

# Agenda Item 7 - SMART October Service Changes September 20, 2023



# Weekend Service Background

- August 2017 – 10 weekend trips
- March 2020 – 0 trips (pandemic cuts)
- May 2021 – 12 Saturday trips
- May 2022 – 12 Sunday trips
- May 2023 – 14 Saturday trips with Starlighter



# Weekend Ridership

- Ridership up 30% over pre-COVID
- Higher productivity - 55% more boardings per train on weekends over weekdays
- Crowding is more frequent on weekends
- Nearly 20% of boardings at Larkspur



# Larkspur Ferry Connection

- Weekend Larkspur-SF Ferry:
  - 2019: 4 ferries each way
  - 2020: 9 ferries each way
  - 2023: 5 ferries each way
  - 2023 proposed: 9 ferries each way
- *Key changes:*
  - Six high-speed catamarans
  - Morning weekend ferry service from SF to Larkspur
- Substantial changes needed to SMART weekend schedule to maintain good ferry connections



# Starlighter Performance

- May 2023 – launched Starlighter service
- Has not met ridership goals
- October 2023 – ferry changes breaking Starlighter connection
- Staff recommends suspending the Starlighter, with the potential to return as a seasonal service in 2024



# Proposed Service Changes

- Prioritize connections to the higher speed ferries
- Meet growing weekend demand with additional service

## Proposed October 2nd service changes:

1. Increase weekend service from 12 to 14 trips
2. Change all existing weekend service times
3. Suspend Starlighter service on Fridays and Saturdays
4. Move last weekday trip later to provide evening service and meet last northbound ferry from San Francisco

*Recommendation:* Approve the addition of one round trip on the weekends, the suspension of the Starlighter service, and schedule changes needed to maintain ferry connections.



Photo by Tom Rennie

# Questions?



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## Customer Service:

[CustomerService@SonomaMarinTrain.org](mailto:CustomerService@SonomaMarinTrain.org)

(707) 794- 3330

