



JPB Board of Directors
Meeting of June 1, 2023

Correspondence as of May 26, 2023

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| 1 | Lost Item 07164 - CalTrain (May 20, 2023 5_10_57 PM) |
| 2 | Re_ UCSD Research Survey on Autonomous Vehicles ("self-driving cars") -- win a \$25 Amazon Gift Card! |
| 3 | VTA's BART Silicon Valley Phase II Project Preparing for Early Construction Activities at VTA's Newhall Yard |
| 4 | Addressing Caltrain's lowered ridership |

From: [Thomas Spitters](#)
To: [Board \(@caltrain.com\)](#)
Cc: [tspitters@yahoo.com](#)
Subject: Lost Item 07164 - CalTrain (May 20, 2023 5:10:57 PM)
Date: Saturday, May 20, 2023 5:23:34 PM
Attachments: [Screenshot_20230520-171057.png](#)

You don't often get email from tspitters@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To the CalTrain Management Board :

Please see the attached and accept a recommendation for official recognition and commendations to your personnel and related for the retrieval and return of my Samsung smartphone in this day, May 20, 2023 at the San Francisco CalTrain station from Northern train 255. These personnel include Karen in your call center, and an employee of the San Francisco Sheriff's department, Moses and Sam, and a member of the Allied Security company, all of whom were very courteous in my contacts with them on a very busy day. This is greatly, greatly appreciated, and these people again are to be officially commended for their excellent work.

By,

Thomas H. Spitters, C.P.A.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Emi Lee](#)
Subject: Re: UCSD Research Survey on Autonomous Vehicles ("self-driving cars") -- win a \$25 Amazon Gift Card!
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 12:27:17 PM

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ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders.

Hello,

We are reaching out to remind you about the survey on autonomous vehicles we sent you last week. Your perspective is incredibly valuable to us!

If you have already participated— thank you! If not, we'd love to hear from you. Your participation will help advance research in autonomous vehicles at University of California, San Diego and will make you eligible for a drawing for 1 of 10 \$25 Amazon gift cards!

Please click [here](#) for the survey link, or copy this URL into your browser:
https://ucsd.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6EFWSdI0PrqBzwy

Best regards,
Emi

On Thu, May 18, 2023 at 1:23 PM Emi Lee <eal003@ucsd.edu> wrote:

Hello,

My name is Emi, I am a research assistant with the [Human-centered eXtended Intelligence Lab](#) at UC San Diego. Our research team is conducting a survey on Autonomous Vehicles ("self-driving cars") and are looking to widely disperse it.

The survey is fully online, anonymous, and will only take around 20 minutes to complete. It has been fully approved by the UCSD IRB. Participants who complete the survey may be eligible to join us for in-person studies using our Virtual Reality (VR) Driving Simulator and have the ability to opt-in to a drawing to win one of ten \$25 Amazon gift cards.

If you feel comfortable, you can even forward this email along to whomever you think would be interested in participating.

The survey link is [here](#).

I'm happy to answer any questions I can, or connect you with the study.

Your input can make a real difference in shaping the future of this emerging field
— thank you in advance for your participation!

