

**Bicycle and Active
Transportation Advisory
Committee**

Correspondence as of

January 16, 2024

Lori Low

From: Caltrain, Bac (@caltrain.com)
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2024 11:01 PM
To: David Boyce; Caltrain, Bac (@caltrain.com)
Subject: RE: Query on bike cars in electrified trains

Dear David,

Thank you for your inquiry, and for making a bike and Caltrain part of your commute. Bikes are an excellent first and last mile solution, and riders who use their bikes to access Caltrain reduce pollution, relieve congestion, and help promote healthy, active transportation.

The [new electric trains](#) will have two bike cars per trainset, and the securing system will be the same as what's used today. You can learn more about the bike cars on the high-performance electric trains by clicking on the bike tab on [this page](#).

Receiving input from the public is extremely important to Caltrain and was instrumental in the electric train design. Prior to 2015, there was a two-year outreach effort that included public meetings, multiple surveys, and station outreach. Over 10,000 comments were received and this process directly fed into the train design. Various rider communities had requests, and Caltrain tried to accommodate them while balancing the needs of all riders. Then in 2017, after 56 meetings, surveys, and station events; staff heard from the bicycle community that maximizing bicycle capacity on the electric trains was of the utmost importance. Thus, the Electrification Project brings an increase in onboard bike capacity over today which is achieved through train frequency.

The Caltrain board also approved spending at least \$3.5M towards bike station parking / micromobility improvements before the start of electrified service. There are now over 300 on-demand electronic bike lockers at Caltrain stations, with more to come.

Caltrain is continuously trying to improve service to all its riders and we thank you for taking the time to send us your thoughts. Your feedback is valuable, and Caltrain is eager to improve service for all its riders.

Best,
Lori

From: David Boyce <boycedaveboyce@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 6, 2024 5:10 PM
To: Caltrain, Bac (@caltrain.com) <batac@caltrain.com>
Subject: Query on bike cars in electrified trains

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Hello. I have heard that the new electrified trains will include just one bike car per train and that bike securing will be a step or two backwards from what is available today. And like today's cars, there will be no handholds or handrails, overhead or otherwise. Where else are they cutting corners???

If these allegations — from a credible source — are true, I don't see how this is not a cause for outrage and denunciation of the decision makers who chose this path.

Can you please inform me? I had planned to make a public records act request, but maybe if you respond that won't be necessary.

I am definitely going to follow up on this, wherever it leads.

Thanks.

Dave Boyce
Menlo Park

Lori Low

From: liebermand@samtrans.com on behalf of Dan Lieberman <liebermand@samtrans.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2024 3:41 PM
To: Caltrain, Bac (@caltrain.com)
Subject: NEWS: Caltrain Celebrates 160 Years of Rail Service from San Francisco to San Jose

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January 16, 2024

Media Contact: Dan Lieberman, 650.622.2492

Link to pictures: [Caltrain Photo Archive](#)

Caltrain Celebrates 160 Years of Rail Service from San Francisco to San Jose

Today is the [160th anniversary](#) of the beginning of San Francisco-San Jose passenger rail service, which began on January 16, 1864.

The creation of this rail corridor, which has been in constant use for the past 160 years, was central to the development of the San Francisco Peninsula and South Bay. Most of the cities that can be found along the corridor built their downtowns around the railroad, allowing communities to form and grow together. Easily accessible transportation led to economic prosperity and development, as trains could move far more people and goods than stagecoaches traveling on dirt roads, which would take between eight hours and three days depending on weather.

The idea of creating a rail line between the two cities first came about in 1851, while San Jose was still capital of California. After three failed attempts to obtain funding, the San Francisco and San Jose Railroad incorporated in 1860. Construction began in May 1861 at San Francisquito Creek, and regular service from San Francisco to Mayfield (now the California Avenue Station) began in October 1863, with San Jose-bound passengers transferring to a stagecoach for the remainder of their journey. In 1864, the line was completed.

There has been much talk of history as Caltrain's historic Electrification Project, the first undertaking in North America in a generation in which diesel trains and their infrastructure components are transitioned to an electrified system, approaches completion later this year. Electrification means [faster and more frequent service](#),

including doubling the frequency on weekends. The passenger experience will be greatly improved as well with the [new trains](#) featuring Wi-Fi, power outlets at every seat, onboard displays with digital trip information and increased storage capacities. In the spring, Caltrain will have its third public Electric Train tour and will also combine the tour with a celebration of Caltrain's 160th anniversary.

