

**Bicycle and Active
Transportation Advisory
Committee**

Correspondence as of

September 13, 2024

From: abuniem@samtrans.com on behalf of [Mahmoud Abunie](#)
To: [Caltrain, Bac \(@caltrain.com\)](mailto:Caltrain_Bac (@caltrain.com))
Subject: NEWS: Caltrain Recognizes September as Rail Safety & Suicide Prevention Month
Date: Thursday, September 5, 2024 12:01:00 PM

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NEWS

Sept. 5, 2024

Media Contact: Mahmoud Abunie, 650.730.6201

Caltrain Recognizes September as Rail Safety & Suicide Prevention Month

Trains have been running service on the Caltrain corridor since 1863, making the sight of trains going up and down the peninsula a regular occurrence. However, complacency around trains can lead to tragedy if one fails to use common sense and comply with safety guidelines.

To highlight the importance of safety around train tracks and the high rate of intentional deaths on the rails nationally, Caltrain participates in Rail Safety & Suicide Prevention Month. A proclamation was unanimously passed by the Caltrain Board of Directors at its meeting today.

"Safety is paramount at Caltrain and ensuring our daily train service is safe from San Francisco to Gilroy is our highest priority," said Caltrain Executive Director Michelle Bouchard. "At Caltrain, safety is a core value that we practice every day, and while we use this month to get the word out about how to stay safe around our trains, we stay committed to making this railroad safe year-round."

In honor of Rail Safety & Suicide Prevention Month, Caltrain will be promoting rail safety tips and suicide prevention resources on its various social media platforms. Caltrain also is planning two rail safety events in later in September to engage community members.

Caltrain also will be hosting a rail safety table at the agency's electric service launch party Saturday, Sept. 21, at Palo Alto Station and Sunday, Sept. 22, at San Mateo Station. In addition, on Sept. 24, Caltrain and the Transit Police unit will be doing a Rail Safety Blitz event to educate drivers and pedestrians at specified grade crossings with rail safety educational brochures.

Also, the railroad has historically collaborated with suicide prevention agencies

to prevent intentional deaths on the rails by posting crisis hotline signage at stations and points all along the corridor. Caltrain has been partnering with local behavioral and mental health organizations in San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties for years.

Caltrain addresses safety through a comprehensive, ongoing program that focuses on the “Three E’s” of railroad safety – Education, Engineering and Enforcement. For the last 20 years, Caltrain has planned or participated in an annual rail safety event in conjunction with Operation Lifesaver. Since 2009, [California Operation Lifesaver](#) has declared September as Rail Safety Month. As one of the nonprofit organization’s community partners, Caltrain joins in their efforts to promote rail safety initiatives.

To be a part of the conversation during Rail Safety & Suicide Prevention Month, passengers and local residents can pick a favorite safety tip and share it on social media with **#CaltrainSafe** and **#RailSafety**.

Examples of tips:

If you encounter an emergency on Caltrain or see something suspicious, call the **Transit Police at 1.877.SAF.RAIL (1.877.723.7245)**.

A typical Caltrain train can take nearly a mile to stop, even when emergency brakes are applied.

It is never safe to stop closer than 15 feet from the rails, and a train is at least three feet wider than tracks on both sides.

Only cross Caltrain tracks at designated crossings when it is safe to do so. While it might not be the quickest route, it is the safest.

Caltrain’s new electric infrastructure carries up to 25,000 volts, so you should never interfere with the overhead wires and avoid any downed wires you see. This is another important reason to never be on the tracks other than at a designated crossing, as a downed wire could energize another object such as a rail or fence without your knowledge, making them highly dangerous.

For more information, visit www.caltrain.com/rider-information/safety-security.

###

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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From: liebermand@samtrans.com on behalf of [Dan Lieberman](#)
To: [Caltrain, Bac \(@caltrain.com\)](mailto:Caltrain_Bac (@caltrain.com))
Subject: NEWS: Caltrain \$1 Youth Fare Starts Sunday, September 1
Date: Friday, August 30, 2024 2:56:42 PM

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NEWS

August 30, 2024

Media Contact: Dan Lieberman, 650.622.2492

Caltrain \$1 Youth Fare Starts Sunday, September 1

As of Sunday, Sept. 1, a \$1 All Zone One-way youth fare will be available on all fare payment methods, a \$2 All Zone Day Pass will be available on Caltrain Mobile (while available) and at Caltrain ticket vending machines.

“It’s now easier than ever for young riders to take advantage of Caltrain, embracing freedom and flexibility rather than traffic and gridlock,” said Caltrain Executive Director Michelle Bouchard. “Now young people can get up and down the peninsula with ease for less than the cost of a boba tea.”

The Caltrain Board of Directors [voted to permanently reduce fares](#) for youth riders at their Aug. Board Meeting.

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From: liebermand@samtrans.com on behalf of [Dan Lieberman](#)
To: [Caltrain, Bac \(@caltrain.com\)](mailto:Caltrain_Bac (@caltrain.com))
Subject: NEWS: Caltrain Releases Electrified Schedule
Date: Monday, August 26, 2024 12:48:45 PM

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NEWS

August 26, 2024

Media Contact: Dan Lieberman, 650.622.2492

Caltrain Releases Electrified Schedule

New schedule featuring half-hourly weekend service, SF-SJ trips in under an hour and improved express service to launch September 21

Caltrain has [released the schedule](#) designed for the new electric trains which will launch alongside fully electrified mainline Caltrain service on Saturday, September 21. In addition to faster commute times and increased frequency, the schedule also features simplified service patterns, a new train numbering system and an expedited transfer at San Jose Diridon for South County riders.

