



JPB Board of Directors  
Meeting of December 5, 2019

Correspondence as of November 8, 2019

# Subject

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## Board (@caltrain.com)

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**From:** Peter Van Deventer <Peter.VanDeventer@OPR.CA.GOV>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 1, 2019 1:41 PM  
**To:** Board (@caltrain.com)  
**Subject:** Railroad safety

Good afternoon Ms. Gillian Gillet,

My name is Dr. Peter van Deventer, Director of Coast to Coast Smart e-Mobility at the Governor's Office of Planning&Research and I would like to invite you and/or your colleagues for a exciting presentation on Monday November 18th at 9am in Sacramento:

Hack-a-train is an annual event in Europe which challenges students, young entrepreneurs to find solutions to actual problems. One of the problems in Europe and elsewhere is the safety at rail way crossings. RAMON, the winners of the 2019 Hack-a-Train event in Berlin would like to pitch their solutions to improve rail way safety:

*Do you know how many fatalities occurred on Californian railways last year? 246. Among these, more than 75% happened on or nearby railroad crossings.*

*My name is Jan Jaap and I am the lead software engineer and one of the founders of RAMON. RAMON stands for RAILway MONitoring system. The system uses artificial intelligence to detect and communicate dangerous situations to control centers. The system is plug-and-play: the battery charges itself from the solar panel and data is transmitted wirelessly over 4G and 5G.*

*We are currently setting up a pilot in Europe with Arriva, Prorail and Deutsche Bahn. We are convinced that our solution can also be of added value in California. Let's explore the opportunities together and prevent accidents and casualties on the railways.*

Please let me know if you would like to participate !

Kind regards,  
Peter van Deventer

**Dr. Peter van Deventer MPA | Director Coast to Coast Smart e-Mobility Program**  
**Governor's Office of Planning and Research**  
1400 Tenth Street | Sacramento, CA 95814  
[www.opr.ca.gov](http://www.opr.ca.gov)

## Board (@caltrain.com)

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**From:** Annette Torrence <annette.torrence@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 4, 2019 5:45 AM  
**To:** Caltrain, Bac (@caltrain.com); Board (@caltrain.com)  
**Cc:** janice@sfbike.org  
**Subject:** Caltrain needs to take bike theft seriously

Dear Caltrain Board,

As a new bike commuter, I endorse the below message and thank you for your consideration.

I am writing to you to urge you to reject the staff recommendation at your upcoming board meeting. I have serious concerns that Caltrain is not taking bike theft seriously. Instead, I urge you to approve three or more bike cars to provide adequate seating in view of bike spaces. Caltrain has also made commitments to improving bike parking and bike share connections at stations but I urge the board to direct staff to actual implement these improvements immediately.

Annette Torrence  
Sunnyvale

**From:** [Ahalya Srikant](#)  
**To:** [Board \(@caltrain.com\)](mailto:Board (@caltrain.com))  
**Subject:** Caltrain Listing for BPTW invitation to nominate  
**Date:** Monday, November 4, 2019 12:24:42 PM

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## San Francisco Business Times

Ahalya Srikant | [asrikant@bizjournals.com](mailto:asrikant@bizjournals.com)

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Dear General email null,

It's that time of the year again! The San Francisco Business Times and Silicon Valley Business Journal are accepting nominations for the [2020 Best Places to Work in the Bay Area](#).

This annual awards program recognizes local companies that make their workplaces rewarding and engaging for employees.

Winners will be featured in our print and online editions and celebrated at the Best Places to Work awards gala. Companies that make this List are known for recruiting and retaining the best and brightest employees.

Visit our website for more details and to nominate by the deadline **January 3, 2020**:  
[bizjournals.com/sanfrancisco/nomination/84824/2020/best-places-to-work-in-the-bay-area-2020](http://bizjournals.com/sanfrancisco/nomination/84824/2020/best-places-to-work-in-the-bay-area-2020)

### *A few notes on eligibility:*

- 25 or more employees (full-time plus part-time) working in the following Greater Bay Area counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey, Napa, San Benito, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano and Sonoma.

- Nominee must be a private company, publicly held company or nonprofit organization or foundation; government agencies are not eligible.

A FAQ sheet on our website answers many questions about the program, but please feel free to contact me if additional questions arise or you would like to confirm we've received your nomination.

