



JPB Board of Directors
Meeting of September 5, 2024

Correspondence as of August 23, 2024

Subject

1. Safety complain-willful negligent
2. Staff Response Letter to Mr. Emil Lawrence's August 5, 2024 Correspondence
3. Supervisor Canepa RE Caltrain Electric Train Celebration Event
4. Reminder: August 21st 28th Street/Little Portugal BART Station Hybrid Community Meeting
5. Re: Safety complain-willful negligent
6. BART-Caltrain Connection: Another Way? -- Will you be there?
7. SUICIDE PREVENTION
8. Discover the Future of Transit: VTA Launches the BART Phase II Microsite!
9. PCJPB Executive Director Response Letter to Mr. David Price

From: [Wayne Phan](#)
To: [Board \(@caltrain.com\)](#)
Subject: Safety complain-willful negligent
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 12:37:27 PM

You don't often get email from waynephan00@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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

I would like to file a safety complaint regarding the high platform on Caltrain. The high platform poses a significant safety hazard, especially for individuals with bikes, e-bikes, or luggage. I have witnessed several instances where people nearly tripped and fell while attempting to lift their bikes on and off the train.

I have raised this issue with Caltrain multiple times, but have not received a response. If someone were to be injured due to this safety hazard, it could result in a lawsuit, as I have already alerted Caltrain to the danger. According to safety regulations, this could be considered willful negligence, leading to serious penalties, including criminal charges.

I urge the board to take immediate action to remove all high platforms. The lower platforms are much safer, as they allow for easier bike access.

Thank you for your attention to this critical safety issue.

August 19, 2024

Emil Lawrence
1000 Twin Dolphin Dr
Unit 14/B
Redwood City, CA 94065

To Emil Lawrence,

Thank you for contacting Caltrain. We are sorry to hear of your troubles riding SamTrans. We understand how important it is to keep our riders travels safe and comfortable, not just timely, and we expect our operators to remain mindful of their customers' needs just as they are of the road. Your concerns were forwarded to the proper parties within SamTrans for further review, including their Office of Civil Rights as you had felt this operator's actions were discriminatory. A copy of this correspondence will also be sent to our Board of Directors.

Conversely, our Office of Civil Rights recommended you be provided with a copy of our Title VI Complaint Form. We have included a copy of the complaint form with his correspondence. Please take the time to review the form, fill it out, and submit it in order to allow our Office of Civil Rights to proceed with their investigation of your concerns.

Thank you again for taking the time to share your concerns with us. The San Mateo County Transit District, whether in our own operations as a public transit agency or as a part of the JPB, provides our service without regard to race, color, or national origin. And we will take the appropriate steps to ensure our service remains safe and equitable to all of our riders.

Your Caltrain BOD Public Support Team

San Mateo County Transit District
Customer Service Dept.
1250 San Carlos Avenue
San Carlos, CA 94070-1306
1-800-660-4287
www.smctd.com



DAVID J. CANEPA
SUPERVISOR, FIFTH DISTRICT
COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

August 12, 2024

Dev Davis
Chair, Board of Directors
Caltrain
1250 San Carlos Avenue
San Carlos, CA 94070

Dear Mrs. Davis,

I am writing to express my sincere appreciation for the exceptional event celebrating the launch of Caltrain's first electric train. As Vice President of the Board of Supervisors of San Mateo County, I was privileged to be a part of this milestone occasion, which undoubtedly represents a defining moment in our region's transportation history.

The Board of Directors have been instrumental in steering Caltrain towards this significant achievement. The debut of the electric train is not just a leap forward in technological advancement but a clear reflection of your dedication to fostering sustainable and innovative solutions for our transit infrastructure.

The event was a resounding success and a powerful demonstration of what can be accomplished through collaborative vision and strategic guidance. It is evident that your efforts have played a crucial role in shaping the future of our public transportation system and setting a precedent for excellence.

Thank you for your remarkable contribution to this historic project and for your unwavering commitment to improving our community's transit options. I look forward to the continued benefits this advancement will bring to our region.

In friendship,

David Canepa
Vice President, Board of Supervisors

*Bravo!
Great Job!*

From: VTA BART Phase II <vtabart@vtabsv.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2024 4:00 PM
To: Board (@caltrain.com)
Subject: Reminder: August 21st 28th Street/Little Portugal BART Station Hybrid Community Meeting

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

[View this email in your browser](#)



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 21st, 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.