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 77 minutes.
- Travel time from Southern Santa Clara County (Gilroy/Morgan Hill) to San Francisco will be cut by up to 20 minutes.

Ride More, Wait Less

- 20% increase in train service at stations.
- 26% increase in train service at equity priority stations.
- Half-hourly weekend service (compared to every hour today).

The new trains accelerate and decelerate faster than the diesel fleet, allowing Caltrain to run express trains that can make the journey in under an hour, while also serving 11 stations instead of the previous 7-8. This means 16 stations will be served by three to four trains per hour per direction during peak travel times. Additionally, weekend service, mid-day

and evening weekday service will run every half hour, making it far easier to use Caltrain to travel to sports games, concerts and other public events.

Service patterns will be simplified through the use of “clockface” schedules, where trains arrive at stations at regular intervals to make it easier for passengers to remember, while also ensuring shorter wait times.

The new numbering system for trains allows riders to determine at a glance what service pattern a train will follow. Train numbers can be found on the front and side of the trains’ exteriors and are also listed on the onboard digital displays and are included in the onboard announcements. Northbound trains will continue to be odd-numbered, while southbound trains are even-numbered.

- 100s – Weekday Local
- 400s – Weekday Limited
- 500s – Weekday Express
- 600s – Weekend Local
- 800s – South County Connector
- 900s – Special

Riders taking the South County Connector from stations south of Tamien can save up to 20 minutes thanks to the new schedule. South County riders will ride on the diesel trains to San Jose Diridon Station, where they will find a three-minute cross-platform transfer to one of the new electric trains. In the event of a late-arriving train, connecting trains will be held at San Jose Diridon between 2-5 minutes to accommodate South County passengers, with the final South County Connector of the evening (#822) holding as late as needed to ensure no passenger is left behind. Caltrain eventually plans to replace this transfer by introducing battery-equipped electric trains into service that would run on overhead power in the electrified service areas and then use battery charge to travel “off-wire” on non-electrified track areas, leading to fully zero-emission South County service.

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From: liebermand@samtrans.com on behalf of [Dan Lieberman](#)
To: [Caltrain, Bac \(@caltrain.com\)](mailto:Caltrain_Bac (@caltrain.com))
Subject: NEWS: Brand New Caltrain Online Store Launches
Date: Monday, August 12, 2024 3:31:39 PM

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LOGO_Caltrain_150px



NEWS

August 12, 2024

Media Contact: Dan Lieberman, 650.622.2492

Brand New Caltrain Online Store Launches

Caltrain merch now available, including EMU model trains, tote bags, retired F40 locomotives and holiday sweaters

Caltrain merchandise is now available on Caltrain's new [online store](#). Caltrain riders and rail fans will now be able to enjoy a range of Caltrain-branded products, including the locomotives that will soon be retired at the end of diesel service in September.

To kick off this exciting addition to the Caltrain brand and celebrate Caltrain's historic electrification project, the first-ever Caltrain [holiday sweater](#) is available for pre-sale this week, so anyone looking to have the best-looking transit-themed gear in time for the holidays should preorder before Friday, August 16.

For novelty items, the online store will also be launching with Caltrain-branded red-and-white [soccer balls](#), a great way to celebrate Caltrain's service to Bay FC and the San Jose Earthquakes, as well as the service it will run to locally-hosted World Cup matches in 2026. [Decommissioned diesel locomotives](#) will also be available as a perfect keepsake to cherish the memory of the Caltrain's soon-to-be-historic diesel fleet. The locomotives will no longer be functional, but still make the perfect gift for your favorite rail fan. Interested parties can submit bids for the locomotives in late September after the launch of electrified service.

"The Caltrain store is a great shopping experience for everyone, from Caltrain riders to Bay Area residents to rail fans across California," said Caltrain Executive Director Michelle Bouchard. "I particularly recommend the F40 locomotives, which would be perfect for a creative planter box, a cozy bed and breakfast or a conversation piece for your mantle (provided your mantle is

reinforced to support a 13-ton locomotive).”

Demand has already been higher than expected, with T-shirts, hats, bags and model electric trains already selling out. Caltrain expects to refill its capacity in the near future so Caltrain fans can share their love for the rail service in style.

The Caltrain online store will continue to roll out more merchandise tailored to the unique culture of transit fans in the region it serves. Currently, the store is only shipping products to customers in California, with plans to expand in the near future.

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From: liebermand@samtrans.com on behalf of [Dan Lieberman](#)
To: [Caltrain, Bac \(@caltrain.com\)](mailto:Caltrain_Bac (@caltrain.com))
Subject: NEWS: Caltrain Welcomes First Passengers on New Electric Trains
Date: Saturday, August 10, 2024 1:31:12 PM

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NEWS

August 10, 2024

New [photos and video](#) & [Media Kit](#)

Media Contact: Dan Lieberman, 650.622.2492

Caltrain Welcomes First Passengers on New Electric Trains

Caltrain was joined by federal, state, local officials, transportation, business and labor leaders to celebrate the inaugural electric train ride.

Today, Caltrain debuted its cutting-edge electric fleet, hosting a VIP tour where participants boarded the trains for its historic inaugural service. After nearly a decade of construction, these new trains signify a landmark shift towards a faster, more frequent and environmentally friendly public transportation network along the San Francisco Peninsula.

