

# CAC SAFETY UPDATE

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

JULY 17, 2024

AGENDA ITEM 9



# Overview

- Safety – First and Always is Caltrain's #1 Core Value
- Safety Culture Enhancements
- Caltrain Safety Dashboard
- Grade Crossings
- Tree Policy
- Partnering/Outreach

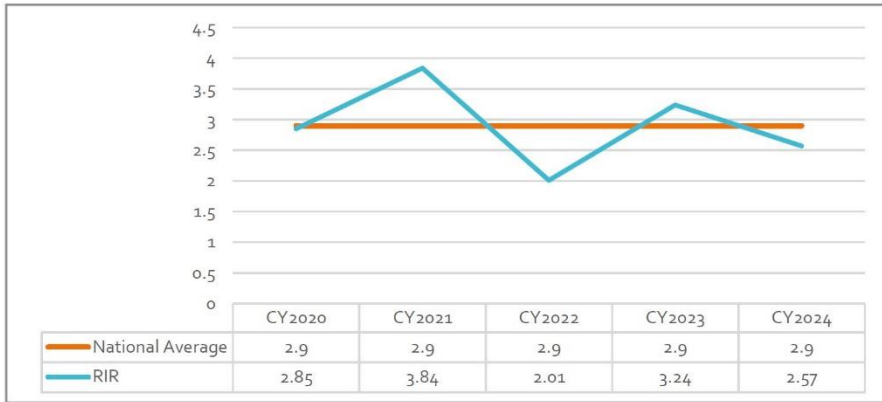
# Safety Culture

- Created **Safety – First and Always** as our primary core value  
Email Signature
- Safety Moments at all Caltrain meetings and briefings
- Safety Concern Reporting well utilized
- AED/CPR training
- Workplace Violence and Active Attacker Training
- Safety Leader Recognition Program
- “Why is Safety Important to Me” Communication
- Risk Based Decision Making / Assessments

