



JPB Board of Directors  
Meeting of August 1, 2024

Correspondence as of July 26, 2024

# Subject

1. You're Invited to the August 7th 28th Street/Little Portugal BART Station Hybrid Community Meeting
2. Letter regarding Caltrain public information policy

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**From:** VTA BART Phase II <vtabart@vtabsv.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 22, 2024 6:00 PM  
**To:** Board (@caltrain.com)  
**Subject:** You're Invited to the August 7th 28th Street/Little Portugal BART Station Hybrid Community Meeting

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Dear Valued Community Member,

VTA's BART Silicon Valley Phase II Extension Team is refining the above ground station configuration for the 28th Street/Little Portugal BART Station. VTA invites you to join the public meeting in-person or online, learn about these updates, and share your thoughts. Your feedback will help inform the final station area layout. Below is information on the meeting.

**VTA's 28th Street/Little Portugal BART Station Hybrid Community Meeting**

Wednesday, August 7th, 2024

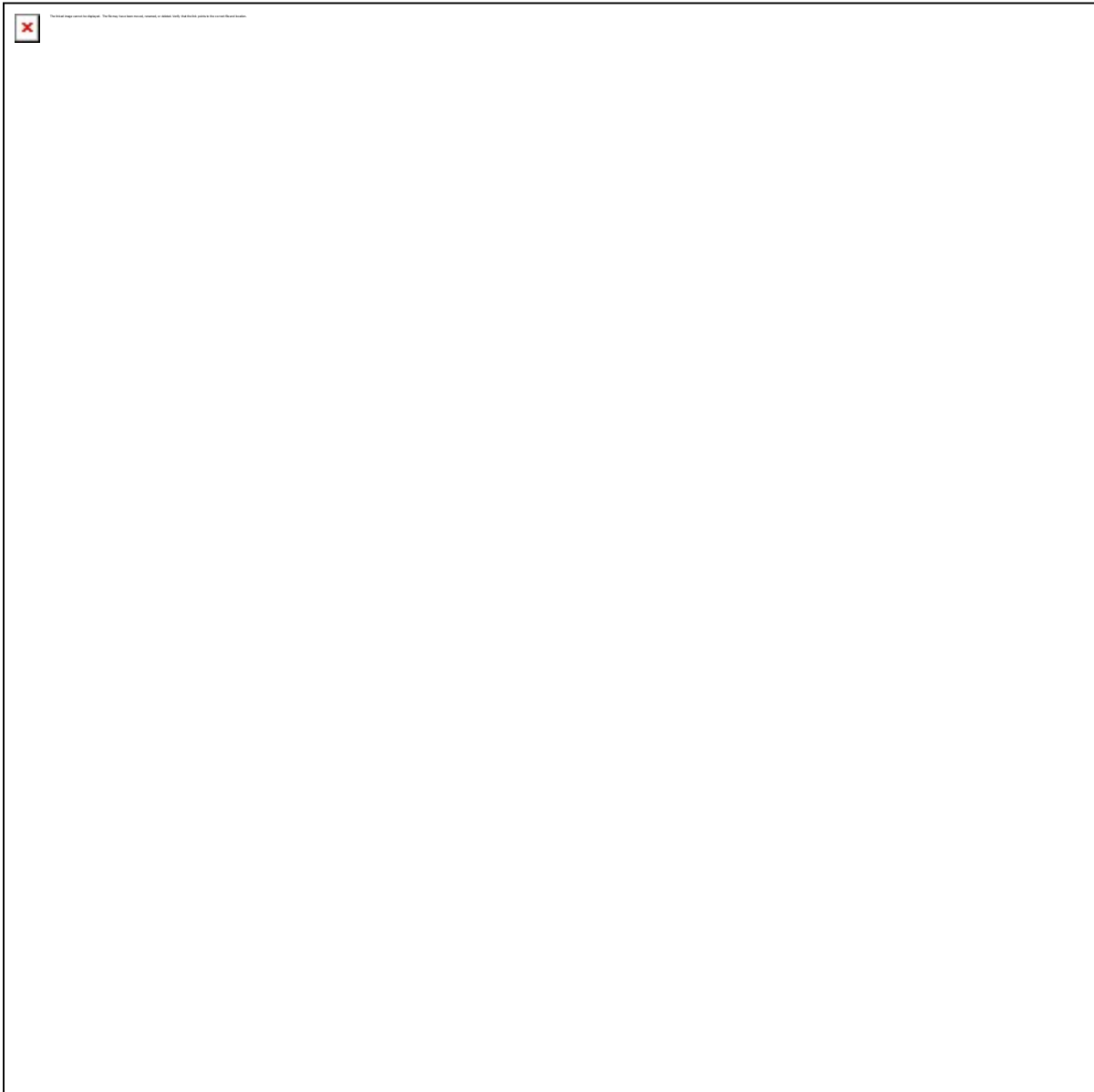
Event Starts at 6:00 PM and Presentation Begins at 6:30 PM