###

About Caltrain: Owned and operated by the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board, Caltrain provides rail service from San Francisco to San Jose, with commute service to Gilroy. Serving the region since 1863, Caltrain is the oldest continually operating rail system west of the Mississippi. Looking to the future, Caltrain is set to electrify the corridor by 2024, which will reduce diesel emissions and add more service to more stations while advancing the agency's equity goals.

Like us on Facebook at www.caltrain.com and follow on X [@Caltrain](#).

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This email was sent to batac@caltrain.com

San Mateo County Transit District, 1250 San Carlos Ave., San Carlos, California 94070, USA

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Lori Low

From: Caltrain, Bac (@caltrain.com)
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2024 9:12 AM
To: C Florkowski; Caltrain, Bac (@caltrain.com)
Cc: Nicole Steward-Crooks; Margaret Tseng
Subject: RE: Caltrain Bicycle and Active Transportation Advisory Committee (BATAC) 2024 meeting schedule?
Attachments: 2024 Final BATAC Calendar (1).pdf

Hi Chris,

Thanks for reaching out. The BATAC meeting is the third Thursday, every other month. Thus, the next BATAC meeting will be this Thursday, January 18, at 5:45 pm at 1250 San Carlos Ave, San Carlos, CA 94070.

Thank you for also pointing out we need to update the annual calendar on the BATAC webpage. I've attached a PDF of the 2024 calendar and we'll work to get the webpage updated. Thanks!

Best,
Lori

From: C Florkowski <chrisflorkowski@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 6:27 PM
To: Caltrain, Bac (@caltrain.com) <batac@caltrain.com>
Subject: Caltrain Bicycle and Active Transportation Advisory Committee (BATAC) 2024 meeting schedule?

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Hello,

I am trying to learn the details of the 2024 schedule for BATAC meetings.

[Bicycle and Active Transportation Advisory Committee | Caltrain](#)

This webpage states: **"The BATAC meets every other month at 5:45 p.m. in San Carlos, just one block from the San Carlos Caltrain Station. All meetings are open to the public."**

It begs the question, which day in the month? And where in San Carlos is this meeting held? There is a link on that page to a calendar, but the calendar it provides only has dates for 2023.

I hope you can help me,
~Chris Florkowski

Lori Low

From: Dan Provence
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2024 2:35 PM
To: Adina Levin; Public Comment
Cc: Caltrain, Bac (@caltrain.com)
Subject: RE: Signage for BikeLink lockers at stations?

Hi Adina,

Thanks for contacting us about making it easier to find e-lockers at stations. Signing e-lockers is something we have been discussing internally. As you know, the e-lockers aren't very tall (a little over 4'), so views of them can be blocked by parked cars and many other things. Adding signs that are taller than e-lockers will be helpful for customers trying to locate them. There is a larger ongoing MTC wayfinding sign effort that we need to coordinate with so we are consistent with other locations.

We are also looking at rolling out temporary A-frame signs that can be moved from station to station. These will be along routes that people on bikes use and will both direct people to e-lockers and to give them information about how to use them. This is something we hope to roll out sooner than the permanent signs. We hope to deploy the A-frame signs beginning this Spring.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Dan

From: Adina Levin <alevin@alevin.com>
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2024 10:06 AM
To: Public Comment <publiccomment@caltrain.com>
Subject: Signage for BikeLink lockers at stations?

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Dear BATAAC members and staff,

Is there a plan to add signage for Bikelink/bike storage lockers at stations?

It is not always apparent where the lockers are, and this poses challenges for customers.

For example, yesterday I attempted to take a baby bullet train from Palo Alto to San Francisco, storing my bike at the outbound station. I eventually found the locker in time to take the next train, but missed the bullet. It takes 5-10 minutes to walk all around the station to find it if you don't know where it is. There was a sign to the bike storage locked room but not to the Bikelink.

In September, I attempted to use a Bikelink locker at the Salesforce Transit Center after using transit to get there. It took 15-20 minutes to walk the circumference of the large building and I needed to catch up with the Transit Month activity I was attending.

Such signage will be useful to provide by Caltrain especially in the timeframe when electrified service starts, there will be less bike space on trains, and likely more new riders less familiar with the stations.

Since a large of Caltrain riders use bike access, can Caltrain staff also raise this need as part of the regional wayfinding project?

I'm also copying the MTC Regional Wayfinding project team, since this would be useful to include as part of the regional wayfinding standard to include as a matter of course in station signage, since bike access is an important first/last mile mode.