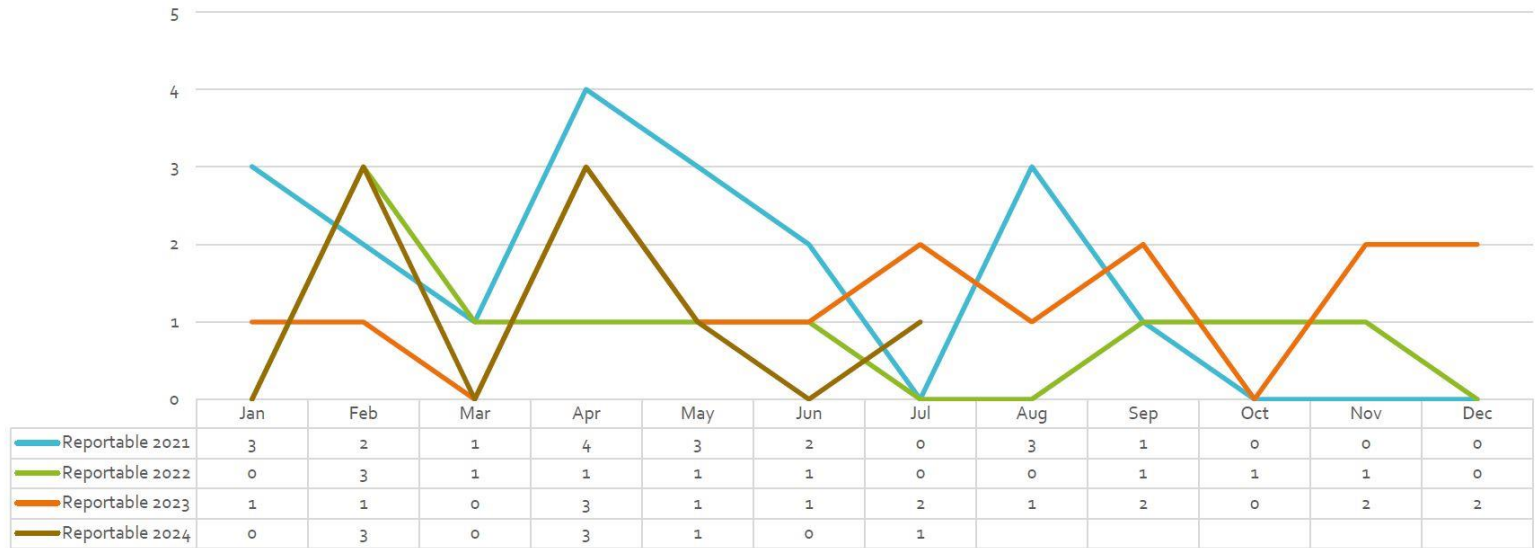


Frequency of Occurrence	Severity			
	1 Catastrophic	2 Critical	3 Marginal	4 Negligible
(A) Frequent	1A	2A	3A	4A
(B) Probable	1B	2B	3B	4B
(C) Occasional	1C	2C	3C	4C
(D) Remote	1D	2D	3D	4D
(E) Improbable	1E	2E	3E	4E

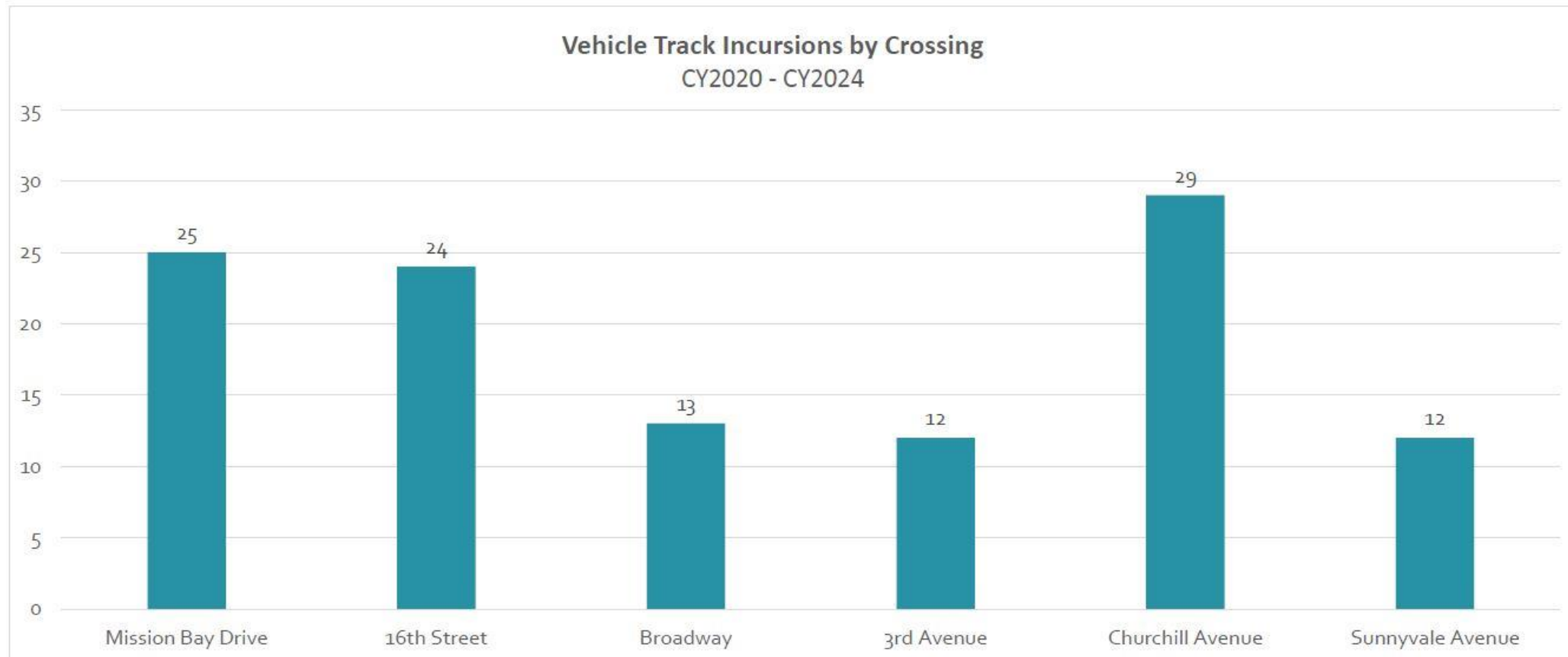
# Injuries



TASI Reportable Injuries YoY/MoM  
CY2021 - CY2024



# Vehicle Track Incursions



# Grade Crossing Enhancements

- Pavement Markings
- Solar Lane Markers
- Delineators
- Signage
- Lighting
- Technology – CCTV, Intrusion, Alert Integration
- Scheduled improvements – Broadway and Churchill

