

Caltrain State and Federal Legislative Update

JPB Board Meeting
December 7, 2023



Federal

- Rail Safety Act (S. 576)
 - Would place new regulations on rail operators with hazardous substances on their lines
 - Uncertain if it will make it to Senate floor in the fall
- Appropriations Process
 - On November 2, the Senate passed a FY 2024 "minibus," which combines the FY 2024 Military Construction-VA, Agriculture, and Transportation-HUD appropriations bills.
 - The House passed a short-term funding bill on Nov 14, moving to avert a government shutdown
 - The continuing resolution will fund some parts of the federal government including transportation through Jan. 19 and fund the DOD and other remaining parts through Feb. 2.

State

- Legislature
 - The Legislature remains in recess and will return to Sacramento on January 3, 2024
- Bills with Positions
 - SB 410 – Passed
 - ACA 1 – Passed and will go to voters in Nov 2024
 - AB 463 – Held in committee
 - AB 557 – Passed
 - AB 1377 – Passed

Draft 2024 Legislative Program

- Highlights of Additions for 2024:
 - Monitor efforts to extend the Cap-and-Trade program beyond 2030 and impacts to upcoming TIRCP cycles.
 - Monitor ACA 1 and other initiatives on November 2024 ballot.
 - Work with CARB to ensure approval of Caltrain's In-Use Locomotive Regulation compliance plan and secure access to the Low Carbon Fuel Standard program.
 - **Advocate at the state and federal levels for ongoing transit operations funding.**
 - **Participate in state and regional efforts to establish authorizing legislation for a regional funding measure under certain guiding framework.**

Draft 2024 Legislative Program

- **Advocate at the state and federal levels for ongoing transit operations funding:**
 - Advocate for state level funding pathways for ongoing transit and commuter rail operating needs. (page 3)
 - Advocate for new federal pathways to fund ongoing transit and commuter rail operations needs. (page 11)

Draft 2024 Legislative Program

- **Participate in state and regional efforts to establish authorizing legislation for a regional funding measure under the following guiding framework:**
 - Support efforts that will improve the customer experience including service frequency, schedule coordination, fare integration, seamless payment options, consistent signage, and communication efforts.
 - Ensure Caltrain receives operating funding support, which would be used in a manner consistent with the Board adopted Caltrain Framework for Equity, Connectivity, Recovery and Growth.
 - When available, Caltrain should directly receive or be eligible for capital funding.
 - Support performance and accountability metrics for any transit agency that receives capital or operation funding.
 - Three key requirements for consolidation consideration include:
 - Consideration of Caltrain consolidation with another Bay Area transit agency requires the expressed support of the Caltrain Board, which represents the three counties that Caltrain serves. Caltrain member agencies should also be part of the discussion.
 - Any analysis of the consolidation of Caltrain with another agency will include Caltrain representation.
 - Analysis should focus on whether consolidation results in benefits for Caltrain riders and enhances the financial sustainability of the agency. (page 5)

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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