



JPB Board of Directors  
Meeting of October 1, 2020

Correspondence as of September 25, 2020

# Subject

- 1 DTX Acceleration
- 2 Apple Rail Summit
- 3 Kudos to the 4th and King yard team
- 4 Fashion Island Clean Up

**From:** [Howard](#)  
**To:** [Board \(@caltrain.com\)](#); [cacsecretary \[@caltrain.com\]](#); [Caltrain, Bac \(@caltrain.com\)](#)  
**Subject:** DTX ACCELERATION: THINK MOON SHOT ON LAND  
**Date:** Saturday, September 19, 2020 5:43:31 AM  
**Attachments:** [clip\\_image028.png](#)  
[clip\\_image013.png](#)  
[clip\\_image029.png](#)  
[clip\\_image010.png](#)  
[clip\\_image013.png](#)  
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## DTX - DOWNTOWN CALTRAIN EXTENSION



## ACCELERATE DTX

**FASTER ECONOMIC STIMULUS • BIGGEST JOBS CREATION • REGIONAL TRANSIT BENEFITS**

**Challenge:** Make DTX a model of project speed and efficiency. Legally-mandated by Proposition H (1999), the long-delayed DTX (Downtown Caltrain Extension) has a regional urgency that warrants accelerated schedules and construction--with innovative funding (bonds, loans, leveraged future revenues, assessments, private equity/ tax incentives, grants, donations), phasing, fast-tracking, multiple/ simultaneous tunneling/ projects, prefabrication, double/ triple work shifts, innovative technology and systems. History shows that longer schedules usually mean high cost overruns anyway. With 5% annual inflation, accelerated construction costs could be offset by low-interest loans, public/ private partnerships and earlier revenue-generation. With the pandemic-recession, faster schedules create more immediate jobs and economic ripple effects. The Beijing-Shanghai high-speed railway (818 miles long) was constructed in 38 months. For the relatively tiny 1.3-mile DTX, let's demonstrate America's and California's skills and prowess.

\* \* \* \* \*

**ASIA TIMES:** China mega-projects cue up new building bonanza <https://asiatimes.com/2020/04/china-mega-projects-cue-up-new-building-bonanza/> Maglev lines, high-speed railways and a cobweb of metro links. These are part of a long list of mega-projects being unveiled by China's provincial authorities that may herald a new bonanza of infrastructure investment. The projects will dwarf in size and significance Beijing's 4 trillion yuan (US\$565 billion) stimulus package rolled out to buoy up the sagging economy back in 2008.

**YOUTUBE:** Why China Is so Good at Building Railways <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0JDoll8OEF8>

**GLOBAL CONSTRUCTION REVIEW:** Why China can build high-speed rail so cheaply <https://www.globalconstructionreview.com/sectors/why-china-can-build-high-speed-rail34socheaply7365/> For one thing, the sheer scale of China's rail programme and the state's firm commitment to it unleashed the country's technical and manufacturing capabilities. The declaration of a credible plan to build 10,000 km of high-speed rail over six to seven years energised the construction and equipment supply community, the paper says. Assured of very high volumes, companies and state institutions ramped up capacity quickly and invested in innovative techniques.

**RAILWAY TECHNOLOGY:** Beijing-Shanghai High-Speed Line <https://www.railway-technology.com/projects/beijing/>

**It was opened in June 2011, only 38 months after construction began [818 miles long].**

**TRANSPORTATION FOR AMERICA: Creative Approaches to Financing Transit Projects**

<http://t4america.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/T4-Financing-Transit-Guidebook.pdf> But all is not lost. There are ways to pay for new transit investments without waiting so long, and a growing number of communities are pursuing them. But doing so requires more sophistication in the art of project finance than has been needed in the past.



## **HIGH-SPEED CONSTRUCTION**

**YOUTUBE:** 1,500 Chinese workers build train station in nine hours <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YtEQCOIGqr0> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=87PBCurKinc>

**YOUTUBE:** How are high-speed rail tracks laid in China? [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6\\_uwrue9cnY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6_uwrue9cnY) and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=grhP0F5zv6g>

**ARCHDAILY:** The World's Longest Immersed Road and Rail Tunnel, between Denmark and Germany, Receives Green Light <https://www.archdaily.com/947651/the-worlds-longest-immersed-road-and-rail-tunnel-between-denmark-and-germany-receives-green-light>

**AATLANTIC:** Building a Hotel in Six Days: A Time-Lapse of China's Construction Miracle <https://www.theatlantic.com/china/archive/2013/07/building-a-hotel-in-six-days-a-time-lapse-of-chinas-construction-miracle/465792/>

**BBC:** The mega-machines helping China link the world <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-41206772>

**DIPLOMAT:** The Message Behind China's Insta-Hospital <https://thediplomat.com/2020/02/the-message-behind-chinas-insta-hospital/> Prefabricated construction – or prefab – involves mass producing and assembling building components in a factory, and then transporting the completed assemblies to the construction site. At the Huoshenshan site, four of the days were dedicated to clearing the ground and laying the foundations, while the prefabricated hospital units were assembled over only six days.

**YOUTUBE:** Watch a 57-Story Building Go Up in 19 Days [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6f\\_sayw0mM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6f_sayw0mM)

**YOUTUBE:** Hi tech, China's high speed rail is how to build <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T7hdo9tL6u0>

**YOUTUBE:** Huoshenshan: the hospital built in 10 days in China over coronavirus outbreak <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l2QfufpwfdY>

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## DTX ALIGNMENT

The newly-created Executive Steering Committee needs to verify that the current alignment really works for both DTX and High-Speed Rail far into the future---for constructability, length of stations relative to length of trains, fouling of tracks, operations and future expansion and technology.

