



JPB Board of Directors  
Meeting of November 7, 2024

Correspondence as of October 25, 2024

# Subject

1. Interview Request for the Nueva Current
2. Correspondence for Select Committee and Commission
3. Wheel flats on EMU
4. Re: Wheel flats on EMU
5. Idling Complaints
6. RE: Idling Complaints – *Staff Response*
7. Cal-Train Gate at Trestle Apartments in San Carlos
8. Unused resources
9. Bathrooms on trains need to be in working order
10. Re: Caltrain Horns – *Staff Response*
11. Re: Bathrooms on trains need to be in working order - *Staff Response*
12. Re: Cal-Train Gate at Trestle Apartments in San Carlos - *Staff Response*

**From:** [Neel Gupta](#)  
**To:** [Board \(@caltrain.com\)](mailto:Board (@caltrain.com))  
**Subject:** Interview Request for the Nueva Current  
**Date:** Sunday, October 20, 2024 5:54:28 PM

---

You don't often get email from neelgupta@nuevaschool.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

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

Hello,

I hope this email finds you well!

My name is Neel, and I'm a staff writer for The Nueva School's newspaper, the Nueva Current. For our next issue, I'm writing an article about how recurring Caltrain deaths have affected our community, especially students.

I was wondering, are you available for a zoom interview with someone knowledgeable about Caltrain's policy and perspective? I would love to get their perspective. I could also email my questions if that's easier.

I've also requested records/statistics about Caltrain fatalities on your website; if it's approved, you could also send them over in this email!

Let me know, and thank you so much for considering. I hope to talk to you soon!

Warm regards,  
Neel Gupta  
he/him/his

**From:** [Adina Levin](#)  
**To:** [MTC-ABAG Info](#)  
**Subject:** Correspondence for Select Committee and Commission  
**Date:** Monday, October 21, 2024 7:38:17 AM  
**Attachments:** [Regional Transit Funding Letter Fall 2024.pdf](#)

---

You don't often get email from adina@seamlessbayarea.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

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

Attached please find a letter regarding regional transit funding options from local elected officials and advisory body members.

- Adina  
Adina Levin  
Seamless Bay Area  
<https://seamlessbayarea.org>  
650-646-4344

October 21, 2024

**Re: Regional Transit Funding**

To:  
Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
Caltrain Board  
VTA Board  
SamTrans Board

Honorable Commissioners and Board Members,

We urge you to support a regionally coordinated strategy to fund public transportation, to address the fiscal cliff facing agencies including BART and Caltrain, and to ensure progress on regional transit coordination initiatives that make the system more user-friendly and that are helping to regrow transit ridership.

To get voter support, we will need a strategy that makes the public transportation system better. It will be difficult to ask voters to increase taxes for a measure that will deliver service cuts.

Without this funding, Caltrain, BART, and the region's other highest ridership agencies will face major service cuts, which will limit access, reduce transit ridership, add to greenhouse gas emissions, and compound traffic congestion. Cuts will damage the region's economy, hurt transit-dependent people most severely, and take us further away from being able to achieve our goals for housing, livable communities and climate. And cuts to regional services will have a negative impact on ridership of connecting local services.

Improving public transportation will help boost our economy, make the Bay Area more affordable for all residents, connect our communities, reach our housing goals, and increase accessible and safe mobility options for all – but we must act quickly.

Agencies and counties have been negotiating to ensure that funding options fairly address local needs. We also must realize that as Benjamin Franklin said in 1776, we must hang together or we hang separately.

Sincerely,

Jen Wolosin  
Menlo Park City Council Member

Chris Sturken  
Redwood City City Council Member

John Baker  
South San Francisco Planning Commissioner

Auros Harman  
San Bruno Planning Commissioner

Jeff Schmidt  
Menlo Park Environmental Quality Planning Commissioner

Lucas Ramirez  
Mountain View City Council Member

Daniel Howard  
Former Sunnyvale Planning Commissioner

Sandra Lang  
Member, Paratransit Coordinating Council

Benjamin McMullan  
Chair, Paratransit Advocacy Council

**From:** [Shahrul Song](#)  
**To:** [Board \(@Caltrain.com\)](mailto:Board@Caltrain.com)  
**Subject:** Wheel flats on EMU  
**Date:** Monday, October 21, 2024 8:13:19 AM

You don't often get email from shahrulsong@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.

Hi,

I commute to work with Caltrain and go up to SF on the weekends. I usually sit in the bike car since i am using my bicycle as a last mile commute.

