

Caltrain Poll Shows Support for Dedicated Revenue

Nearly two-thirds of voters in the three counties Caltrain serves would support creating new investment from local sales tax to expand rail service, according to a recent public opinion poll commissioned by the agency.

The poll was conducted as Caltrain considers options for a dedicated revenue source, something the agency lacks when compared to other public transit systems in the Bay Area. The Caltrain Board of Directors reviewed the results at their May 2 meeting.

Approving dedicated investment in Caltrain from local sales tax is being considered thanks to legislation passed by



State Senator Jerry Hill. The legislation allows the Caltrain Board to place a measure on the ballot in all three counties, provided that the transportation agency and board of supervisors in each county concurs. The measure would then require approval from two-thirds of residents that vote in the three counties.

If approved, the measure would provide stable, dedicated funding to operate and maintain the service, and to invest in infrastructure that will be

needed to expand service in all three counties. With peak hour trains that are well over 100% capacity, Caltrain will need to offer more service to meet current and projected demand. The ability to operate expanded service is made possible by the Caltrain Electrification project, which is currently under construction. The Caltrain Business Plan is evaluating what infrastructure will be needed to operate the system's new electric trains and what service levels will be needed to meet ridership demand that is expected to increase by 300% over the next 20 years.

The poll identifies voters' top reasons for supporting a potential measure, with easing highway traffic congestion, reducing air pollution, and improving Caltrain frequency and capacity topping the list.

22nd Street Station

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A newly designed entrance to the 22nd Street Station

added secure bike lockers and a bike share station and recoded curbs around the station for easier pick up and drop off. San Francisco Public Works installed new LED lights adjacent to the station.

"The Dogpatch and Potrero are vibrant and growing neighborhoods, and they deserve a sharp, modern station to match," said Caltrain Board

Chair Gillian Gillett. "This collaborative effort to benefit transit users is a model of partnerships done right." "Development in San Francisco is edging closer and closer to our major transit corridors," said Julie Christensen, Executive Director of the GBD. "That's great because it makes those modes of transportation more accessible, but it also makes it important to better integrate those pathways into the urban fabric."



New landscaping has made the station a more attractive stop.

Caltrain Connection is produced by the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board. Comments, questions, contributions and suggestions should be directed to:

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Summer 2019

Caltrain Connection

Information for **Caltrain** Customers

Summer Onboard!



From Giants Baseball to the San Mateo County Fair, to Pride, Caltrain is your ride to an exciting summer!

22nd Street Station Improvements

Caltrain recently celebrated its newly refurbished 22nd Street Station at an event held in June to thank the Dogpatch and Northwest Potrero Hill Green Benefits District (GBD) for improving the station.

In February of this year, GBD began work on the station, delivering a newly resurfaced plaza and walkway, seat walls, improved fencing, enhanced landscaping and new lighting. Funding for the renovation was provided to Dogpatch neighbors by the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF).

The renovation benefited from the help of numerous San Francisco City Departments. The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) collaborated with the GBD to provide a new, designated parking area for motorcycle and scooter parking. The SFMTA also

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Caltrain will operate a Sunday schedule on September 2.



The schedule is available at www.caltrain.com

CalMod CORNER

Summer is upon us, and we continue to make strides towards the electrification of Caltrain in 2022. Back at the Stadler Plant in Utah, three of the 19 new trainsets are currently under construction. The first article inspections are taking place, making sure the various elements of the trains are where they're supposed to be (including the newly installed staircases), but we're well on our way towards having an electric fleet.

2 Parking is still limited at the Sunnyvale and Hillsdale stations as construction continues on the traction power facilities there. Six of the 10 traction power facilities are currently under construction. Work continues on the two facilities in San Jose, in addition to Redwood City and South San Francisco. These facilities will regulate the power supply used to power our trains when the electrified fleet launches.

Poles that will hold the catenary system that supplies power to the trains continue to go up throughout the system, including the first ones to be erected in San Carlos. And the AEM 7 locomotives Caltrain purchased have arrived at the San Francisco Rail Yard, awaiting the opportunity to test out the catenary system next year. The electrification of Caltrain continues to move towards modernizing your commute and making the Peninsula a little bit smaller.