The event included a 30-minute round-trip experience, starting in San Francisco with the opportunity to engage with federal, state, local elected officials as well as transportation, business, labor and community leaders. Sunday, August 11, the electric trains will run their first regular service. Additional electric trains will be introduced every week until the launch of the new schedule and full electrified service between San Francisco and San Jose on Saturday, September 21.

The new high-performance electric trains offer a better [experience for Caltrain riders](#) while providing [faster and more frequent service](#). Express service will allow commuters to travel between San Francisco and San Jose in under an hour. The new trains will also increase service by 20% because they can accelerate and decelerate much faster than diesel trains. This provides more robust and flexible access to cities throughout the rail system, with 16 stations seeing trains every 15-20 minutes at peak hours and all stations receiving service every 30 minutes on the weekend compared to hourly service today. Additionally, electrified service will advance equity along the corridor by reducing noise and air pollution while increasing access and service for equity priority communities by 26%.

[Electrification](#) will help meet ambitious regional and state climate action goals by lowering greenhouse gas emissions, improving air quality and relieving traffic congestion. By transitioning from diesel to electric trains, carbon dioxide emissions will be cut by 250,000 metric tons annually - equivalent to removing 55,000 cars from the road each year. The Electrification Project not only decreases emissions and noise pollution in priority equity communities, but also provides better access and more robust and flexible service for everyone.

Additionally, the new vehicles offer enhanced amenities, including customer-facing Wi-Fi, new digital onboard displays, power outlets at each forward-facing seat, energy-efficient lighting, an improved climate control system, baby-changing tables in the bathroom, security cameras, and expanded storage under the cantilevered seats. They will also generate less noise than their diesel equivalent, making the trip more enjoyable both for riders and residents that live near Caltrain tracks.

The project has created [33,000 jobs in 36 states](#), fueling economic growth and innovation within the local communities and nationwide. The collaborative effort to manufacture the electric trains and infrastructure underscores a commitment to sustainability and job creation.

Caltrain is the oldest continuously operated railroad in the West, starting steam train passenger service 160 years ago when Abraham Lincoln served as President. After 70 years of diesel trains, the Caltrain Electrification Project, with substantial federal and State investment, will introduce the new era of electrified service on the corridor.

Below are quotes from strong supporters of the Caltrain Electrification Project:

"The future of California's rail systems will be powered by clean, renewable energy, and as the Biden-Harris Administration makes the biggest investment in public transit in U.S. history, we were proud to help fund the transformative Caltrain electrification project," said **U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg**. "Converting the 51-mile-long rail system from diesel to electric will not only improve service for riders and air quality all along the route, it will also set a standard for other rail systems to follow as we work to reduce carbon pollution across the country."

"Safe, affordable and accessible public transit is key to San Francisco's economic success and to saving the planet from the climate crisis," said **Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi**. "Caltrain electrification means shorter commutes, cleaner air and good-paying jobs in the Bay Area and beyond. It was my great pleasure to join so many leaders for the first ride on Caltrain's new electric fleet."

"High-speed rail linked to an electrified Caltrain will not just get Californians where they're going faster, it's connecting communities and driving economic growth," said **Governor Gavin Newsom**. "The completed Caltrain project is an integral part of high-speed rail and the story California is telling about clean transportation. And Californians are already seeing the results for themselves as we electrify Caltrain, finish structures, lay track, design and build stations, and buy trains. We're making rail real in California."

"The electrification of our railroad has been a goal for decades, and it has taken a tremendous effort to make it happen," said **Caltrain Board Chair Dev Davis**. "I am delighted for the public to finally see the future of Caltrain for themselves, and I invite everyone to get on board and enjoy the next generation of public transit."

"Today marks a historic milestone with the unveiling of California's first electrified commuter rail system," said **U.S. Senator Alex Padilla**. "Caltrain's Peninsula Corridor Electrification project will not only reduce emissions and air pollution in neighboring communities, but it will also deliver more reliable transportation for commuters in the Bay Area. I will continue working to bring more resources to modernize our transportation infrastructure to grow our economy and improve travel across the state."

"Today is the day we've dreamed about and worked so hard to make a reality a 21st century electrified Caltrain that will travel faster, cleaner and quieter for the people of our region," said **Congressmember Anna Eshoo**. "I'm so proud to have envisioned the plan and secured over a billion dollars. Now it's all aboard!"

"The dream of Caltrain electrification has become a reality and I am thrilled this momentous accomplishment will benefit our environment, our economy and commuters across our region," said **Congressmember Kevin Mullin**. "This new state-of-the-art passenger rail service sets the bar for sustainable transportation in California and the nation. The success of this project is thanks to an incredible amount of steadfast work and partnerships across multiple sectors. The future of our public transit system is here, and I can't wait to hop aboard a new electric Caltrain!"

"As we face the all-too-real effects of climate change, it is more important than ever to reduce carbon emissions as we keep our communities connected. The Caltrain Electrification project will help sustainably modernize our rail system, providing travelers with newer and faster transit options between San Jose and San Francisco. I am excited to see the new electric trains on the tracks," said **Congressmember Zoe Lofgren**.

"Caltrain connects our Bay Area communities and is an integral part of the daily lives of my constituents in South San Jose," said **Congressmember Jimmy Panetta**. "The federal government's significant investment in modernizing our nation's infrastructure is taking an important step forward with the phase-in of Caltrain's new all-electric fleet. I look forward to seeing Caltrain deploy cleaner, quieter, and more efficient trains as we work together to both reduce commute times and our overall carbon output."