Thank you,

- Adina

Adina Levin

Seamless Bay Area / <https://seamlessbayarea.org>

Friends of Caltrain / <https://greencaltrain.com>

650-646-4344

Lori Low

From: liebermand@samtrans.com on behalf of Dan Lieberman <liebermand@samtrans.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 10, 2024 2:36 PM
To: Caltrain, Bac (@caltrain.com)
Subject: NEWS: Caltrain Temporarily Suspends Train Service Between San Jose Diridon and Tamien Stations to Expedite Electrification Project

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NEWS

January 10, 2024

Media Contact: Dan Lieberman, 650.622.2492

Caltrain Temporarily Suspends Train Service Between San Jose Diridon and Tamien Stations to Expedite Electrification Project

Caltrain will be [suspending some of its early morning and late night train service](#) between San Jose Diridon and Tamien stations on January 12-14 to accommodate Caltrain electrification construction.

Train 146, the last southbound train of the Friday, January 12 schedule, departs San Francisco Station at 12:03 a.m. and will terminate at San Jose Diridon Station at 1:38 a.m. On Saturday and Sunday, January 13 and 14, the first two Northbound trains of the day, 221 and 225 will depart San Jose Diridon at 7:19 and 9:12 a.m. and the last southbound 284 will terminate at San Jose Diridon Station at 1:44 a.m.

Free VTA bus service will replace service for those trains between San Jose and Tamien stations on all three days. For information, including bus schedules and bus stop locations, visit www.caltrain.com/status.

Caltrain's historic Electrification Project is the first undertaking in North America in a generation in which diesel trains and their infrastructure components are transitioned to an electrified system. Electrification means [faster and more frequent service](#), including doubling the frequency on weekends. The passenger experience will be greatly improved as well with the [new trains](#) featuring wi-fi, power outlets at every seat, onboard displays with digital trip information, increased storage capacities.

Electrification will also help meet ambitious regional and state climate action goals by lowering greenhouse gas emissions, improving air quality and relieving traffic congestion. Additionally, electrified service will advance equity along the corridor by

reducing noise and air pollution while increasing access for priority equity communities. It will also set the framework for California's future High Speed Rail network that will run on the Caltrain corridor.

The [proposed Electrification service plan](#) would see weekday peak hour trains go to 79 stations per hour, an increase from the current 66. Eleven stations would experience four train arrivals hourly per direction, a notable improvement from seven stations currently. Midday trains would cover 44 stations per hour, up from 34 today.

Caltrain recently began offering four new fare promotions, offering discounts for [families, groups, youth and hybrid workers](#). Additionally, parking at Caltrain stations is 50% off, costing only \$2.75 to park for the day.

###

About Caltrain: Owned and operated by the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board, Caltrain provides rail service from San Francisco to San Jose, with commute service to Gilroy. Serving the region since 1863, Caltrain is the oldest continually operating rail system west of the Mississippi. Looking to the future, Caltrain is set to electrify the corridor by 2024, which will reduce diesel emissions and add more service to more stations while advancing the agency's equity goals.

Editor's Note: Electric Train Photos available [here](#).

Like us on Facebook at www.caltrain.com and follow on X [@Caltrain](#).

Free translation assistance is available.

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This email was sent to batac@caltrain.com

San Mateo County Transit District, 1250 San Carlos Ave., San Carlos, California 94070, USA

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Lori Low

From: liebermand@samtrans.com on behalf of Dan Lieberman <liebermand@samtrans.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 1:31 PM
To: Caltrain, Bac (@caltrain.com)
Subject: NEWS: Caltrain Celebrates Martin Luther King, Jr. Day with Celebration Train, Modified Service

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NEWS

January 9, 2024

Media Contact: Dan Lieberman, 650.622.2492

Please note: Dan Lieberman will be onsite the day of the event, beginning at 7:30 a.m. at the San Jose Diridon Caltrain Station.

Caltrain Celebrates Martin Luther King, Jr. Day with Celebration Train, Modified Service

The dream lives on this month as the Caltrain NorCalMLK [Celebration Train](#) makes its way up the Peninsula from San Jose to San Francisco on Monday, January 15.

The Celebration Train will provide free service for those who wish to attend the annual observance of the life and legacy of Dr. King in San Francisco hosted by the [Northern California Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Foundation \(NorCalMLK\)](#). There will be onboard activities for those in attendance during the trip, including a free giveaway for the children.