**STREETSBLOG: City Staff Aligns Behind a Pennsylvania Ave. Tunnel for Downtown Connector**  
<https://sf.streetsblog.org/2018/05/30/city-staff-aligns-behind-a-pennsylvania-ave-tunnel-for-downtown-connector/> City and County planning staff united behind the so-called Pennsylvania Avenue alignment, which is similar to the “surface alignment” but has a much longer tunnel to eliminate grade crossings in San Francisco. If the plan is approved and the city moves forward, construction on this option would be completed in 2027 and would cost around \$6 billion. The justification for the extra tunneling and cost? “It was decided that leaving grade crossings at 16th Street and Mission Bay Drive was unworkable, as far back as 2012 and even earlier,” explained Gygi in a follow-up call. Gygi said that given the additional train volumes, crossing gates would be lowered for roughly a third of every hour, a serious problem for ambulances headed to UCSF Medical Center.

**SOCKETSITE: Results of SF's Railyard, Tracks and I-280 Redevelopment Study**  
<https://socketsite.com/archives/2018/05/recommendations-for-redeveloping-sfs-railyard-tracks-and-i-280-revealed.html>

**POWERPOINT: RAILYARD ALTERNATIVES STUDY**  
<https://www.sfmta.com/sites/default/files/agendaitems/2016/4-5-16%20Item%2011%20Rail%20Alternatives%20and%20I280%20Feasibility%20Study.pdf>

## WHY CAN'T WE?

Regards, Howard Wong, AIA

**From:** [sarahmorris@apple.com](mailto:sarahmorris@apple.com)>  
**To:** [Board \(@caltrain.com\)](mailto:Board (@caltrain.com))  
**Subject:** FW: Apple Rail Summit - You're Invited!  
**Date:** Monday, September 21, 2020 3:11:19 PM  
**Attachments:** [cidA51B7C97-5BA7-4F48-A99F-9F8A7E098F1C.pdf](#)  
[ATT00001.htm](#)

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We think you may be interested in joining this Rail Summit in early October. While it doesn't focus specifically on commuter rail, it will highlight industry trends and innovation. Please join us!

# Apple Rail Summit



You're invited to join us for our second virtual Rail Summit. Apple, the rail community, and our technology partners will share the latest industry insights and trends, as well as highlight mobile solutions the rail industry is adopting.

During this session you'll have the opportunity to engage and discuss the following topics:

- Productivity
- Safety
- Maintenance
- Operations

We hope you can join us.

## Details

Tuesday, October 6

10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. CDT

[Sign me up](#)

**From:** [Chad Hedstrom](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Kudos to the 4th and King yard team  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 23, 2020 12:12:42 PM

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Wanted to follow up again about noise at 4th and King station.

Excessive noise from idling is down, conservatively, by at least 50%. So I am definitely hearing (or rather, not hearing) improvements made over the last two months. It would appear that changes have been made, as it is rare to hear train noise in my house now, and when I do hear train noise, it is for less than an hour in total per day.

Previously trains were being left to idle very loudly for 8-15 hours continuously, sometimes overnight. Previously it was not uncommon to hear loud idling for all of Friday night.

So one hour a day, almost entirely during regular business hours, it is a huge, huge improvement to my sanity, especially being trapped in the house for most of the week these days

Please keep up the good work and please pass my thanks along to the staff in dispatch and 4th and King station

Thank you

Chad Hedstrom

-----Original Message-----

From: sandy castagnola <sandy.castagnola@gmail.com>  
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2020 9:27 AM  
To: Board (@caltrain.com) <BoardCaltrain@samtrans.com>  
Subject: Re: Fashion Island and the tenant

I have requested many times to speak to someone regarding the unsightly mess along Fashion Island Blvd in San Mateo. I would like to speak to someone who can help please or should I come to the CALTRAN office in San Carlos?

Sent from my iPad

> On Sep 8, 2020, at 9:20 AM, sandy castagnola <[sandy.castagnola@gmail.com](mailto:sandy.castagnola@gmail.com)> wrote:  
>  
> Morning,  
>  
> I have worked with several people who work for CALTRAN. Leslie Wong for one and several at district office.  
>  
> I started over a year ago asking CALTRAN to keep Fashion Island Blvd clean and decent looking. I was successful in getting one tenant removed only for CALTRAN to rent again to an even worse tenant. I understand you have a project Fast trk you are working on.  
>  
> 19th turns into Fashion Island Blvd under the 92 overpass. This Blvd is the gateway to Parkside residential and to Bridgepointe shopping. I'm asking you get the tenant to do a better job at storing all the equipment from view and cleaning weeds and trash. Why would you allow them to install see through fences put Large containers with graffiti on them in full view of traffic and an over the top amount of sign-on fences.  
>  
> I have requested so many times to CALTRAN to keep Fashion Island Blvd clean and in a perfect world push back fence and plant shrubs anything to improve area. Once again this is a gateway to homes and even the Fishmarket .  
> <image0.jpeg>  
>  
>  
> This just some of the mess. Anything you can do to clean up would be a  
> appreciated the other side is full of weeds as well.  
> Sent from my iPad

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**From:** Rios, Rona <riosr@samtrans.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 25, 2020 10:04 AM  
**To:** sandy.castagnola@gmail.com  
**Cc:** Board (@caltrain.com) <BoardCaltrain@samtrans.com>  
**Subject:** Fashion Island Clean Up



Dear Ms. Castagnola,

Your email to the Board of Directors at Caltrain has been received and forwarded to me for response.

May I ask you to please verify that you are intending to reach the Rail Service – CALTRAIN? It seems in your correspondence that you are reaching out to CALTRANS for property clean up.

I cannot help you with CALTRANS – however, if you have a question for CalTrain Rail, please get back to me through my email address.

Best Regards,

Rona Rios

Director, Customer Experience

Caltrain