

## **SMART MYTHS**

SMART critics are disseminating several myths about this project, but two are particularly disturbing.

Myth #1: SMART staff is hurrying up to put forth just any project.

These are committed, highly skilled individuals dealing with a complex maze of regulations, negotiations, transactions and contracts all aimed to benefit the citizens of Marin and Sonoma Counties with the best project we can afford now. Their prudence and dedication enabled SMART to recently award a contract to construct superior railcars for \$23 million less than previous estimates.

Myth #2: The first segment will be the only segment as there will be no more funding.

SMART currently has about half the money it needs to complete the entire Larkspur to Cloverdale project because of the severe economic downturn. Therefore, this project will have to be done in phases like many big transportation projects throughout America. An increase of sales tax revenues from an improving economy and other cost saving measures will help close the funding gap. Further, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission stated they were committed to working with SMART to see the project through to completion and that the funding gap was manageable. So please, don't let critics' misinformation and shortsighted views obscure your vision of the SMART train and pathway providing a sound transportation alternative for generations to come.

Don Steffy  
Santa Rosa