Attendees must [register in advance](#) to receive a free Celebration Train commemorative ticket. This free train ride, which pays tribute to the 54-mile 1965 Selma to Montgomery March, is a great way to get to the MLK march and events in San Francisco.

The train will depart from the San Jose Diridon Caltrain Station at 9:30 a.m. It will make stops at Palo Alto Station at 9:50 a.m. and the southbound platform of San Mateo Station at 10:10 a.m. before arriving in San Francisco by 10:40 a.m. There is no special southbound service, however, Celebration Train tickets will be accepted on southbound trains departing San Francisco after 1:00 p.m. that same day.

Caltrain will operate a [modified service](#) schedule for the holiday on Monday, January 15. Parking at Caltrain stations costs \$2.25 for the day, and permits can be purchased at Caltrain station ticket machines or conveniently through Caltrain Mobile. Caltrain paid parking rules are enforced all day, including holidays.

For more information on the annual MLK celebrations hosted by NorCalMLK, please visit www.sfmlkday.org.

For more information about Caltrain's regular service, call 1.800.660.4287 (TTY 650.508.6448) or visit www.caltrain.com.

###

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Follow Caltrain on [Facebook](#) and [X](#).

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Lori Low

From: liebermand@samtrans.com on behalf of Dan Lieberman <liebermand@samtrans.com>
Sent: Friday, January 5, 2024 2:51 PM
To: Caltrain, Bac (@caltrain.com)
Subject: NEWS: Three of Caltrain's Electric Trains Have Completed Testing

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NEWS

January 5, 2024

Media Contact: Dan Lieberman, 650.622.2492

Editor's Note: Electric Train Photos available [here](#).

Three of Caltrain's Electric Trains Have Completed Testing

Three of Caltrain's eventual 23 electric train sets have completed a thousand miles of [testing](#) along the Caltrain corridor. The entirety of the new fleet must meet all safety and quality standards prior to the launch of electrified service in Fall 2024.

This 1,000 mile testing process is required to ensure all safety and quality standards are met in order to ensure that the trains can safely operate on Caltrain's tracks. The trainsets will continue to undergo additional testing before they can be deemed ready for passenger service in 2024. Caltrain currently has six train sets on property, with the remainder expected to [arrive from the Stadler](#) US manufacturing facility in Utah over the next year.

"Rigorous testing of equipment is how we make sure that our corridor remains safe for passengers and the communities we serve" said Executive Director Michelle Bouchard. "I thank our crews for all their hard work testing these vehicles through the night while we continue to carry passengers during the day. I look forward to the rest of the new fleet going through the same safety testing process and for the rollout of this impressive fleet for our passengers later this year."

Caltrain's historic Electrification Project is the first undertaking in North America in a generation in which diesel trains and their infrastructure components are transitioned to an electrified system. Electrification means [faster and more frequent service](#), including doubling the frequency on weekends. The passenger experience will be greatly improved as well with the [new trains](#) featuring wi-fi, power outlets at every seat, onboard displays with digital trip information, increased storage capacities.

Electrification will also help meet ambitious regional and state climate action goals by lowering greenhouse gas emissions, improving air quality and relieving traffic congestion. Additionally, electrified service will advance equity along the corridor by reducing noise and air pollution while increasing access for priority equity communities. It will also set the framework for California's future High Speed Rail network that will run on the Caltrain corridor.

The [proposed Electrification service plan](#) would see weekday peak hour trains go to 79 stations per hour, an increase from the current 66. Eleven stations would experience four train arrivals hourly per direction, a notable improvement from seven stations currently. Midday trains would cover 44 stations per hour, up from 34 today.

The Electrification of the Caltrain coincides with the 160th anniversary of passenger rail service. There will be another [train public tour](#) and celebration of the anniversary in the spring.

###

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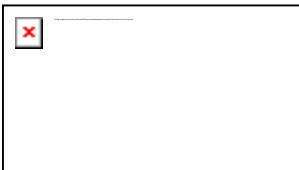
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From: abuniem@samtrans.com on behalf of Mahmoud Abunie <abuniem@samtrans.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 27, 2023 4:39 PM
To: Caltrain, Bac (@caltrain.com)
Subject: NEWS: Caltrain Offers Free New Year's Eve Service, Additional Trains for the Fireworks in San Francisco

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NEWS

December 27, 2023

Media Contact: Mahmoud Abunie, 650.730.6201

Caltrain Offers Free New Year's Eve Service, Additional Trains for the Fireworks in San Francisco

Caltrain is offering [free service on New Year's Eve](#) so revelers can get a safe ride home at the end of their evening. All rides will be free starting at 8 p.m. on Sunday, December 31, until the end of special late-night service as it has in years past.