"The Caltrain Electrification Project will reduce emissions, make our air cleaner, reduce traffic, and provide faster and more reliable service for our communities. I look forward to seeing the trains begin service this fall. I want to thank Caltrain and our leaders at the federal and local level for their commitment to improving public transportation in the Bay Area while tackling the climate crisis," said **Congressmember Ro Khanna**.

"Today marks the beginning of a cleaner, greener, and more connected Bay Area, led by an electrified Caltrain that will improve our air quality and combat climate change, providing real benefits to everyone who calls this region home,"

said **State Senator Josh Becker**. "Congratulations to Caltrain for this momentous achievement"

"An electrified Caltrain is a huge win for the South Bay, the environment, and anyone who travels along the San Francisco Peninsula," said **State Senator Dave Cortese**. "I am excited for my first ride on the future of public transit and cannot wait for everyone to have an opportunity to experience it for themselves."

"Congratulations to Caltrain for their dedicated efforts in replacing their current diesel trains with a fully electric fleet. Modernizing our public transit through electrification is a significant step towards achieving our climate goals" said **State Senator John Laird**. "By reducing emissions and enhancing efficiency, these electric trains will contribute to a more sustainable and environmentally friendly transportation network for the region."

"What Caltrain has done with its electrification project is transformative," said **State Senator Aisha Wahab**. "These types of climate-friendly modernizations put us closer to our climate goals, while improving service to riders."

"During my years as Assembly Budget Chair, I helped prioritize California's investments. When these visions become reality, I always marvel at the impact they have on people's lives. Today is no different. By leveraging state funds with federal dollars, we bring CalTrain into the modern transportation era that benefits the environment and commuters. The electrification of this transit system is truly transformational for the region," said **Assemblymember Phil Ting**.

"Today marks a momentous milestone for an electrified rail service that will serve our region for decades to come," said **Assemblymember Marc Berman**. "The quieter, cleaner, and faster trains will advance quality of life on the Peninsula. As we approach the light at the end of the tunnel, I congratulate Caltrain for their decades of hard work to get to today, and invite everyone who lives and works along the Peninsula to come out and see the future of Caltrain for themselves."

"Our cities were built on the railroad. Our downtowns flow from our stations. Caltrain is the life-giving artery running through the Peninsula and electrification represents a renewal of its beating heart," said **Assemblymember Diane Papan**. "This is truly a day to celebrate."

"This milestone in the Caltrain electrification project is a testament to our commitment to creating a greener, more efficient transportation network in the greater Bay Area. Having been involved in this project from its early stages, I am both excited and deeply proud of this accomplishment," said **Assemblymember Ash Kalra**. "The inaugural ride reflects our collective vision for a sustainable future, where innovative transit solutions contribute to the well-being of our communities and the environment."

"Caltrain's inaugural electric train ride is a major milestone for the Bay Area's transit system," said **Assemblymember Alex Lee**. "The Electrification Project brings faster, greener and more reliable train service for residents of my district, modernizing Caltrain's fleet from diesel to electric. The electric fleet will benefit Californians for generations to come, advancing the state's climate goals"

through reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Congratulations to Caltrain for this big achievement."

"Caltrain's new electric trains have so many benefits—they are better for the environment, quieter, and faster," said **San Francisco Mayor London Breed**. "This is an important and necessary step to bringing Caltrain to the Portal in the heart of Downtown San Francisco. I am thrilled that passengers from San Francisco all the way down the Peninsula to Gilroy will now be able to enjoy these impressive new trains. "

"If we're going to meet our climate goals and maintain our economic competitiveness, we need sustainable transportation options with greater capacity and convenience— and Caltrain is showing the nation how it's done," said **San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan**. "Silicon Valley's commuters will get a reminder each day that America can still achieve great things — greener, faster, and more frequent transit that will serve generations to come."

"San Mateo County is about to enjoy world class train service like it's never seen before," said **San Mateo County Board of Supervisors President Warren Slocum**. "The new trains are cleaner, quieter, and faster than ever before, and invite everyone to get on board and experience the future of public transit for yourself."

"The positive environmental impact of this achievement will reach beyond those who ride the electric train to and from Santa Clara County," said **Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors President Supervisor Susan Ellenberg**. "This is a watershed moment I believe will inspire greater use of our public transit system, better connect our communities and stimulate further innovation and environmentally responsible transit."

"This project is a physical manifestation of a forward-thinking, bold vision for cutting-edge, 'green' train technology," said **U.S. Federal Transit Administration Acting Administrator Veronica Vanterpool**. "We congratulate the Joint Powers Board, Caltrain and all of the state and local leaders who supported this first-in-a-generation electric powered train that creates good-paying jobs, mitigates climate change and improves the ridership experience."

"The Federal Railroad Administration joins Secretary Buttigieg and others from the U.S. Department of Transportation in expressing our excitement about the Caltrain electrification project, which will reduce pollution and make rail even more environmentally friendly for future generations," said **FRA Administrator Amit Bose**. "This project is a win for riders already utilizing commuter service and lays the groundwork for future high-speed rail service between San José and San Francisco and further innovation across the state."

"The electrification of Caltrain is a significant moment in the legacy of American rail," said **California Secretary of Transportation Toks Omishakin**. "This project will bring world class zero-emission rail service to generations of people, and I am honored that California is again leading the way with cleaner mobility in this historic moment."

"The launch of Caltrain's new electric train is a significant milestone in our collective efforts to reduce emissions and improve air quality along the

Peninsula,” said **California Air Resource Board of Directors Chair Davina Hurt**. “This project reflects the Air District’s commitment to creating cleaner, healthier communities by investing in innovative transportation solutions that improve air quality and enhance the well-being of our residents.”