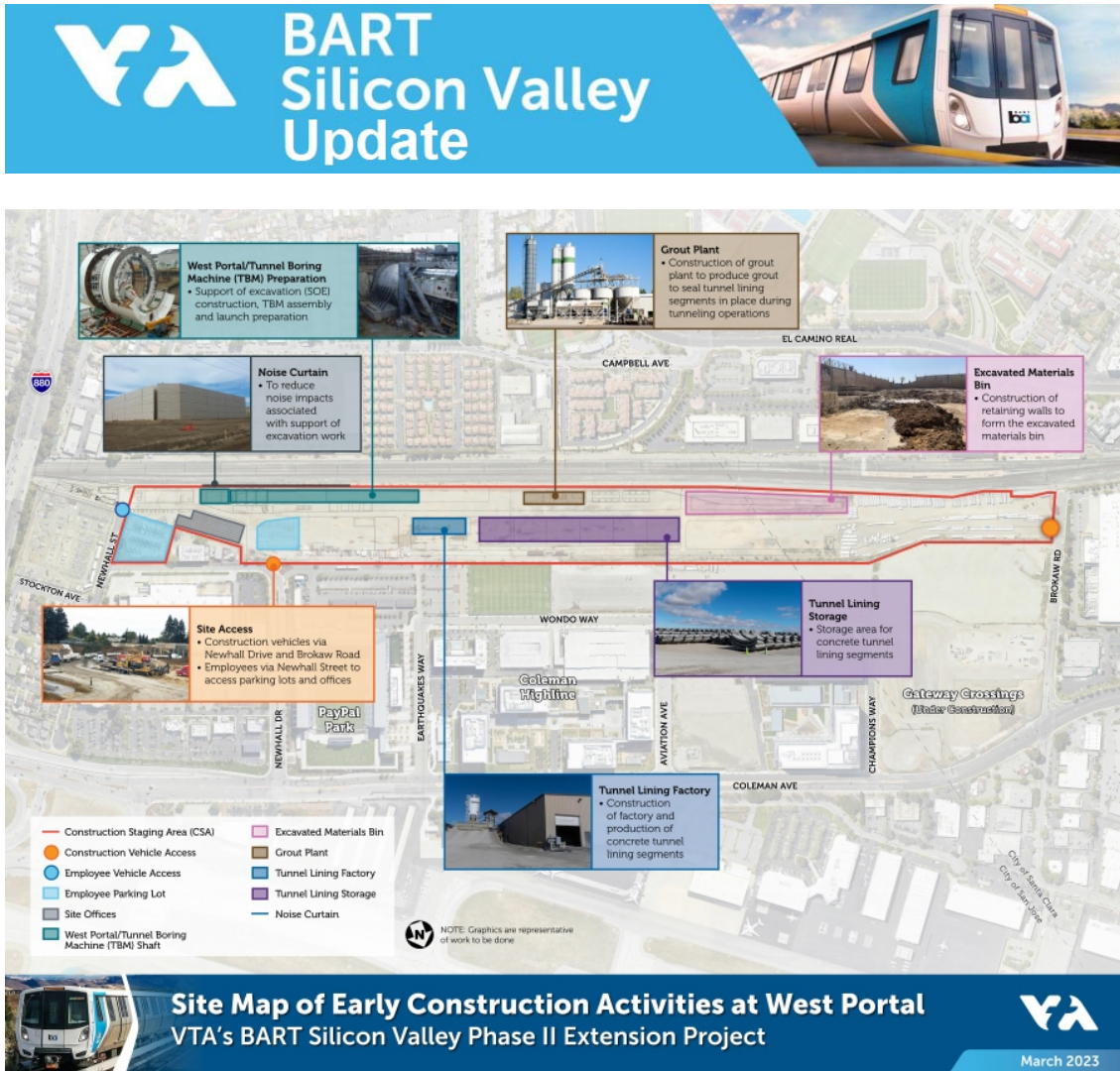
Thanks in advance for the help,

--

HXI Research Team, UC San Diego

From: VTA BART Phase II <vtabart@vtabsv.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 4:00 PM
To: Board (@caltrain.com)
Subject: VTA's BART Silicon Valley Phase II Project Preparing for Early Construction Activities at VTA's Newhall Yard

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VTA's BART Silicon Valley Phase II Project Preparing for Early Construction Activities at VTA's Newhall Yard

In preparation for construction of VTA's BART Silicon Valley Phase II Extension Project, VTA's tunnel and trackwork contractor, Kiewit, Shea, Traylor (KST) developed a Construction Transportation Management Plan (CTMP). This plan, the first of several to be developed, is specifically for early construction activities at VTA's Newhall Yard property where the tunnel boring machine will be launched (an area referred to as the west tunnel portal) and the location of the future Santa Clara Station.

[Read more...](#)

Project Background

VTA's BART Silicon Valley Phase II Extension (Phase II Project) is a six-mile, four-station extension of BART from Berryessa / North San José Station (opened 2020) through downtown San José to the City of Santa Clara. The Phase II Project is planned to include an approx. five-mile subway, three stations with underground platforms (28th Street/ Little Portugal, Downtown San José, and Diridon), one ground-level station (Santa Clara), a train maintenance and storage facility, and additional facilities.

Have a question for us about Phase II?

Visit www.vta.org/bart or email us vtabart@vtabsv.com



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You requested information about VTA's BART Silicon Valley Extension Phase II.

Our mailing address is:

Valley Transportation Authority
3331 N First Street
San Jose, CA 95134

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From: [Balch, Ryan](#)
To: friends@friendsofcaltrain.com; [Board \(@caltrain.com\)](mailto:Board (@caltrain.com))
Subject: Addressing Caltrain's lowered ridership
Date: Friday, May 26, 2023 1:37:21 PM

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Hi Peninsula Corridor JPB members and Friends of Caltrain Board members,

I am a student at Mountain View High School in the south peninsula. For a project in my math class in which we performed data analysis on real-world problems, I chose to focus on analyzing Caltrain ridership numbers and the significant decline since the pandemic. As we all know, ridership on public transportation has not rebounded to pre-pandemic levels and is very far from its highs.

However, even before the pandemic, ridership levels were plateauing according to the published data. As a concerned citizen who believes in the value of public transportation to combat climate change and foster low-congestion, affordable living conditions throughout the Bay Area, I believe it is critical to encourage increased ridership on Caltrain. Our roads are once again full of cars as people return to offices and resume their normal activities. Caltrain should play a bigger role in their daily transportation considerations.

Our math class project also tasked us with developing solutions to the problems we studied. In my analysis conclusions, I proposed several potential paths to address increasing Caltrain ridership. Some of my proposals include incentivizing ridership via:

- Advertising the pros of using public transit (reduced pollution, using commute time to read or work, not needing to worry about finding parking at the destination, etc.)
- Reducing the cost of ridership (lowering ticket prices, offering reduced prices for frequent riders, creating discounts for riders with different income levels)
- Creating a safer environment in transit (increasing police presence on trains and stations, installing security cameras on trains)
- Promoting how Senate Bill 1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017, is funding system improvements for Caltrain

More details about my analysis of the Caltrain ridership data is available in my report at the following link: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wli4YVfPcvOpJxb8s0QQWkUsIbKyLaHz9gvBqFoFmSQ/edit>.

The problem of reduced ridership levels is a complex one with many factors to consider and no straightforward solutions. I hope that some of my suggestions will be helpful as you look at how to encourage more riders to return to Caltrain. Thank you for your efforts to ensure Caltrain remains a vital and reliable part of the Bay Area transit system.

Sincerely,
Ryan Balch
Mountain View resident and MVHS student, Class of 2026