Sunday, December 31, 2023 – New Year's Eve and Fireworks

Caltrain will be operating regular weekend schedule with [two additional northbound special trains](#) arriving in time for the fireworks. In addition to regularly scheduled service, [additional southbound trains](#) will depart from San Francisco at 1:00 a.m., 1:30 a.m. or when full, making all local stops to San Jose Diridon after the fireworks, with the last train leaving San Francisco at 2 a.m. [SF MUNI](#) will provide additional post-fireworks service connecting with Caltrain San Francisco Station at 4th and King streets.

Monday, January 1, 2024 – New Year's Day

Caltrain will operate a [weekend schedule](#). Caltrain will resume collecting fares when service begins around 7 a.m.

Caltrain reminds customers that open alcoholic beverages are prohibited on the trains beginning at 9 p.m. on special events days and nights. Disruptive passengers will be asked to leave the train.

More information about Caltrain's holiday schedules is available online at www.caltrain.com/holidays.

The administrative offices of the San Mateo County Transit District, which manages Caltrain, will be closed on New Year's Day. Caltrain customer service is available on December 31 through January 1 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

###

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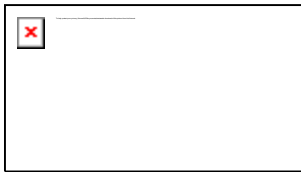
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From: bartholomewt@samtrans.com on behalf of Tasha Bartholomew <bartholomewt@samtrans.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2023 4:21 PM
To: Caltrain, Bac (@caltrain.com)
Subject: NEWS: Caltrain Releases Year in Review

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NEWS

December 21, 2023

Media Contact: Tasha Bartholomew, 650.339.5257

Caltrain Releases Year in Review

Caltrain has published a [webpage](#) detailing its accomplishments over the course of 2023.

Caltrain has met many milestones in 2023. Over the past year, Caltrain released the finalized Electrification schedule that will provide [faster and more frequent service for riders](#) and held events for the public to see the new trains. The agency expanded its Gilroy service frequency and the State approved \$80 million in funding for Caltrain to pilot an [electric and battery powered train](#) to expand zero-emission service to Gilroy. Caltrain made great strides connecting with its riders through various community events, all while increasing ridership and launching new pilot fare programs.

Caltrain is committed to continuing to improve its services to meet the needs of its riders. The New Year will see Caltrain celebrate 160 years of service and the launch of electrified service for passengers in fall 2024, reinventing Caltrain for generations to come.

###

About Caltrain: Owned and operated by the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board, Caltrain provides rail service from San Francisco to San Jose, with commute service to Gilroy. Serving the region since 1863, Caltrain is the oldest continually operating rail system west of the Mississippi. Looking to the future, Caltrain is set to electrify the corridor by 2024, which will reduce diesel emissions and add more service to more stations while advancing the agency's equity goals.

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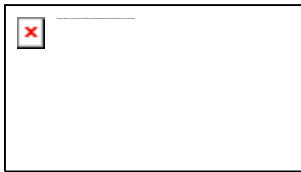
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Lori Low

From: bartholomewt@samtrans.com on behalf of Tasha Bartholomew <bartholomewt@samtrans.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 7, 2023 1:19 PM
To: Caltrain, Bac (@caltrain.com)
Subject: Caltrain Announces Exciting New Electrification Service Schedule and Amenities for Riders

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NEWS

Dec. 8, 2023

Media Contact: Tasha Bartholomew, 650.339.5257

Editor's Note: Electric Train Photos available [here](#).

Caltrain Announces Exciting New Electrification Service Schedule and Amenities for Riders

Caltrain today unveiled its new plan for electrified service, which includes faster transit times, more frequent service including during weekends, increased amenities like on-board Wi-Fi and electrical outlets at every seat.

The service improvements are possible because Caltrain is replacing all the aging diesel trains between San Francisco and San Jose with world class [electric trains](#) that provide better service performance and quality than the diesel ones. The new service schedule is slated to begin with the completion of the Electrification Project in fall 2024.

"With electrified Caltrain service now less than a year away, it is exciting to see a new schedule in place that will allow riders to get to their destinations quicker and more often," said **Caltrain Board Chair Jeff Gee**. "While there is still a lot of work ahead of us, the vision of greener, quieter and more efficient trains will soon be a reality."