Best,

Ahalya Srikant  
415-288-4962/[asrikant@bizjournals.com](mailto:asrikant@bizjournals.com)

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For questions about this e-mail: [asrikant@bizjournals.com](mailto:asrikant@bizjournals.com)

## Board (@caltrain.com)

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**From:** Jarrod Harden <jrodhard@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 6, 2019 1:33 PM  
**To:** Board (@caltrain.com)  
**Subject:** Pets on trains

Hello,

Via your own policy:

<http://www.caltrain.com/riderinfo/Accessibility/serviceanimals.html>

I have contacted Caltrain customer service 4 times regarding this issue via the contact page on the website. I received one canned response, two no responses and then a phone call after my message included a threat of a lawsuit.

This is terrible customer service. I shouldn't have to threaten a lawsuit to get an actual response.

Here is the situation: I ride SB 216 5 days/week. There is an individual who has regularly brought his dog on the train with him. He boards the train at the San Mateo station and gets on the first car.

I have allergies to pets and I am uncomfortable with dogs in general. I played phone tag with Bernadette in your customer service department. Her voicemail essentially said Caltrain can and will do nothing as the conductor may not ask to see papers for a service animal. And if it is a comfort animal, they can't/won't do anything.

This dog is not a service animal. It has also become clear to me that it is not a comfort animal either. Yesterday I saw the dog owner without the dog on the train. If he needs it for "comfort" he should need it all the time. "Comfort" animals are not covered by the ADA and your site says nothing about them. Even if this animal is a "comfort" animal, it should not be allowed. However, this dog is CLEARLY a pet and per your published policy, dogs are not allowed.

I told Bernadette via voicemail, if the dog is a service animal or comfort animal than the individual should be directed to sit in the access car with their animal. This provides a reasonable accommodation and allows other riders to know dogs may be in this area and can avoid this particular car if they have allergies or are uncomfortable with dogs.

The conductor on the train this morning decided to welcome this dog by giving it a doggie treat. If animals are not allowed on the train, why does this man have a doggie treat at the ready?

Your policy also requires the animal (service or not) to be controlled by the owner. This man does not control the dog. The leash is tied to his backpack. He takes the backpack off and lays it on the seat next to him. He then uses his phone to play a game with both hands on the phone and both eyes on the game. If the dog were to run away, it could easily take the backpack with it and the owner has no ability to stop it. Your conductor with the doggie treat said nothing regarding control of the dog.

You may not take me seriously but this will come back to bite you (pun intended) when a dog you allow on the train attacks a rider and you are liable in court for medical bills, pain and suffering and emotional distress.

If you do not deal with this situation immediately, you will be hearing from my lawyer.

Jarrod Harden

## Board (@caltrain.com)

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**From:** Rios, Rona  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 7, 2019 4:55 PM  
**To:** 'Phannon50@gmail.com'  
**Cc:** Board (@caltrain.com)  
**Subject:** Consumer Report File #731026

Dear Ms. Hannon,

Your correspondence to the Caltrain Board was sent to me for response. They will receive a copy of this email.

First I want to thank you for taking the time to send your comments about the changes that affected South Santa Clara County on October 7th. Caltrain apologizes for your inconvenience as a result of the schedule changes. Caltrain will monitor the performance of the new Gilroy service and take your comment into consideration in the next timetable change. Some additional background is provided below.

- Caltrain, in collaboration with the communities of Gilroy, Morgan Hill, and San Jose as well as representatives from VTA and Santa Clara County have been working on plans to improve service on the Caltrain corridor between San Jose and Gilroy.
- Short Term Improvement: With the support and approval of the communities above, Caltrain adjusted its southbound Gilroy service based on feedback provided by our South Santa Clara County riders in a survey conducted on April 23, 2019 that indicated their preference to have an earlier train between the first two trains.
- Mid-Term Improvement: In 2021, Caltrain plans to use Measure B funds to add a fourth round trip weekday train to the Gilroy service line. To ensure the 2021 implementation date is achieved, major actions need to take place, including rebuilding several locomotives and working with VTA to appropriate operating funding.
- Long Term Improvement: Caltrain's 2040 Draft Business Plan suggests the opportunity to run significantly increased electrified service to South Santa Clara residents. Service details and plans will be confirmed through the Caltrain Business Plan and follow-up efforts but could conceptually include:
  - o all-day, bi-directional service
  - o 30 minute frequencies during peak periods
  - o Hourly frequency during off-peak and weekends

More information about the Caltrain Business Plan can be at [www.Caltrain2040.org](http://www.Caltrain2040.org)

Best Regards,

Rona Rios  
Director, Customer Experience  
SamTrans | Caltrain | SMCTA  
1250 San Carlos Avenue  
San Carlos, CA. 94070  
[riosr@samtrans.com](mailto:riosr@samtrans.com)

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To the Caltrain Board;

I'm writing in response to your schedule changes that take affect in south Santa Clara County on Oct. 7, which are being billed as "enhanced service" between Tamien and Gilroy.

