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The Sonoma-Marina Area Rail Transit District has scheduled a series of community workshops to gather initial public input about the design of 14 passenger rail stations from Cloverdale to Larkspur.

The workshops, to be held from Feb. 8-19, will take place in all 10 communities along the 70-mile SMART corridor. They are designed as information-gathering sessions at which SMART's station design consultants will present some initial concepts about stations and seek feedback from citizens regarding each community's aspirations about these important new public places.

While historic rail depots exist in several cities along the corridor, and newer stations have been built in others, SMART will add passenger loading platforms and other amenities at all 14 stops along the route. These platforms -- with benches, canopies, ticket vending machines, bike racks and in some cases park-and-ride lots -- are the focus of the workshops.

"The challenge is to come up with a design that ties the entire 70-mile corridor together, but that also recognizes the unique qualities of each of the 14 station locations," said Lillian Hames, SMART's General Manager.

That challenge has been taken on by Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Architects LLP of Portland, Ore. With a focus on projects that foster sustainability, ZGF has garnered numerous awards for its transit-related work, including Portland's MAX light rail system, Portland International Airport, Seattle Streetcar and the light rail station at San Diego State University.

ZGF has partnered with several local firms on the SMART station design project, including Royston Hanamoto Alley and Abbey Landscape Architects of Mill Valley and MKM & Associates, Brunsing Associates and Green Valley Engineers, all of Santa Rosa.

Following this initial round of workshops, the design team will develop more detailed station concepts and then return to the 10 communities for follow-up workshops in the spring. The SMART Board of Directors has asked that, to the extent possible, the second round of meetings be on the opposite schedule from the first round, meaning evening meetings for communities that have daytime meetings in the first round, and vice-versa.

The workshop schedule is below:

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>City</u></b>	<b><u>Facility</u></b>	<b><u>Address</u></b>
Feb. 8 4:00 PM	Cotati	Ray Miller Community Center - Cotati Room	216 E. School St., Cotati
Feb. 9 7:00 PM	Petaluma	Petaluma Community Center	320 North McDowell Blvd., Petaluma
Feb. 10 6:00 PM	Larkspur	Drakes Landing Community Room	300 Drakes Landing Road, Greenbrae
Feb. 11 10:00 AM	Novato	Novato Council Chambers	901 Sherman Ave., Novato
Feb. 11 7:00 PM	Santa Rosa	CHOPS Teen Center	509 Adams St., Santa Rosa
Feb. 16 2:30 PM	San Rafael	Whistlestop	930 Tamalpais Ave., San Rafael
Feb. 17 7:00 PM	Rohnert Park	Rohnert Park Regional Library	6250 Lynne Conde Way, Rohnert Park
Feb. 18 3:30 PM	Windsor	Windsor Regional Library	9291 Old Redwood Highway, Building 100, Windsor
Feb. 18 7:00 PM	Healdsburg	Healdsburg Senior Center	133 Matheson St., Healdsburg
Feb. 19 2:00 PM	Cloverdale	Cloverdale Regional Library	401 North Cloverdale Blvd., Cloverdale