“Electrification of the Caltrain corridor has long been one of the Bay Area’s top transportation priorities,” said **Metropolitan Transportation Commission Chair Alfredo Pedroza**. “MTC is proud to be a major funding partner in the electrification project and excited to be part of a whole new chapter in the history of Bay Area transit. Caltrain’s new trains illustrate the better experience that all Bay Area transit agencies are working on to make transit a more attractive and convenient way to get around the Bay Area every day.”

“SamTrans is a committed partner to Caltrain, serving stations throughout San Mateo County in order to help our riders get where they need to go,” said **SamTrans Board Chair Marina Fraser**. “We congratulate Caltrain for this monumental achievement in public transportation as we work towards our own goal of a zero emissions fleet.”

“The electrification of Caltrain is a worthy project the TA has been proud to support,” said **San Mateo County Transportation Authority Board Chair Carlos Romero**. “The new service will benefit not only riders, but everyone who travels within and through San Mateo County. We look forward to enjoying the benefits of this project for decades to come.”

“Congratulations to everyone who helped deliver this transformational project,” said **Rafael Mandelman, Chair of the San Francisco County Transportation Authority**. “The Transportation Authority is proud to have helped fund over \$40M in sales tax and other funds for the Caltrain Modernization Program which will enable faster service to more communities along the corridor, while helping San Francisco and the Bay Area reach critical emissions reduction and economic recovery goals.”

“I am thrilled with the launch of Caltrain's electrified train,” said **VTA Board Chair Cindy Chavez**. “This project is the result of a collaborative effort aimed at reducing our carbon footprint while enhancing the overall commuting experience for riders. I look forward to seeing the positive impact the new trains will have on our environment and on the daily lives of commuters.”

“160 years ago, the first trains traveled from San Jose to San Francisco, laying the foundation for our region to become the economic powerhouse it is today,” said **San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Board Chair Amanda Eaken**. “I believe this moment will be similarly historic, fueling generations of growth while improving our environment and quality of life.”

“With the landmark completion of this magnificent project, we now have a clean, world-class commuter rail system serving the world’s greatest tech and innovation corridor,” said **Jim Wunderman, President and CEO of the Bay Area Council**. “Starting in 2014 when we first called on this important project to be undertaken, the Bay Area Council has been proud to help lead the charge in securing the funding and approvals needed to electrify and modernize Caltrain. This day wouldn’t be possible without the stalwart leadership of Rep. Anna Eshoo and so many other state, local and regional partners, including the Silicon Valley Leadership Group and SPUR, who have worked tirelessly to

succeed in making this happen despite many difficult challenges and obstacles. This is a triumph for our region."

"The electrification of Caltrain has always been a team effort," said **SAMCEDA President & CEO Rosanne Foust**. "To imagine it, to fund it, to build it. And now, to celebrate it, and the exciting future of clean, fast, essential public transit."

"Electrifying Caltrain commuter rail service couldn't happen at a better time," said **California Transportation Commission Chair Carl Guardino**. "It's faster, cleaner, quieter and — absolutely cooler."

This is a thrilling milestone that Caltrain riders and transit supporters have anticipated for years," said **Project Director and Co-Founder of Friends of Caltrain Adina Levin**. "So many people will enjoy faster, more frequent service to get to jobs, school, ballgames and fun! This helps Caltrain evolve to be a world-class service, part of a well-connected transit network serving a diversity of riders and trips.

"The new electric trains symbolize the dedication and expertise of the workers who built this critical infrastructure project," said **Santa Clara & San Benito Counties Building & Construction Trades Council Executive Director David Bini**. "I am proud of the efforts made by so many to modernize this great railroad, and all of us are better off thanks to their hard work and professionalism."

"Caltrain starting electric passenger service is a leap forward in modernizing California's rail system, placing our state in the forefront of the country's rail revolution," said **California High-Speed Rail Authority Chief Executive Officer Brian Kelly**. "It lays down critical high-speed rail infrastructure in the Bay Area. As a funding partner, the Authority is thrilled to continue its work in connecting Silicon Valley to the Central Valley and open economic opportunities throughout the state."

"We're thrilled to celebrate this historic milestone with Caltrain as they operate their first passenger train on this innovative commuter rail system," said **Mark Konchar, Balfour Beatty US Civils President & Managing Director of US Rail Operations**. "Our teammates' and industry partners' dedication to constructing the project's Overhead Contact System and rail infrastructure has been paramount in delivering the corridor's groundbreaking technology, converting diesel to electric power, setting a new standard for sustainable public transit. We're honored to have contributed to the Caltrain Electrification project that will significantly enhance regional mobility and reduce environmental impact, showcasing the power of partnership and innovation in modern infrastructure development."

"We are thrilled to see these state-of-the-art electric trains enter service for Caltrain," said **Martin Ritter, CEO of Stadler US Inc**. "Since our partnership began in 2017, it has been a pleasure to work with such a forward-thinking organization. Caltrain stands out as a true pioneer in the transit industry, setting a new standard by fully electrifying and modernizing their infrastructure. This makes them a model for transit agencies nationwide. As the vehicle provider, we are honored to contribute to this significant modernization project. We are confident that these new trains will enhance the commuting experience

through Silicon Valley by making it more comfortable, convenient, reliable, faster and, most importantly, emission-free. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Caltrain for their trust in us and look forward to continuing our collaboration with this innovative agency.”