Chew-Chew Train OFF THE RAILS BREWERY – BECAUSE THE WORK DAY DOESN'T DECOMPRESS ITSELF

At a past job, I occasionally went to grab a few beers after work in downtown Sunnyvale. The drinking hole of choice at the time was dark, dank, and not particularly pleasant, but it fit the bill for cheap appetizers and complaining. Last time I went through downtown, I was pleased to find that it had been replaced, by a rail-themed brewery no less. Flattered by the fact that they must have changed up solely to get the attention of this column, in I went.

The dank had been banished. Off the Rails Brewery has white walls, big windows, and plenty of light. Those seeking to drink in quiet shame will have to find a new home.

Food came fast, and we were not disappointed. The nachos were properly loaded, avoiding the all-too-common problem of ending up with a bunch of naked chips with nothing to pile upon them, worthy of the logistical challenge of sharing a sloppy dish four ways. The popcorn shrimp may have been even better, with a light breading, plenty of seasoning, and a smattering of pickled jalapeños throughout. I moved on to a pepperoni and corn flatbread, which seemed like a pleasantly upscale version of childhood cafeteria pizza. I wouldn't have imagined that pepperoni needed a companion, let alone such a non-traditional one, but the spicy-sweet combo



Nachorific!

actually worked quite well. The diablo burger brought the heat, with a bun that managed to be both airy and crispy, while also holding up to the many toppings. My vegetarian-inclined coworker enjoyed the veggie burger, with its nutty taste and two forms of onions, caramelized and pickled. The cod sandwich also hit the spot, with a thick cut of fish that was perfectly flaky, and a good slaw kicked up by the addition of jalapeños.

If you're waiting on a train in Sunnyvale, step into the light. Off the Rails offers a good array of food and plenty to imbibe. So if you're looking for a way to blow off some steam after a long day of work, don't sit in the dark and complain; sit in the light and celebrate the end of the day and the potential of the next. Then grab a handful of garlic curry fries, because they're on point.

Chew Chew Train is a monthly blog feature highlighting places to eat along the Caltrain line. If you have a suggestion for a future restaurant, please email Public Affairs Specialist Dan Lieberman at liebermand@samtrans.com.



Rail bridge will allow trains to skip traffic @ 25th Avenue

25th Avenue Grade Separation Project Kicks Into High Gear

With the 25th Avenue Grade Separation Project expected to be complete in 2021, the major aspects of the project are beginning to take shape. The project was designed to provide grade separations in San Mateo, allowing 25th, 28th and 31st Avenues to continue under Caltrain's tracks to prevent traffic jams and make both the tracks and roads safer. If you've been around 25th Avenue lately, you would have noticed the rail bridge that's been installed, where future trains will be running. This, combined with a lowered roadway, will be of great help to drivers looking for a shortcut from El Camino Real to Highway 92.

There's been a great deal of progress around the Hillsdale Station as well in anticipation of the closure of the station

in December to allow for the construction of the brand new station. The Hillsdale Station has gone without an overhaul since SamTrans acquired it back in 1991, so a new and improved station for the newly elevated track seems in order. The new station will be located at 28th Avenue, and Hillsdale riders can use SamTrans to connect to Belmont Station in order to minimize the inconvenience during the six months of construction.

Of course, any construction in a busy area such as San Mateo will cause some disruptions, and some road closures will be necessary during this process. You can learn more about what's going on with this project by going to www.caltrain.com/25thGS and signing up for weekly notices.

Caltrain Safety Tips

- Always watch for second train. When crossing multiple tracks, be careful of other trains that you may not see. The first train can block your view and give you the impression that the tracks are clear when they're not. Wait for the first train to completely clear your view of the tracks in both directions before crossing.
- Always walk your bike on the platform.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Take Caltrain to these special events. The station name and any additional transit service are listed below each event.

September 11
Biggest Baby Shower Ever
San Mateo County Event Center,
San Mateo
Hillsdale Caltrain Station
www.smcec.co

September 13 & 15
Elton John
Chase Center, San Francisco
San Francisco Caltrain Station
www.chasecenter.com

September 14
Kings of the West: Snoop Dogg & Ice Cube
SAP Center, San Jose
San Jose Diridon Caltrain Station
www.sapcenter.com

September 21
Redwood City Salsa Festival
Courthouse Square,
Redwood City
Redwood City Caltrain Station
www.redwoodcity.org

October 13
Italian Heritage Parade
Fisherman's Wharf,
San Francisco
San Francisco Caltrain Station
www.sfitalianheritage.org

October 20
Baby Shark Live!
Center for the Performing Arts,
San Jose
San Jose Diridon Caltrain Station
www.sanjosetheaters.org