



## Memorandum

**Date:** July 25, 2022  
**To:** CalMod Local Policy Maker Group (LPMG)  
**From:** Jadie Wasilco, Government and Community Affairs Manager  
**Re:** Caltrain Electrification Project E-Update

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### Electric Train Clearance Testing

After being delivered in March, Caltrain's new electric trains are beginning the next stage of their journey! On July 16 and 17, Caltrain's first electric trainset underwent clearance testing along the corridor between Santa Clara and Tamien Stations. This test is to ensure that the trains meet all clearance requirements to operate safely along the Corridor.

The train was outfitted with foam rubber padding to simulate the dynamic envelope of the trains to simulate the maximum clearance area of an electric trainset as it traveled along the corridor at five miles per hour pulled by a diesel locomotive. No major problems arose over the course of testing, and further clearance testing will be conducted throughout the rest of the corridor in the near future. The next test for the new electric trains is expected to take place later this year when the trains will operate under their own power via the Overhead Catenary System (OCS). We're always excited to get our new trains on our tracks and we anticipate more electric trains being delivered in the coming months.

## **Caltrain Electrification Funding**

The Fiscal Year 2022-2023 State budget deal reached by the Governor and the State Legislature committed approximately \$10.9 billion for State transportation programs, including \$3.65 billion for transit capital projects to be administered through the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP). About \$1.8 billion of this is dedicated to Southern California and \$1.5 billion is dedicated to other geographical areas. Notably, within this \$1.5 billion in TIRCP, there is a \$900 million minimum set-aside for capital projects like Caltrain's Electrification Project that have already received TIRCP funds and are seeking additional funding to maintain or leverage federal and local funds. The exact amount available will be determined over the coming months, but this bodes well for the Electrification Project which currently faces a \$410 million shortfall.

In addition to the \$900 million set-aside, the FY 2022-23 Budget Act includes \$3 million for wireless crossing technology for Caltrain, thanks to Assembly Member Marc Berman. This funding will help improve gate-down times at Caltrain crossings. Learn more about the opportunities for Caltrain in the State Budget deal [here](#).

## **Grade Separation Funding**

The State budget also includes \$350 million for critical high priority grade separation safety improvements. It's not yet clear how these funds would be allocated, but several crossings along Caltrain's corridor are listed as high priorities by the CPUC and we hope to see opportunities from this budget item.

On the federal side, on June 30, the US Department of Transportation announced the release of the new Railroad Crossing Elimination Program administered through the Federal Railroad Administration. The program will administer \$573,264,000 this year to address dangerous conditions at railroad crossings through projects such as grade separations, track relocations, warning devices, and other safety enhancements. FRA will prioritize projects that address environmental justice, workforce, and equity issues and about 40% of funding will be allocated toward underserved communities.

Local governments, port authorities, political subdivisions of a state, and metropolitan planning organizations are eligible to apply for funding. The Notice of Funding Opportunity can be found [here](#) and the deadline to apply is October 1.

## **Schedule Change Coming in September**

Caltrain will implement a service change in mid-September that will be focused on improving connections to BART and making other minor service enhancements. As Caltrain ridership continues to hover around 25% of pre-pandemic levels, we are continuing to monitor ridership and station usage throughout the corridor to help inform future service changes. We will provide more details on the upcoming service change as they are available.

## **PUBLIC MEETINGS:**

**JPB WPLP Committee Meeting – July 27 at 3:00 p.m. – Please note, this will be remote only**  
**JPB Board Meeting – August 4 at 9:00 a.m.**

For more details, and a full list of upcoming meetings, please visit [Caltrain.com/Meetings](https://www.caltrain.com/Meetings).

## **DETAILED PROGRESS REPORT:**

The June Monthly Progress Report will be on the agenda of the Caltrain Board meeting on August 4, 2022 and available in the next LPMG E-Update.