In what way is cutting out any service past Tamien past 6:30 pm an enhancement? Anyone who must put in an 8-hour shift, lives in South San Jose and commutes by Caltrain to any point as far as SF can now no longer do that because you are cutting out all points south of Tamien on the 274 pm southbound.

Your other "enhancement" of adding to-Gilroy service to 262 train is no help. In fact, the earlier route you use actually decreases options for anyone who works in Redwood City because it doesn't stop there "one of the main southbound stops, especially since Stanford move about 2,500 employees to Redwood City in July.

That means the only option after 5 p.m. is to take 268 at 5:28 p.m. If someone misses that train, for any reason, including any Caltrain delays or issues, the only option is another train that goes no further than Tamien. There are NO good public transit options for getting to any points south of Tamien after that.

This is a huge inconvenience in a valley where people are increasingly unable to afford to live anywhere near where they work.

I greatly appreciate Caltrain's efforts to enhance service, but no one I know who filled out your surveys and noted that more/better south county service was needed asked that you TAKE AWAY options.

These changes to the Caltrain schedule will force me into my car on some days, and I'm not alone. This goes against everything we as a community should be doing to support and sustain an always growing commuter workforce in the Bay Area.

Thank you for listening, and for your continuing efforts to support values for a sustainable community.

Sincerely,

Patricia Hannon

## Seamans, Dora

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**From:** Meger, Anderson <Anderson.Meger@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 8, 2019 9:17 AM  
**To:** Seamans, Dora  
**Cc:** Board (@caltrain.com)  
**Subject:** RE: Question Regarding Governance Workshop

Thank you so much Dora!

Best,  
Andy

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**Anderson Meger**  
Intern, Mayor's Office  
[Anderson.Meger@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:Anderson.Meger@sanjoseca.gov)  
(408) 535-4824

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**From:** Seamans, Dora [mailto:SeamansD@samtrans.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 07, 2019 8:50 AM  
**To:** Meger, Anderson <Anderson.Meger@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Cc:** Board (@caltrain.com) <BoardCaltrain@samtrans.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Question Regarding Governance Workshop

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Mr. Meger,

The Caltrain Board (Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board) will have a special offsite workshop on this topic on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 9 am – 1 pm, at Mavericks Conference Center in Half Moon Bay (space will be limited). The agenda is not yet ready as staff works on preparations for the workshop meeting. An audio recording of the meeting will be posted online afterwards at [http://www.caltrain.com/about/bod/Board\\_of\\_Directors\\_Meeting\\_Calendar.html](http://www.caltrain.com/about/bod/Board_of_Directors_Meeting_Calendar.html)

Kind Regards,

Dora

Dora Seamans, MPA, CMC  
Executive Officer/District Secretary  
SamTrans, Executive Administration  
1250 San Carlos Ave  
San Carlos, CA 94070  
Tel: 650-508-6242  
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**From:** Meger, Anderson <[Anderson.Meger@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:Anderson.Meger@sanjoseca.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 6, 2019 8:53 AM

**To:** Board (@caltrain.com) <[BoardCaltrain@samtrans.com](mailto:BoardCaltrain@samtrans.com)>

**Subject:** Question Regarding Governance Workshop

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Hello,

My name is Andy Meger and I work in the San Jose mayor's office. I've heard that a board workshop on Caltrain Governance is planned for November 21<sup>st</sup>, but I cannot find details about the location or times of the meeting on the Caltrain website. Is there any chance that someone would be able to pass along that information, or where it will be posted once confirmed? Also, will this meeting be available on video stream?

Thanks,

Andy

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**Anderson Meger**

Intern, Mayor's Office

[Anderson.Meger@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:Anderson.Meger@sanjoseca.gov)

(408) 535-4824