28th Street/Little Portugal BART Station Hybrid Community Meeting



Wednesday, August 21, 2024

Event Starts: 6:00 pm

Presentation: 6:30 pm

**Roosevelt Community Center | 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 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

Have a question for us about Phase II?

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



Forward



Share



Share

VTA BART Phase II

vtabart@vtabsv.com

(408) 321-2345 BART Silicon Valley Hotline



Follow



Follow



Website



Email

Copyright © 2024 Valley Transportation Authority, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website.

Our mailing address is:

Valley Transportation Authority

3331 N First Street

San Jose, CA 95134

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).



From: [Wayne Phan](#)
To: [Board \(@caltrain.com\)](#)
Subject: Re: Safety complain-willful negligent
Date: Wednesday, August 21, 2024 4:32:53 PM

You don't often get email from waynephan00@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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

Following up to this safety issue. It is Ada noncompliance issue

On Sat, Aug 17, 2024, 12:37 PM Wayne Phan <waynephan00@gmail.com> wrote:

I would like to file a safety complaint regarding the high platform on Caltrain. The high platform poses a significant safety hazard, especially for individuals with bikes, e-bikes, or luggage. I have witnessed several instances where people nearly tripped and fell while attempting to lift their bikes on and off the train.

I have raised this issue with Caltrain multiple times, but have not received a response. If someone were to be injured due to this safety hazard, it could result in a lawsuit, as I have already alerted Caltrain to the danger. According to safety regulations, this could be considered willful negligence, leading to serious penalties, including criminal charges.

I urge the board to take immediate action to remove all high platforms. The lower platforms are much safer, as they allow for easier bike access.

Thank you for your attention to this critical safety issue.

From: LoopWorks <rob-milpitasprt.com@shared1.ccsend.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 22, 2024 9:44 AM
To: Board (@caltrain.com)
Subject: BART-Caltrain Connection: Another Way? -- Will you be there?

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



LoopWorks

[View as Webpage](#)

BART-Caltrain Connection: Another Way? - Sept. 4

Caltrain Board of Directors,

Will you be joining us for a public conversation about connecting the BART Berryessa Station with the Caltrain Diridon Station? Early this month an invitation was sent to you citing our Climate Crisis and fiscal cliffs threatening transit agencies around the Bay. **If you or your organization's agent plans to attend, please [RSVP here](#) so we can inform others to expect you.**

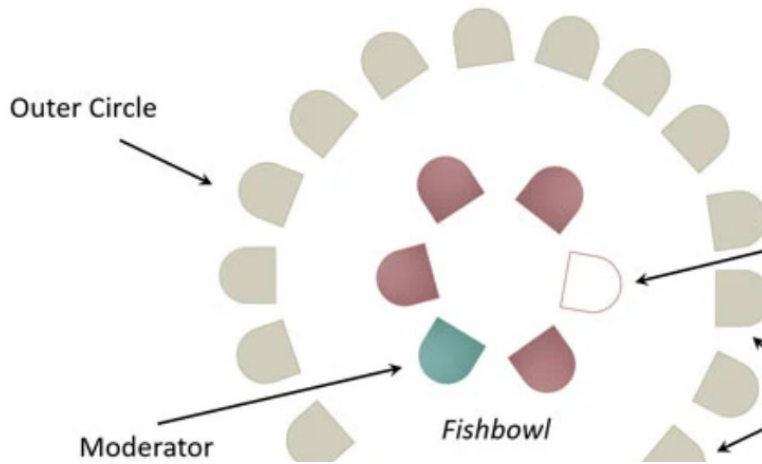
Here in Santa Clara County, VTA moves forward with a \$12B mega-project that will do nothing to address our congestion and Climate problems until 2037 or later - if we can pay for it! Already, some **[public voices are questioning](#)** the venture.



A renewed public conversation about how to connect the BART Berryessa station with the Diridon Caltrain station is needed. [LoopWorks](#), leader of the Milpitas Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) [project](#), invites you to a public discussion using an [open fishbowl conversation format](#) (shown below).