It is very concerning to me that almost every EMU bike car i sat in has a problem with wheel flats. This leads to a huge noise problem, maintenance, and comfort issues to the passengers onboard.  
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S004316489190020U#:~:text=Wheel%20flats%2C%20caused%20by%20the%20braking%20of,cause%20mechanical%20damage%20to%20bearings%20and%20axles>.

More importantly, this could lead to the same problem that BART has on its FOTF trainset.

Is there a reason on how these trains are getting flat wheels less than a month in revenue service? Is there an immediate rectification to this issue?

I'm a huge Caltrain supporter and would love to see Caltrain succeed more than anything.

Best,  
Shahrul Song

**From:** [Shahrul Song](#)  
**To:** [Board \(@caltrain.com\)](mailto:Board@caltrain.com)  
**Subject:** Re: Wheel flats on EMU  
**Date:** Monday, October 21, 2024 8:16:34 AM

You don't often get email from shahrulsong@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.

Hi,

Its on Car 3256.

Best,  
Shahrul

On Mon, Oct 21, 2024 at 08:13 Shahrul Song <[shahrulsong@gmail.com](mailto:shahrulsong@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hi,

I commute to work with Caltrain and go up to SF on the weekends. I usually sit in the bike car since i am using my bicycle as a last mile commute.

It is very concerning to me that almost every EMU bike car i sat in has a problem with wheel flats. This leads to a huge noise problem, maintenance, and comfort issues to the passengers onboard.  
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S004316489190020U#:~:text=Wheel%20flats%2C%20caused%20by%20the%20braking%20of,cause%20mechanical%20damage%20to%20bearings%20and%20axles.>

More importantly, this could lead to the same problem that BART has on its FOTF trainset.

Is there a reason on how these trains are getting flat wheels less than a month in revenue service? Is there an immediate rectification to this issue?

I'm a huge Caltrain supporter and would love to see Caltrain succeed more than anything.

Best,  
Shahrul Song

**From:** [Geyer, Rebecca@ARB](mailto:Geyer,Rebecca@ARB)  
**To:** [Board \(@caltrain.com\)](mailto:Board (@caltrain.com))  
**Subject:** Idling Complaints  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 22, 2024 8:45:12 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

You don't often get email from [rebecca.geyer@arb.ca.gov](mailto:rebecca.geyer@arb.ca.gov). [Learn why this is important](#)

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

Dear Board Members,

I am reaching out to you as this seemed the most direct way available through your website to find the proper contact. I am with California Air Resources Board Enforcement Division and handle locomotive complaints for the north state. I have been receiving complaints regarding idling locomotives at the Diridon Station in San Jose. Is there someone within Caltrain that you can put me in contact with so I can further discuss the issue and see if there is any sort of remedy?

Thank you in advance for your time.

Best,

Rebecca Geyer



**Rebecca Geyer (she/her/hers)**  
Port and Rail Enforcement Section  
Enforcement Division  
[rebecca.geyer@arb.ca.gov](mailto:rebecca.geyer@arb.ca.gov)



**From:** [Margaret Tseng](#)  
**To:** [Geyer, Rebecca@ARB](#); [Board \(@caltrain.com\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Idling Complaints  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 22, 2024 9:32:18 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)

---

Hello Rebecca.

Thank you for contacting the San Mateo County Transit District Board of Directors.

Brent Tietjen, External Affairs Manager, would be the best contact to discuss these complaints and assist with a resolution. He can be reached at (650) 508-6495 or [tietjenb@caltrain.com](mailto:tietjenb@caltrain.com).

Thanks,

*Margaret*

Margaret Tseng  
Acting Executive Officer/District Secretary | Phone: (650) 551-6108 | Email: [mailto:tsengm@samtrans.com](mailto:mailto:tsengm@samtrans.com)



---

**From:** Geyer, Rebecca@ARB <[rebecca.geyer@arb.ca.gov](mailto:rebecca.geyer@arb.ca.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 22, 2024 8:45 AM  
**To:** Board (@caltrain.com) <[Board@Caltrain.com](mailto:Board@Caltrain.com)>  
**Subject:** Idling Complaints

You don't often get email from [rebecca.geyer@arb.ca.gov](mailto:rebecca.geyer@arb.ca.gov). [Learn why this is important](#)

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

Dear Board Members,

I am reaching out to you as this seemed the most direct way available through your website to find the proper contact. I am with California Air Resources Board Enforcement Division and handle locomotive complaints for the north state. I have been receiving complaints regarding idling locomotives at the Diridon Station in San Jose. Is there someone within Caltrain that you can put me in contact with so I can further discuss the issue and see if there is any sort of remedy?