# Grade Crossing Enhancements

## Evaluating/Pursuing Technology

- CCTV
- Video Analytics – proximity, LPR, Enforcement, etc.
- Intrusion
- See something, say Something

# Grade Crossing Enhancements Technology - Intrusion

- Pilot Testing at high-risk crossings
- LIDAR
- CCTV
- Analysis and Alert (AI)
- Forensic
- Dialing in areas, timing, notifications
- Future Integration potential



# Fencing and Barriers

- Full alignment risk assessment in progress
- PCEP and general fencing repairs continuing ( Risk based)
- Exploring multiple fence funding sources
- Fence replacement project – Palo Alto

# Tree Risk and Policy

- Intense winter storms in 2023 and 2024 caused trees along the Caltrain Right of Way (ROW) to fall
  - At least 30 trees and dozens of branches
  - Construction and service delays
  - Damage to Caltrain infrastructure
- Large trees with shallow root systems or that grow in groves present the greatest risk of falling
- Greater safety risk and likelihood of system disruption once Caltrain transitions to electrified system

# 2024 Storms/Trees – Impact to Caltrain

- February 4, 2024, high winds and rain caused major disruptions in passenger service
- A tree fell across tracks and took down Overhead Contact System (OCS) as train was arriving near Burlingame Station
  - Wires wrapped around the train
  - All passengers and crew were safely evacuated
  - Caltrain paid for repairs to OCS and train, and removed tree
- Other locations on the corridor saw trees and branches fell on to tracks and OCS wire



# 2023 Storms/Trees – Impact to Caltrain

- 25+ trees and dozens of branches fell on tracks and ROW
- 5000 feet of OCS wire, 9 OCS poles and a dozen cantilever arms damaged
- 33 hours of service delays along the corridor due to complete track closures
- If electric trains had been in operation, service delays could have been multiple days for each event



# Community Wide Impacts

News // Weather

## Forecasters anticipate 'problems with fallen trees' in next Bay Area storm



Amy Graff, SFGATE  
March 20, 2023



FILE: People clear a road blocked by fallen trees after a heavy winter storm in San Mateo County, Calif., Jan. 9, 2023.  
Xinhua News Agency/Xinhua News Agency via Getty Images

WEATHER

## Bay Area storm damage: Videos and photos show storm's aftermath

by: Alex Baker  
Posted: Mar 10, 2023 / 02:40 PM PST  
Updated: Mar 11, 2023 / 08:46 AM PST



## Bay Area atmospheric river updates: Storm related highway closures impact South Bay

Story by Miabelle Salzano • Mar 13



Bay Area atmospheric river updates: Storm related highway closures impact South Bay  
© Provided by KRON San Francisco

## Bay Area assesses damage after deadly and ferocious storm rips through region

8 CBS NEWS  
BAY AREA

UPDATED ON: MARCH 22, 2023 / 8:59 PM / CBS SAN FRANCISCO

# Significant Risks

Risk of injury or death

Damage to property

Trees falling on vehicles and streets

Traffic Control Damage and Traffic Accidents

Risk of tree falling on train or derailment of train

Live wires on the ground both OCS and Utility –

Electrocution Hazard

Risk of Fire and Outages

Delays to First Responder response (Safety and Access)

Delays in Caltrain service

Legal, Financial and Insurance risks

# Assessing the Risk

- Caltrain has undertaken a tree risk assessment and maintenance program along the ROW, including pruning or removal of trees that arborist determined to be a high risk to public safety
- Caltrain plans to conduct regular assessments, including a Corridor-wide assessment by an arborist every three years
- At Caltrain's direction, TASI has established an on-call bench of emergency tree removal contractors in the event a tree falls