Four panelists occupy the center circle of chairs, where one chair is left empty. Panelists will represent the interests of VTA, transit users, environmentalists, and Personal Rapid Transit (PRT or podcars). The moderator introduces the topic, and the panelists start the discussion. Attendees outside the fishbowl listen in on the conversation; those wishing to participate do so by taking the empty seat.




We expect attendees and online viewers will quickly grasp current transit challenges, and start community-level thinking about next steps. **If you or your organization's agent plans to attend, please let us know so we can inform others to expect you.**



Join the conversation ***BART-Caltrain Connection: Another Way?***
Wednesday, Sept. 4, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm (online and in person)
Milpitas Library Auditorium at 160 N Main Street.
Moderator: Belinda Quesada, KCXU (92.7 FM) Radio Host
Due to the tight schedule, we plan to start promptly at 6:30 pm.

Visit our [BART-Caltrain Connection webpage](#) for details,
agenda, list of invitees, and streaming link.

Because the Library Auditorium is limited to 120 people,
please [RSVP here](#) if you plan to attend in person.

	Share This Email
	Share This Email
	Share This Email



<https://MilpitasPRT.com>
Info@MilpitasPRT.com

408-262-8975

LoopWorks | 1421 Yellowstone Av | Milpitas, CA 95035 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



For email marketing for free

From: [Jim Lewis](#)
To: [Board \(@caltrain.com\)](#)
Subject: SUICIDE PREVENTION
Date: Thursday, August 22, 2024 5:05:26 PM
Attachments: [Articles, Daily Post, Daily Journal and The Almanac August 2024.pdf](#)

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

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

Honorable Chair Davis and Board Members:

Appearing in multiple newspapers this week were articles about a proposal to address the long standing issue of SUICIDES along the Caltrain corridor. It is certainly a sad day when these events occur and any efforts to better understand and address the issue is welcome.

I fully support this proposal being placed on the next Board of Director's agenda for further study. We owe this to the victims and to their families to consider and implement viable programs to address the ongoing incidents that have plagued the area for so long. If the use of AI and other technology will help, I'm all in.

Should there be a Study Session, referral to a Committee or other public meeting, I'd be grateful for notification. Through our collective efforts, big problems can be mitigated and potentially solved. Thank you for your time and consideration. It is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully, Jim Lewis

Encl.: 08-16-24 The Almanac "Train strikes, kills pedestrian in Menlo Park"
08-19-24 Daily Post "Can AI and Video Stop Train Fatalis?"
08-20-24 Daily Journal "Caltrain leadership initiates new conversation to mitigate fatalities"

The Almanac

THE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER FOR MENLO PARK, ATHERTON, PORTOLA VALLEY AND WOODSIDE

AUGUST 16, 2024 | VOL. 59 NO. 49



WWW.ALMANACNEWS.COM

Train strikes, kills pedestrian in Menlo Park

By Eleanor Raab

A person was struck and killed by a train near the Encinal Avenue crossing in Menlo Park on Sunday evening, Aug. 11. A spokesperson from the Menlo Park Fire Protection District confirmed that the individual was pronounced dead on the scene.

The person was struck by

a southbound train near the Encinal Avenue crossing around 9 p.m. The Encinal Avenue crossing was closed for several hours on Sunday evening, but was back open by the morning of Monday, Aug. 12.

The person who was killed was identified by the San Mateo County Coroner's Office as Dylan Scirpo, 17, from Menlo Park.

At 10 p.m., Caltrain sent another train to accommodate the stranded passengers, according to an X post from @CaltrainAlerts.

The train that hit the individual was one of Caltrain's new electric trains. Sunday was the first day that these trains were operating on regular service routes, according to a press release from Caltrain.

Any person who is feeling depressed, troubled or suicidal can call 1-800-784-2433 to speak with a crisis counselor. People in Santa Clara County can call 1-855-278-4204. Spanish speakers can call 1-888-628-9454.

People can reach trained counselors at Crisis Text Line by texting 741741. ■

Email Staff Writer Eleanor Raab at eraab@almanacnews.com.

Daily Post

Locally owned, independent

MONDAY, August 19, 2024

Can AI and video stop train fatalities?

Mueller suggests a high-tech solution

San Mateo County Supervisor Ray Mueller of Menlo Park wants to see if artificial intelligence, computer technology and cameras could be used to stop suicides on the Caltrain tracks.