The finalized service plan reflects community input on the proposed service plan [announced in October](#) and survey responses from Caltrain's customer survey and general population study. Survey respondents' top priorities were faster and more frequent service, with an emphasis placed on improved weekend service. The new service plan now includes more frequent weekend service, with trains running every 30 minutes, compared to hourly today. As ridership and revenue continue to grow, Caltrain will have the capacity for even more regular service as a result of Electrification, with the capability to run up to six trains per hour during the peak.

Faster Service

- Weekday peak period service will feature four trains per hour running in each direction, including an express train running between San Jose and San Francisco in under an hour.
- Local service times will be reduced from 100 minutes down to 75 minutes.
- Travel time from Southern Santa Clara County (Gilroy/Morgan Hill) to San Francisco will be cut by nearly 30 minutes.

Ride More, Wait Less

- Overall, there will be a 20% uptick in train service at stations.
- At equity priority stations, there will be 26% more train service.
- During weekends there will be service every 30 minutes (compared to every hour today).

First Class Experience for Everyone:

- Free Wi-Fi will be accessible on every train.
- An overall smoother and quieter experience while on board.
- Each seat will host outlets for riders to stay plugged in.
- Trip information will be displayed digitally onboard each train.
- Each train will be equipped with spacious and accessible bathrooms that even include a baby changing table.

Cleaner, greener service:

- Greenhouse gas emissions will be reduced by 250,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide, which is the equivalent of taking 55,000 cars off the road each year.
- Making the switch to electrified service will improve local air quality.
- Trains will be quieter, which will be noticeable both onboard and off.
- 100% emission free from San Francisco to San Jose, and future plans for a zero emission corridor to Gilroy with a hybrid [battery train](#).

“The new service plan is a huge step forward not only for those of us who regularly ride Caltrain, but also for incentivizing more people in the region to choose Caltrain over driving. I’m thrilled that Caltrain has prioritized the voices of riders, who have consistently said that we want faster service and more frequent trains, which is exactly what the new service plan is delivering,” said **Brian Shaw, Caltrain Citizen Advisory Committee Chair**.

“Caltrain is taking commuting to the next level with this incredible raft of improvements, improvements that will have riders flocking to the system,” said **Jim Wunderman, President and CEO of the Bay Area Council**. “We’re extremely proud of our advocacy and support over many years to secure the funding and approvals that are making these changes possible and giving our region the world-class commuter rail service it deserves.”

“Caltrain’s new service plan could not come at a better time for our region’s economic recovery. Workers are returning to the office, the economy is recovering, and our public transit agencies are essential to our region’s economic health. Faster and more frequent trains mean easier

commutes for employees, and the new on-board amenities like Wi-Fi and electrical outlets will provide another major benefit over driving,” said **Rosanne Foust, CEO of San Mateo County Economic Development Association (SAMCEDA)**

“Caltrain electrification is a cornerstone of the transportation infrastructure of the future for our region. These new service upgrades will more deeply integrate sustainability into the next era of innovation for Silicon Valley businesses while promoting greater access and equity for the community as a whole,” said **Ahmad Thomas, CEO of Silicon Valley Leadership Group (SVLG)**. “As we mark this important milestone, SVLG is proud to be a longtime leader and advocate for Caltrain.”

“Palo Alto TMA is proud to partner with Caltrain to support a greener and more relaxing commute for Palo Alto's essential workers. These service sector workers are the backbone of our local economy and will benefit from the [Pass Forward](#) Program. We are excited that our community will soon be able to enjoy faster service and Wi-Fi through the new electrified service coming in 2024” said **Justine Burt, Executive Director, Palo Alto Transportation Management Association**.

“Commute.org is proud to be partnering with Caltrain to provide access to train service for income-qualified commuters in San Mateo County through the Pass Forward program. We are excited that these commuters will be able to benefit from the enhanced schedules and on-board amenities that will come with the new electrified service,” said **Commute.org Executive Director, John Ford**

“With electrified Caltrain, riders will get more convenient service and better connections, making it easier to get to work and to more places at more times,” said **Adina Levin, Executive Director of Friends of Caltrain**. “We are thrilled to see this big investment deliver improvements to people’s lives and communities on the corridor, and get our region closer to a world-class public transportation system.”