###

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From: liebermand@samtrans.com on behalf of [Dan Lieberman](#)
To: [Caltrain, Bac \(@caltrain.com\)](mailto:Caltrain_Bac (@caltrain.com))
Subject: NEWS: Caltrain Runs Eight Trains Simultaneously on Newly Completed Corridor
Date: Monday, June 10, 2024 11:33:14 AM

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NEWS

June 10, 2024

Pictures and Video: <https://smctd.canto.com/b/PR9UL>

Media Contact: Dan Lieberman, 650.622.2492

Caltrain Runs Eight Trains Simultaneously on Newly Completed Corridor

Few steps remain before the fleet of the future enters service

Upon the substantial completion of all major construction for Caltrain Electrification, the agency conducted a successful test of eight trains running simultaneously on the corridor. This marks the final corridor wide test before the launch of electrified service in September, as well as the last weekend service change for the Electrification project.

For the past eight years, construction has gone on day and night, including locating underground utilities, testing soil conditions, inspecting signal and communication equipment and pruning and removing trees. The project team installed over 2,500 pre-engineered poles and strung over 2.6 million feet of wire to support the Overhead Contact System (OCS) which provides power to the fleet of new, high-performing electric trains.

“This weekend’s test has proven that Caltrain is going to be ready to show our riders and the region a new and improved Caltrain,” said Caltrain Executive Director Michelle Bouchard. “I thank our riders for their patience as we completed this necessary construction, and I look forward to September when we can enjoy the benefits of a faster, greener and quieter Caltrain.”

Caltrain plans on launching its electric service on September 21, which will [feature](#) a San Francisco to San Jose trip in under an hour, peak hour trains every 15-20 minutes at 16 stations and trains every half hour during mid-day, evenings and weekends.

Additionally, 10 traction power facilities, which will provide, distribute and regulate electricity to the OCS and electric trains, were installed between the San Francisco and San Jose.

After the successful substantial completion of Electrification infrastructure through out 51-mile corridor between San Francisco and San Jose, Caltrain, Stadler and design-build contractor Balfour Beatty could safely conduct the eight-train power contingency test to stress the electrical power system and simulate real time September full EMU service schedule. The successful completion ensures that eight EMU trainsets can properly perform under various power configurations.

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. This year marks the 160th anniversary of San Francisco-San Jose rail service.

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To: [Caltrain, Bac \(@caltrain.com\)](mailto:Caltrain_Bac (@caltrain.com))
Subject: NEWS: Crowds of Thousands Turn Out to Catch of Glimpse of New Electric Trains
Date: Wednesday, May 15, 2024 3:27:06 PM

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NEWS

May 15, 2024

New photos and video available at <https://smctd.canto.com/b/VT922> and <https://smctd.canto.com/b/K05EP>

Media Contact: Dan Lieberman, 650.622.2492

Crowds of Thousands Turn Out to Catch of Glimpse of New Electric Trains

The new state-of-the-art Caltrain fleet is mere months away from service. Thousands came to the event to experience the new trains and celebrate Caltrain's 160 anniversary.

Over the weekend, Caltrain held its third public tour of the agency's new electric train cars. The new train cars will serve as the centerpiece of the transformative Caltrain Electrification Project, which will start providing electric service this Fall.

With over 5000 RSVPs as of the morning of the event, this tour has attracted even larger crowds than the [first two events](#) held in San Jose last July and San Francisco last September. Attendees enjoyed [food trucks, a live DJ and more](#) as they awaited their opportunity to see the future of Caltrain for themselves. Tours began at 10:30 a.m. after a program featuring Congressmembers Anna Eshoo and Kevin Mullin, Senators Josh Becker and Dave Cortese, Assemblymembers Diane Papan, Marc Berman and Alex Lee, Region 9 Federal Transit Administrator Ray Tellis and Financial Secretary of the San Mateo County Building and Construction Trades Council Bart Pantoja, and Don Cecil of SAMCEDA.

The new high-performance electric trains, which will carry 100% of Caltrain service between San Francisco and San Jose starting this fall, will offer a [better experience for Caltrain riders](#). After launching this fall, Caltrain will be running [faster and more frequent service](#), with 16 stations

receiving trains every 20 to 15 minutes during peak hours, weekend trains arriving twice hourly and express service from San Francisco to San Jose in under an hour. Additionally, the new vehicles offer enhanced amenities, including new digital onboard displays, power outlets at each forward-facing seat, energy-efficient lighting, baby changing tables in the bathroom, security cameras, and expanded storage under the cantilevered seats. They will also generate less noise than their diesel equivalent, making the trip more enjoyable both for riders and residents that live near Caltrain tracks.

This year marks the 160th Anniversary of rail service between San Francisco and San Jose. Caltrain is the oldest continually-run railroad west of the Mississippi.

The Electrification project is fully funded due to the efforts of federal, state and local partners that helped secure funding. The Caltrain delegation led by Speaker Emerita Pelosi, US Rep. Eshoo, Senator Padilla, and the late Senator Feinstein, secured over \$1 billion of federal resources. Our expansive state delegation, going back to 2012, also secured over \$1 billion in funding for the project.

“Caltrain electrification means shorter commutes, cleaner air and good-paying jobs in the Bay Area and beyond,” said **Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi**. “It has been my privilege to help secure federal funding in the Congress to support the Caltrain Electrification Project. The tours over the weekend gave San Franciscans another exciting opportunity to experience the future of this state-of-the-art service – and I join so many across the Bay Area looking forward to its historic launch this year.”

