

**AGENDA ITEM #9
JULY 19, 2018**

CALTRAIN BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TO: Caltrain Bicycle Advisory Committee

FROM: Lori Low
Government Affairs Officer

SUBJECT: **TOWNSEND CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT LETTER**

The attached letter has been submitted by Caltrain BAC Member Cliff Bargar for the Committee's consideration and approval.

July 19, 2018

Dear Caltrain Joint Powers Board and Caltrain Citizens Advisory Committee,

The Caltrain Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC), a committee of Caltrain riders representing the interests of passengers who access the train by bicycle, strongly urges the SFMTA to implement the Townsend Street protected bike lanes as soon as possible.

Caltrain's customer data shows that Caltrain's San Francisco (4th and King) Station is by far the system's busiest, seeing over a quarter of all train boardings and exits. The data further shows that over 15 percent of Caltrain passengers access the train by bicycle across the whole system. At 4th and King, there are over 1,200 average weekday bike boardings, not including users of bike share or those who leave their bikes at the station. Moreover, Ford GoBike's data shows that 4th and Townsend's two docks are among the bike sharing system's busiest.

A large number of Caltrain riders brave dangerous conditions in the existing bike lanes, having to frequently dodge Ubers, Lyfts, parked cars, megabuses and other shuttles and even terrible quality pavement. The two blocks of Townsend Street closest to the train station are considered a high-injury corridor, with 43 bicyclists injured in the last five years. Seeing this project completed by the end of 2018 is not only of great importance to these riders but can help encourage more riders to access the train by bicycle, lessening the volume of TNCs on Townsend.

Fourth & King Station is a crucial regional transit connection for San Francisco and needs to have safe bike infrastructure to facilitate the travel of these thousands of daily riders. Please restore the plan for protected bike lanes and get them installed as soon as possible.

Cc: SFMTA Director of Transportation Ed Reiskin
SFMTA Board of Directors