Caltrain’s new service plan comes as ridership is growing following the pandemic and riders continue to report high satisfaction with their experience. Since last year, Caltrain’s average weekday ridership has increased by 14%. Weekend ridership is also expected to rise in 2024 because in 2023, there were over 20 weekend closures resulting from construction for the Electrification Project. The 2023 customer service survey revealed that nearly 80% of riders have a positive view of Caltrain. Additionally, nearly 60% of people from a general population survey that included non-riders, report preferring to take Caltrain over driving if it’s a feasible option.

###

About Caltrain: Owned and operated by the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board, Caltrain provides rail service from San Francisco to San Jose, with commute service to Gilroy. Serving the region since 1863, Caltrain is the oldest continually operating rail system west of the Mississippi. Looking to the future, Caltrain is set to electrify the corridor by 2024, which will reduce diesel emissions and add more service to more stations while advancing the agency’s equity goals.

Follow Caltrain on [Facebook](#) and [X](#).

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Lori Low

From: liebermand@samtrans.com on behalf of Dan Lieberman <liebermand@samtrans.com>
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2023 4:42 PM
To: Caltrain, Bac (@caltrain.com)
Subject: NEWS: Holiday Train Making Stops Along the Peninsula on December 2-3

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NEWS

November 27, 2023

Media Contact: Dan Lieberman, 650.622.2492

Holiday Train Making Stops Along the Peninsula on December 2-3

On Saturday, December 2, and Sunday, December 3, the Holiday Train returns to bring good tidings and cheer to families from San Francisco to the South Bay as part of its annual toy drive.

This cherished tradition offers attendees an opportunity to donate new toys or books to local children whose families are struggling to make ends meet. Caltrain is proud to once again partner with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve [Toys for Tots](#) program and [The Salvation Army](#) to help make the season brighter for everyone.

The [Holiday Train](#), decorated with more than 75,000 glittering lights, will visit nine Caltrain stations in San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties over the weekend. At each of the train's [20-minute station stops](#), people can join in singing with onboard carolers and the Salvation Army Christmas Brass Ensemble. Santa, Mrs. Claus and their extended family – including Frosty the Snowman and Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer – will get off the train to greet kids and pose for pictures.

Prior to the arrival of the train, families can enjoy free entertainment at each of the Holiday Train station stops. Holiday Train ambassadors will be onsite to help direct people to the donation bins and will have special giveaways for those in attendance.

A special early access media event will be held on Friday, December, 1 from 5-7 a.m. This event will feature the Holiday Train, with all of its 75,000 lights, as well as costumed characters and musical entertainment. Members of the media hoping to attend should RSVP at liebermand@samtrans.com.

Holiday Train Schedule Saturday, December 2

| Station | Arrive |
|---------------|-----------|
| San Francisco | 4:00 p.m. |
| Redwood City | 6:10 p.m. |
| Mountain View | 6:50 p.m. |
| Sunnyvale | 7:30 p.m. |
| Santa Clara | 8:10 p.m. |

Sunday, December 3

| Station | Arrive |
|---------------|-----------|
| San Francisco | 4:00 p.m. |
| Millbrae | 5:40 p.m. |
| Burlingame | 6:35 p.m. |
| San Mateo | 7:05 p.m. |
| Menlo Park | 8:05 p.m. |

Community Support

Santa's helpers can get into the holiday spirit by taking pictures of the Holiday Train during the event weekend and sharing them on social media by tagging @Caltrain on Instagram, X or Facebook using the hashtag **#HolidayTrain2023** to help spread the word.

Sponsors

The Holiday Train would not be possible without the generous support of sponsors for everything from decorations and wiring to costumes. This year, sponsors include [KOIT](#), Jim's Handyman Services, [Peterson Technical Services](#), the [San Mateo County Daily Journal](#) and the [Subway](#) store located in the San Francisco Caltrain Station.

###

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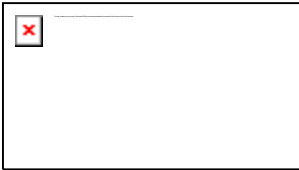
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From: abuniem@samtrans.com on behalf of Mahmoud Abunie <abuniem@samtrans.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 22, 2023 9:47 AM
To: Caltrain, Bac (@caltrain.com)
Subject: NEWS: Caltrain Temporarily Suspends Train Service Between San Jose Diridon and Tamien to Expedite Electrification Project

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NEWS

November 22, 2023

Media Contact: Mahmoud Abunie, 650.730.6201

Caltrain Temporarily Suspends Train Service Between San Jose Diridon and Tamien to Expedite Electrification Project

Caltrain will be [suspending some of its train service](#) between San Jose Diridon and Tamien stations from Monday, November 27, to Sunday, December 3, to accommodate Caltrain electrification construction.