“The Caltrain Electrification Project is well on its way to providing a cleaner commute for millions of Bay Area riders while also reducing noise and air pollution in neighboring communities,” said **US Senator Alex Padilla**. “This project has created good-paying green jobs up and down the peninsula and will make our rail service faster and more dependable, while helping California meet its ambitious clean energy goals.”

“Electrifying our public transport system will lead to good-paying jobs, quieter commutes, and fewer emissions polluting the air we breathe,” said **US Senator Laphonza Butler**. “During this tour, Caltrain will demonstrate how federal funds are being used to benefit our communities and will showcase how California is leading the way in combating climate change.”

“Caltrain is the spine of the Peninsula’s transportation system, and the transformation of a 160-year-old railroad into a modern electric system is an achievement that everyone celebrating today can be proud of,” said **US Rep. Anna Eshoo**. “An electrified Caltrain will be a world-class transportation system that our innovative region deserves with faster, quieter and environmentally cleaner trains that will improve air quality by

significant reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.”

“160 years ago, transportation from San Francisco to San Jose was transformed,” said **US Rep. Kevin Mullin**. “The launch of an electrified Caltrain will create another transformational change for this corridor that will allow tens of thousands of people each day to reach to their destination faster, quieter, and safer while eliminating greenhouse gas emissions. A win for everyone. I can’t wait to take my first ride.”

“Happy 160th anniversary Caltrain! Thank you for the work you do to connect people in our community with economic opportunity and to reduce emissions,” said **US Rep. Ro Khanna**. “I look forward to continuing to work alongside you to improve mass transit and opportunity in Silicon Valley.”

“Bay Area communities rely on safe, reliable, and clean rail service to cut down their commute times and our overall carbon output,” said **US Rep. Jimmy Panetta**. “The federal government’s significant investment in Caltrain’s Electrification Project will help deploy cleaner, quieter, and more efficient trains that are essential to improving our quality of life and tackling climate change. As Caltrain marks 160 years of service, the public unveiling of these new trains points to an exciting new chapter ahead.”

"Today's event provided a glimpse into the future of Caltrain which will bring faster, more frequent service to the Bay Area. Caltrain Electrification is a testament to the innovation and commitment of our region," said **State Senator Josh Becker**.

"An electrified Caltrain is a bold step towards clean, efficient public transit and a shining example for the future of transportation for our State," said **State Senator Dave Cortese**. "It is gratifying to see this become a reality after many years of hard work."

"As we work towards our collective goal of combatting climate change, I am excited to see Caltrain’s commitment reflected in their investment of new electric trains. These trains will not only reduce emissions and improve air quality, but also enhance passenger service" said **State Senator John Laird**. "This historic milestone also coincides with the 160th anniversary of Caltrain, which is a testament to their dedication in serving our community."

"Caltrain serves as the lifeblood of the Peninsula, fueling growth and sustaining communities along its route," said **Assemblymember Diane Papan**. "With its electrification, Caltrain undergoes a transformation, representing a surge of vitality, fostering healthier environments, and unlocking new opportunities for our region."

"I’m excited to see Caltrain’s electrified service between San Francisco and

San Jose go live in just a few months,” said **Assemblymember Alex Lee**. “The Electrification Project is key to reducing carbon emissions in the midst of the climate crisis. It will bring faster and greener trains, so that residents of my district will enjoy improved rail services and air quality. Caltrain’s electrified service is a major achievement for the state, and I’m proud to be a supporter of this historic accomplishment.”

“The Caltrain Electrification project is a huge environmental win for our community. The new electric trains will give Peninsula residents more frequent, faster, and sustainable transit service starting this fall and for decades to follow,” said **Assemblymember Marc Berman**. “The great attendance at today’s event reflects the community’s eagerness for cleaner air and more frequent transit service.”

“As a former member of the Caltrain Board of Directors, I had the privilege of voting on early steps of the electrification project and I am thrilled to see another major milestone reached,” said **Assemblymember Ash Kalra**. “I am hopeful that Caltrain will continue to lead by example, inspiring the state and the nation to embrace cleaner technologies and enhance public transportation for all.”

“This event marks a transformational and historic time for Caltrain as we prepare for electric service this fall and commemorate 160 years of rail service from San Francisco to San Jose,” said **Caltrain Board Chair Dev Davis**. “The completion of the Electrification Project will bring cleaner, quieter and faster service, ensuring that Caltrain will continue to play an integral role in the growth and prosperity of the region.”

“Today’s event is a great reminder that very soon we will see cleaner, faster, safer trains at stations all along this critical corridor,” said **Ray Tellis, Federal Transit Administrator for Region 9**. “The Biden-Harris Administration is proud of FTA’s continuing support of this project that will improve travel for thousands of Californians.”

“These rails were San Mateo County’s original trade corridor before we had 101, 280, or even SFO,” said **SAMCEDA President Rosanne Foust**. “Today they still play a vital role in our region's prosperity and mobility. SAMCEDA thanks Caltrain and the many elected and community leaders who made electrification Caltrain's bright, new future.”

“The unveiling of Caltrain’s fleet of the future marks yet another important milestone in the electrification and modernization of this critical transit system connecting one of the world’s most vital economic corridors,” said **Jim Wunderman, President and CEO, Bay Area Council**. “The Bay Area Council is proud to have been an early and strong proponent for investing in Caltrain and we applaud the tremendous work Caltrain and so many have done to move this project forward.”