# Addressing our Right of Way & Adjacent properties

- Caltrain has the authority to assess and mitigate risk from trees on its own property to protect public safety
- Caltrain may not do so on adjacent private and municipal property without the coordination or consent of the property owners
- Staff have engaged with municipalities to coordinate assessments and removal of trees adjacent to the ROW with city arborists in accordance with city policies
  - All 18 municipalities on the alignment will have met with Caltrain staff by the end of summer 2024
  - Meetings create relationships and foster dialogue regarding the tree policies of Caltrain and each city
- Government Affairs staff are working with the cities to conduct outreach and inform the public regarding the need to assess, prune, and potentially remove trees adjacent to Caltrain ROW



# Proposed Policy re Trees

- Policy to address potential safety risk posed by trees adjacent to Caltrain's property
  - Prevent damage to Caltrain's infrastructure and harm to public
  - Protect against potential liability
- Approach
  - Contract with arborists to continue to assess trees along the corridor and outside the ROW
    - Primary focus on tree species that pose greatest risk
    - Minimum every three years
    - Comply with Caltrain Vegetation Management Plan
    - Coordinate with arborists of municipalities along the ROW to identify high risk trees on adjacent property
  - Written notice to property owners regarding risks their trees pose to the public
  - Work proactively with municipalities and private property owners to remove trees

# Proposed Policy re Trees

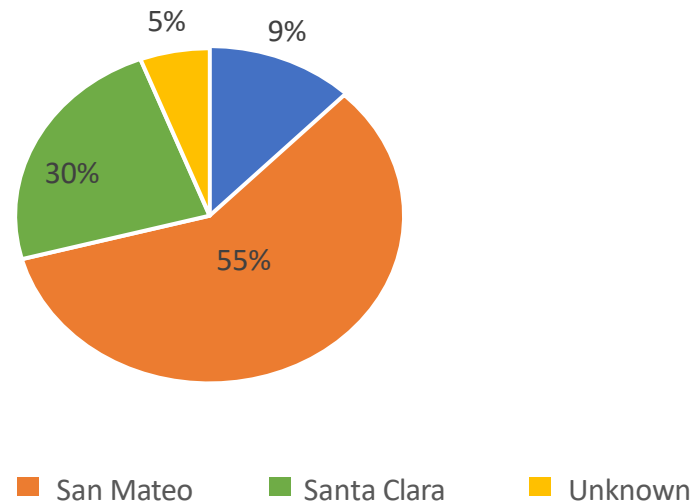
- Approach (cont.)
  - Develop joint mitigation plans with municipal and private landowners
    - Identified trees
    - Responsible party
    - Target dates for removal or pruning
  - Notify municipal and private owners in writing regarding high-risk trees
  - Coordinate safe removal of trees
    - Incentives for replacing trees at Caltrain's request
      - \$250 per tree
      - Must comply with Electrical Safety Zone requirements
      - Must be planted in a location that does not pose a risk to Caltrain infrastructure
    - Owners responsible for removing and pruning trees, and compliance with state and federal law
    - Coordinate with local governments to mitigate risk of harm to Caltrain infrastructure
    - Caltrain may subsidize the cost of removal or mitigation when necessary to reduce risk

# Community Partnering and Outreach

- City of Palo Alto
- City of Burlingame
- Reaching Out to other cities
- Regional Trespasser/Suicide Prevention Partnership
- Operation Lifesaver
- GPS App Companies
- Residential/ Grade Crossing /School Outreach continues
- Electric Train Environment Communication

# Transit Police Calls for Service

Calls for Service by County – Q2 2024



Trespasser	144
Welfare Check	54
Medical Call	26
Dispersal	45
Disturbance	31
Signals	34

Total Calls for Service - 1484

# See Something, Say Something

Do your part to keep the rails safe! **Call Transit Police at 1.877.SAF.RAIL (1.877.723.7245) immediately** to report any unsafe situation or suspicious activity, such as children playing near the tracks or people hanging out along the right of way.

Save the number in your cell phone for quick and easy access.

**Caltrain**  
*Safe*

