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We need SMART

Mike Arnold is at it again, criticizing Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit in a Marin Voice column in the Aug. 10 IJ.

Marín and Sonoma counties voted in 2006 for SMART by a 65.3 percent margin, almost a super majority, and in 2008 by 69.6 percent - a super majority.

There seems to be a desire on the part of more than two-thirds of the combined population for a friendlier and more hassle-free way to go, rather than a daily auto commute.

There is, at present, a funding shortfall, but with a, hopefully, improving economy (and with a pro-transit administration now in Washington it may be made up sooner) and if Arnold and a few others hadn't been so vocal in 2006 we could be well on our way, and at less cost, to building SMART.

So thank you Mr. Arnold for that.

Population growth, and it will be substantial, will require we do a better job of moving people over road vehicles and because of that, there have been more than 21 new rail starts in this country over the past 20-some odd years. With a rail right of way that is paid for, worth several millions, and in place, doesn't it make sense for us to do just that?

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