On Aug. 11, "a promising young 17-year-old, Dylan Scirpo, lost his life in an apparent suicide on the Caltrain tracks in Menlo Park," Mueller, a member of the Caltrain board, wrote in a memo to the railroad's management.

"I bring forward this proposal in his memory, and the memory of all those

[See CALTRAIN, page 18]

CALTRAIN

who tragically lost their lives before him in similar fashion, and in recognition of the trauma their families and Caltrain employees experienced as result of their deaths," Mueller wrote.



MUELLER

Mueller wants Caltrain to ask for proposals for systems from AI labs at Stanford, Berkeley and San Jose State, along with other potential vendors.

In 2015, Palo Alto replaced security guards at crossings with thermal infrared cameras to spot people on the tracks.

Mueller, in his memo, said he's hoping the system would identify people "located in dangerous proximity to or on Caltrain tracks."

He also hopes the system would identify "persons exhibiting behavior consistent with the intention to inflict self-harm."

Mueller sent his memo to Caltrain chief Michelle Bouchard. Presumably it would be put on the agenda of a future Caltrain meeting for discussion. If the board agrees with the idea, Caltrain employees would write up a "request for proposals" from those who might be able to provide such a system. Then Caltrain would consider the different proposals.



DAILY JOURNAL FILE PHOTO

An electric Caltrain is seen at the San Mateo station.

Caltrain leadership initiates new conversation to mitigate fatalities

After teen's apparent suicide this month, proposal surfaces to invest in AI, computer vision technology

By Alyse DiNapoli
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF

The apparent suicide of a teen is pushing some of Caltrain's leadership to advocate for heightened investment in technologies that could lessen the number of fatal collisions.

Ray Mueller, Caltrain board member and San Mateo County supervisor, urged agency staff to start looking into partnerships

See **CALTRAIN**, Page 23

CALTRAIN

Continued from page 1

with research universities and technology firms that could provide computer vision and artificial intelligence solutions that prevent such fatalities.

"Computer vision is already being used in so many different areas from a security standpoint, but I think that it's time that we look at using the application for a different purpose," Mueller said.

In a memo to Caltrain's executive director, he proposed the agency conduct a request for information to solicit bids for technology that

could identify people located "in dangerous proximity or on Caltrain tracks" and identify those "exhibiting behavior consistent with the intention to inflict self-harm," among others.

On Sunday, Aug. 11, a Menlo-Atherton High School student was struck and killed by the train in Menlo Park. Mueller said he has spoken with the family, who is supportive of the proposed discussion and request for information.

The number of Caltrain fatalities has seen slight increases over the last several years, and the majority of them are the result of suicide. There were 10 Caltrain-related deaths in 2020, increasing to 15 in 2023. This year has already seen about 13 fatalities.

Caltrain spokesperson Dan Lieberman

said there are several initiatives the agency conducts to mitigate such collisions, such as implementing crisis hotline signs, or large-scale projects, such as grade separations, which limit access to the tracks. The latter is one of the most effective solutions, though expensive and time intensive, he said.

Mueller said he knows preventing such death requires a multipronged approach, but the agency should be using all the resources at its disposal.

"I can't describe as a board member and for the Caltrain family, how impactful each one of these losses is. You feel for the family, and you want to help them, and you want to figure out a way to make it safer for them and for employees, including the trauma that they experience in this as well," Mueller said. "I

don't think it's a one-size-fits-all solution ... but bringing the appropriate technology solution to the table to help aid that effort is something that I think we have to constantly be looking at given where we are."

Mueller said he is not familiar with any rail agencies in the state using computer vision and AI technology for this type of use case but knows it has been piloted in countries such as Japan and Germany.

The issue will likely be discussed at the agency's board meeting in early September.

Crisis hotlines are available 24/7. Contact 988 or (650) 579-0350 for help.

alyse@smdailyjournal.com
(650) 344-5200 ext. 102

From: VTA BART Phase II <vtabart@vtabsv.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 22, 2024 8:14 PM
To: Board (@caltrain.com)
Subject: Discover the Future of Transit: VTA Launches the BART Phase II Microsite!