"I'm very excited to see the debut of Caltrain's new electric trains. These

electric trains will provide a cleaner, quieter, and more modern and reliable experience for riders throughout the region,” said **Ahmad Thomas, CEO, Silicon Valley Leadership Group**. “A thriving public transit system is essential for advancing the business competitiveness of the region, and for fostering a future for Silicon Valley that is both more sustainable and equitable.”

“Labor built these rails, and these rails will build the future of the Peninsula,” said **Bart Pantoja, Business Manager/Financial Secretary of the San Mateo County Building and Construction Trades Council**. “Generations to come will benefit from the hard work that went into this project, and I am proud of everyone that put in long hours to make it happen.”

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 equity priority communities. It will also set the framework for California’s future High Speed Rail network.

Each trainset will have seven cars, as opposed to the current five to six. The new trains also accelerate and decelerate faster than their diesel alternatives, allowing more frequent stops in the same amount of time.

These new trains will go into service in fall 2024, and are currently undergoing testing to ensure they, and the infrastructure they rely upon, are in good working order.

The trains were built by Stadler US at their facility in Salt Lake City, Utah. After they were assembled, they were sent to a test facility in Pueblo, Colo. where they were tested at high speeds under numerous conditions as required by the Federal Railroad Administration. The trains were tested for braking, propulsion, ride quality, noise and vibration, door operation, Positive Train Control and Electromagnetic Interference over the course of eight months.

The Caltrain Electrification Project will electrify the corridor from the San Francisco Station at 4th and King streets to the Tamien Station in San Jose, allowing all diesel-hauled trains on this part of the corridor to be replaced by electric trains.

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. This year marks the 160th anniversary of San Francisco-San Jose rail service, a history which was celebrated at the event with informational booths operated by Caltrain and the South Bay Historical Railroad Society, with history buffs getting rewarded with free giveaways.

This tour was sponsored by the Gannett Fleming and AECOM.

###

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To: [Caltrain, Bac \(@caltrain.com\)](mailto:Caltrain_Bac (@caltrain.com))
Subject: NEWS: Caltrain Celebrates Bike to Wherever Day
Date: Tuesday, May 14, 2024 4:48:57 PM

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NEWS

May 14, 2023

Media Contact: Dan Lieberman, 650.622.2492

Caltrain Celebrates Bike to Wherever Day

[Bike to Wherever Day](#) has returned this Thursday, May 16, and [Caltrain](#) is ready and able to help Bay Area cyclists get to where they want to go.

Caltrain, in partnership with the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition (SVBC) and San Francisco Bicycle Coalition (SFBC), and in recognition of National Bike Month, is co-sponsoring energizer stations at Caltrain Stations across the three counties it serves. Caltrain is also hosting energizer stations at San Mateo and Mountain View Stations and will additionally have staff at Morgan Hill and Gilroy Stations. Energizer stations will be equipped with snacks, coffee, free swag and much more in order to welcome bike riders.

People who use bikes to access Caltrain can take advantage of more than 300 bicycle eLockers at 22 Caltrain stations, including the most recent installation at the Menlo Park Station. Standard eLocker rates are only 5 cents per hour, with night and weekend rates of 2 cents per hour. Caltrain is currently giving 100 free hours of bicycle parking at Caltrain-owned eLockers to riders when they download the easy-to-use BikeLink app and use it to access a BikeLink locker at a Caltrain station for the first time.

Currently, approximately 20% of Caltrain riders access the system with a bicycle. Prior to COVID-19, Caltrain served approximately 10,000 bicyclists every weekday, with 10% of riders typically bringing their bike onboard. Survey data has found that many of these riders do so because they do not have a secure place to leave their bike at the station. The eLocker installations provide customers with an easy to use, secure facility and help alleviate some of the demand for bike space on trains.

Caltrain is a cosponsor of Bike to Wherever Day, along with its sister

agencies SamTrans and the San Mateo County Transportation Authority.

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To: [Caltrain, Bac \(@caltrain.com\)](mailto:Caltrain_Bac (@caltrain.com))
Subject: NEWS: Caltrain Launches Bay Area Transit Discord Server
Date: Monday, May 13, 2024 12:56:18 PM

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NEWS

May 13, 2024

Media Contact: Dan Lieberman, 650.622.2492

Caltrain Launches Bay Area Transit Discord Server

Caltrain breaks new ground with first-of-its-kind social media platform

On Saturday, May 11, Caltrain launched the [Bay Area Transit Discord Server](#). The rail agency seeks to use the social media outlet to keep both current and potential riders informed and engaged.

The Discord Project will be housing service alerts from all the major Bay Area Transit Agencies - BART, VTA, AC Transit, WETA, Caltrain, and SamTrans. All of the participating agencies will have representatives active on the platform to engage with their respective riders. All members of the public are welcome to join the platform [by clicking here](#).

An events tab will list both in-person and virtual events from each agency so people can ask questions and coordinate with other transit agencies. People can learn about and RSVP for events, staying abreast of developments throughout the Bay Area's many transit systems. Additionally, the server allows transit users to interact with one another, share photos and discuss transit policy.

Later this year, the server will introduce a feature which auto-populates press releases and blog posts, so riders can stay up to date with what's currently going on at each participating agency.

"As a rail service serving Silicon Valley, Caltrain has never shied away from innovation," said Caltrain Executive Director Michelle Bouchard. "Our presence on Discord will help to create an online community of transit riders, bringing us into a new era of social media as we prepare to enter a new era of train travel."

Over 1200 people have signed up for the server in the first 48 hours.

###

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