From November 27 to December 1, the last southbound train 146 will terminate at San Jose Diridon. On Saturday and Sunday, December 2 & 3, the first northbound train 221 will depart from San Jose Diridon, and on Saturday, December 2, the last southbound train 284 will terminate at San Jose Diridon.

Free VTA bus service will replace service for those trains between San Jose and Tamien stations. For information, including bus schedules and bus stop locations, visit www.caltrain.com/status.

Caltrain's historic electrification project is the first undertaking in North America in a generation in which diesel trains and their infrastructure components are transitioned to an electrified system. The project will improve the customer experience by increasing the [number of trains](#), modernizing service and adding new safety elements. The new trains will feature on board displays with digital trip information, increased storage capacities, baby-changing tables, Wi-Fi and power outlets at every seat.

Electrification will also help meet ambitious regional and state climate action goals by lowering greenhouse gas emissions, improving air quality and relieving traffic congestion. Additionally, electrified service will advance equity along the corridor by reducing noise and air pollution while increasing access for priority equity communities. It will also set the framework for California's future High Speed Rail network that will run on the Caltrain corridor.

The proposed service plan for electrified service would see weekday peak hour trains cover 79 stations per hour, an increase from the current 66. Eleven stations would experience four train arrivals hourly per direction, a notable improvement from seven stations currently. Midday trains would cover 44 stations per hour, up from 34 today.

Caltrain recently began offering four new fare promotions, offering discounts for [families, groups, youth and hybrid workers](#). Additionally, parking at Caltrain stations is 50% off, costing only \$2.75 to park for the day.

###

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From: WhiteR@samtrans.com on behalf of Randol White <WhiteR@samtrans.com>
Sent: Friday, November 17, 2023 11:44 AM
To: Caltrain, Bac (@caltrain.com)
Subject: NEWS: TA awards \$2.3 million for elevated Caltrain tracks at Broadway in Burlingame

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NEWS

November 17, 2023
Media Contact: Randol White, 650-647-3489

TA awards \$2.3 million for elevated Caltrain tracks at Broadway in Burlingame

The San Mateo County Transportation Authority (TA) Board of Directors approved \$2.3 million in Measure A grade separation funds for additional pre-construction work for the Broadway Grade Separation Project in Burlingame at its November meeting.

The city of Burlingame is also contributing \$200,000 toward this phase of the project.

This combined funding allows for a yet-to-be-approved contractor to participate in the final aspects of the design process, which is approaching 95% completion.

Project leaders say bringing a contractor on at this early stage can help lower costs and speed up construction in the long run. This same method is considered a factor in helping the [San Mateo 101 Express Lanes](#) project come in both on time and on budget.

"The money will help bring on board a qualified contractor to advise the design team regarding constructability requirements, project phasing, and the construction schedule," said Burlingame Public Works Director Syed Murtuza. "This effort is aimed at expediting the project delivery and minimizing potential change orders and construction delays."

The California Public Utilities Commission has placed the Broadway at-grade (street level) crossing at the top of its grade-separation priority list for Northern California. As recently as Nov. 8, a northbound Caltrain locomotive hit a vehicle that was too close to the tracks. Fortunately, nobody was killed during this collision, but other serious incidents have plagued the Broadway crossing for years, including three vehicle strikes in 2022 alone.

"Grade separation projects are one of the best options for creating safer roadways for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians,"

said TA Executive Officer Peter Skinner. “They’re extremely expensive, however, so finding ways to streamline the process and lower the costs is a win-win for everyone.”

The total Burlingame Grade Separation project cost is estimated at \$316 million with completion projected as early as December 2028. The project is eligible to receive up to 50% of the project cost from the TA’s grade separation program.

###

About the Transportation Authority (TA): Created to administer Measure A, San Mateo County’s ½ cent sales tax, the TA provides funding for transportation projects and programs in San Mateo County. In 2004, more than 75 percent of San Mateo County voters reauthorize Measure A for an additional 25 years. In 2018, voters approved Measure W, the San Mateo County Congestion Relief Plan an additional ½ cent sales tax. The TA will administer half the revenue of Measure W and the San Mateo County Transit District will administer the other half to fund and implement the Congestion Relief Plan.

Read our latest [Peninsula Moves](#) newsletter and [subscribe](#). Also, follow the TA on [Facebook](#) and [X](#) (Twitter).

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