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

[View this email in your browser](#)



Dear Community Members,

As part of VTA's ongoing efforts to bring transformative transit solutions to Silicon Valley, we have launched a special Microsite dedicated to the BART Silicon Valley Phase II Extension (BSVII) Project. This innovative Microsite is seamlessly integrated within VTA.org and serves as a gateway to the future of transit in Silicon Valley, offering the community a more immersive and informative experience with this transformative project.

Visit VTABART.org to dive into everything this groundbreaking project has to offer. From real-time construction updates and interactive maps to the latest on VTA's Thriving Business Program, the Microsite is your one-stop resource for all things BART Phase II. Plus, explore how this critical extension will soon connect Berryessa Station to downtown San Jose and Santa Clara, revolutionizing commutes across the region.

Get connected with the future of transit today—explore the project Microsite and see how VTA is keeping the community connected to the BSVII Project!

Best,

VTA's BART Silicon Valley Phase II Extension Project

Have a question for us about Phase II?

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



Forward



Share



Share

VTA BART Phase II

vtabart@vtabsv.com

(408) 321-2345 BART Silicon Valley Hotline



Follow



Follow



Website



Email

Copyright © 2024 Valley Transportation Authority, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website.

Our mailing address is:

Valley Transportation Authority

3331 N First Street

San Jose, CA 95134

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).





BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024

DEVORA "DEV" DAVIS, CHAIR
STEVE HEMINGER, VICE CHAIR
MARGARET ABE-KOGA
PAT BURT
JEFF GEE
RICO E. MEDINA
RAYMOND MUELLER
SHAMANN WALTON
MONIQUE ZMUDA

MICHELLE BOUCHARD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

August 20, 2024

Mr. David Price
Palo Alto Daily Journal
385 Forest Ave.
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Dear Mr. Price,

Thank you for your recent letter addressed to the Caltrain Board of Directors. I appreciate you taking the time to share your concerns and feedback.

Historically, most fatalities on the Caltrain corridor have been determined to be intentional by coroners' offices in San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. The determination does not occur immediately and Caltrain is never in a position to determine whether a death on our tracks is intentional or not.

After consulting suicide prevention organizations, the Santa Clara County Behavioral Health Department, local transportation agencies such as the Golden Gate Transit District, Volpe National Transportation Systems Center, nationally renowned researchers on the topic, and rail safety staff, Caltrain no longer believes that proactively sharing fatality information to the media is the best practice.

Context

Until several months ago, it was Caltrain's practice to proactively inform media outlets of a fatality on our tracks immediately after an incident. Even when we were careful with our description, media outlets would often publish stories with headlines such as "Caltrain Kills" and sometimes include photos of the train, which suicide prevention organizations have identified as harmful. Headlines such as these are not only triggering for individuals with ideation of suicide but also for family members of those that have passed and individuals such as the train engineers and passengers who are eyewitnesses.

PENINSULA CORRIDOR JOINT POWERS BOARD

1250 San Carlos Avenue

San Carlos, CA 94070 (650) 508-6200

Mr. David Price
August 20, 2024
Page 2 of 2

The well-documented phenomenon known as the Werther Effect shows that media coverage of suicides often results in copycat incidents. Although there may be a counter argument to this, the documented connection between media coverage and repeat occurrences is why most news publications have policies against covering suicides.

The World Health Organization recently published a document – Preventing Suicide: A Resource for Media Professionals.

<https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/372691/9789240076846-eng.pdf?sequence=1>

As part of it's DON'T section: Don't use sensational language, don't provide details about the site / location, and don't use photographs.

Caltrain's New Practice

Whenever there is an incident, Caltrain intends to continue to provide the public and riders with information about service disruptions such as how long to expect delays or whether a bus bridge has been established. That information is provided through a variety of channels on social media and through Caltrain's new [service alerts tool](#).

With Caltrain's new practice, we will respond to press inquiries regarding fatal incidents once the investigation has concluded and authorities have determined whether the incident was intentional or accidental. Since implementing our new practice, Caltrain preliminary data shows fewer fatalities but we will continue to monitor the trend and work with suicide prevention experts to help interpret the results over time for us.

It is our hope that Caltrain's new practice may help save lives and will not impact our commitment to providing the public and riders with information about service disruptions.

We are committed to responsive and responsible public communications and will continue to improve our practice into the future. We are willing to meet with you if you would like to continue this conversation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MBouchard', written in a cursive style.

Michelle Bouchard
Executive Director Caltrain