026 as part of the Marin-Sonoma Coordinated Transit Service (MASCOTS) Plan.

Fare Revenue and STA funding make up a small portion of the total operating budget for SMART at 5.6% and 8.2%, respectively. Measure Q, a sales and use tax of ¼ cent, is the primary revenue source for SMART making up an estimated 68% of estimated revenue for budgeted service in FY2025-26. Measure Q will expire at the close of FY2028-29, presenting a significant risk to SMART’s solvency should replacement funds not be identified either through a voter-approved reauthorization or other funding source. Overall, SMART’s operating budget shows an increase of 23.8%, which is attributed to the service changes detailed in the MASCOTS plan and

¹Includes allocations made through Executive Director’s Delegated Authority as allowed by MTC Resolution No. 3620, Revised. Any allocations made by Delegated Authority will be reported as part of the quarterly Delegated Authority update to the Commission. Excludes allocations made for transit capital or planning and administration purposes.

additional full-time staff. MASCOTS implementation will add an additional six weekday and eight weekend trips to the transit system.

Ridership continues year over year growth reaching a milestone of over one million passengers in FY2024-25, which is supported by the operator's free fare product for youth and seniors. SMART's forecast shows a growth of 25% in ridership for FY2025-26 and a 10% growth in fare revenue. To note, a significant portion of this ridership growth should result from additional trips provided in the MASCOTS plan.

SMART made progress on its Strategic Plan this past year by completing the infill station at Petaluma North, the three-mile one station extension to the town of Windsor, and an additional 10 miles of the non-motorized SMART Pathway/Great Redwood Trail. The operator was awarded \$81 million late this summer from the Solutions for Congested Corridors and Local Partnership Competitive Programs which will fund service to Healdsburg and completion on critical segments of the SMART pathway. SMART anticipates opening passenger rail service to Healdsburg by the end of December 2028, with contractor options in place to complete an extension to Geyserville by 2029 if funds are secured.