Roosevelt Community Center's Multi-purpose Room

901 E. Santa Clara St.

San Jose, CA 95116

Light refreshments and activities for children will be provided.



(If planning to arrive at the event by public transit VTA Routes 22 and 23 are available nearby. If planning to drive, free parking will be available on-site.)

If you are interested in attending in-person or virtually, please fill out the RSVP form below and share your translation needs by July 26, 2024. If you plan to attend virtually, information on how to join the meeting online will be sent to you.

Confirme su asistencia para solicitar necesidades de traducción.

Vui lòng trả lời để yêu cầu dịch thuật

Confirme presença para solicitar necessidades de tradução

RSVP Here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/943853028817?aff=oddtcreator>

We look forward to seeing you at the public meeting and hearing your valuable input. If you have any questions or require further information, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Thank you for your time, and we appreciate your ongoing commitment to our community.

Best,

VTA's BART Silicon Valley Phase II Extension Project

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## Have a question for us about Phase II?

Visit [www.vta.org/bart](http://www.vta.org/bart) or email us [vtabart@vtabsv.com](mailto:vtabart@vtabsv.com)



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### VTA BART Phase II

[vtabart@vtabsv.com](mailto:vtabart@vtabsv.com)

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**From:** [Palo Alto Daily Post](#)  
**To:** [Board \(@caltrain.com\)](#)  
**Subject:** Letter regarding Caltrain public information policy  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 23, 2024 1:12:04 PM  
**Attachments:** [letter to caltrain.pdf](#)

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Please provide this letter to the members of Caltrain's board of directors.

Dave Price  
Editor and Publisher  
The Daily Post  
650 328-7700



Palo Alto Daily Post  
385 Forest Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94301  
(650) 328-7700

July 23, 2024

Michelle Bouchard, CEO  
and the Board of Directors  
Caltrain  
1250 San Carlos Ave.  
San Carlos, CA 94070

I'm disappointed that Caltrain has imposed a news blackout on information regarding deaths on its tracks.

Caltrain staff developed this policy in a vacuum without reaching out to the local media. Most of the local media, including my newspaper, have followed responsible reporting guidelines on suicides provided by anti-suicide organizations. Local news outlets could have provided input to Caltrain on this issue.

For instance, the claim that the reporting of these deaths has created a contagion effect could have easily been debunked with a timeline showing the date of each death over the past year. If a contagion existed, one death would have been followed in short order by several more in the next few days. But a timeline shows that the deaths are randomly spread apart (see attached). The average number of days between a Caltrain death in 2023 was 25.

In addition to your failure to reach out to local media, you didn't hold a public hearing on this proposal, where it could be scrutinized by the public including experts on suicidology and statistics.

Caltrain's blackout runs contrary to guidelines issued by the CDC and anti-suicide organizations, which clearly state the news media has a role in reporting such deaths. Accurate reporting can tamp down rumors and gossip. Without official information, social media will be rife with the kind of unsubstantiated exaggerations that would induce copycat deaths.

I urge you to cancel the blackout and become a constructive force in reducing suicides in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dave Price", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Dave Price  
Editor and Publisher

# Caltrain deaths in 2023

The suicide contagion theory holds that after a suicide is reported in the news media, a number of other people decide to take their lives based on that news report. However, deaths on the Caltrain tracks (and most of them are suicides) happen an average of 25 days apart. Under the contagion theory, one would expect the deaths to be clumped together rather than being scattered.