Thank you in advance for your time.

Best,

Rebecca Geyer



**Rebecca Geyer (she/her/hers)**  
Port and Rail Enforcement Section  
Enforcement Division  
[rebecca.geyer@arb.ca.gov](mailto:rebecca.geyer@arb.ca.gov)

**From:** [Nicole Garcia](#)  
**To:** [Board \(@caltrain.com\)](#)  
**Subject:** Cal-Train Gate at Trestle Apartments in San Carlos  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 23, 2024 11:58:11 AM

---

You don't often get email from bgarcia@prometheusreg.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.

Hello,

My name is Nicole, I work over at Trestle Apartments located in San Carlos. I had a gentleman by the name of Steve come by 2 weeks ago stating that he will be talking to his team about putting up a lock that secures the gate behind Trestle Apartments so we can stop having transits coming from the railroad tracks into our property. I have not heard anything back and we really need to get this done as soon as possible.

Please feel free to reach out to me at 650-453-0800.

Thank you,

**Nicole Garcia | Trestle Apartments (San Carlos) & Brickline Flats (San Mateo)**

p:650.453.0800 | **Certified B Corporation™**

**Trestle Apartments** | 333 El Camino Real | San Carlos, CA 94070

p: 650.453.0800 |

**I AM HOME®.** When I'm with my partner and fur child, watching a scary movie.

---

## CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

This message, including attachments, is confidential and/or privileged and is intended only for the recipient(s) named above. If you are not the intended recipient, you may not review, copy, disclose, or distribute the message or the information contained in it. If you have received the message in error, please notify the sender and immediately delete the message.

**From:** [Propeller Head](#)  
**To:** [Board \(@caltrain.com\)](#)  
**Subject:** Unused resources  
**Date:** Thursday, October 24, 2024 11:38:59 AM

---

You don't often get email from prophead@yahoo.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.

With the recent transition to electric cars I pass by the graveyard of old unused diesels and wonder why they can't be used to complete the service schedule for morgan hill and gilroy which still rely on them.

There are thousands of unreached clients by not offering weekend service to those areas.

Thank you,  
Milton Beral

**From:** [Mika Sheerin](#)  
**To:** [Board \(@caltrain.com\)](#)  
**Subject:** Bathrooms on trains need to be in working order  
**Date:** Thursday, October 24, 2024 7:13:50 PM

---

[You don't often get email from mikasheerin@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

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

Hi there,

I had to delay my trip because there's only a single bathroom on the train and it was out of working order. I don't know a single train service that only offers a single bathroom and it's ridiculous to expect trains to run long commutes without one. The personnel on my train told me they had to delay their train just to use the restroom which clearly means they have terrible working conditions not to mention it's pretty ableist to assume people can easily get off the train to use a restroom when they're paying to use this service. Every train should have at least one working bathroom at all times, and at least two bathrooms would hopefully insure that's the case.

Regretfully,  
Mika Sheerin

**From:** [Caltrain BOD Public Support](#)  
**To:** [martin@sommer.net](mailto:martin@sommer.net)  
**Cc:** [Board \(@caltrain.com\)](mailto:Board (@caltrain.com))  
**Subject:** Re: Caltrain Horns  
**Date:** Friday, October 25, 2024 1:27:37 PM

---

Dear Martin Sommer,

Your message to the Caltrain Board of Directors was referred to me for response. The Board members will receive a copy of our correspondence. Thank you for your feedback regarding the sounding of the bell at the Palo Alto Caltrain Station. We appreciate your concerns and understand the importance of minimizing noise pollution, especially in areas where efforts have been made to create a quieter environment.

We would like to clarify that, according to company policy, it is required to sound the bell when approaching and traveling through every station platform. This rule is in place to ensure the safety of all individuals in the vicinity, as it serves as a warning to make them aware of an incoming train. While we recognize that University Ave. Station is grade-separated, the safety of the general public remains our top priority.

We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused and appreciate your understanding of the safety measures we have implemented. Your feedback is invaluable, and we will continue to evaluate our practices to balance safety and community concerns.

Thank you for your understanding.

Best regards,

Your Caltrain BOD Public Support Team

---

**From:** Martin J Sommer <[martin@sommer.net](mailto:martin@sommer.net)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 15, 2024 3:34:18 AM (UTC+00:00) Monrovia, Reykjavik  
**To:** Todd Douglas <[DouglasT@samtrans.com](mailto:DouglasT@samtrans.com)>  
**Cc:** Board (@caltrain.com) <[board@caltrain.com](mailto:board@caltrain.com)>; Board (@samtrans.com) <[board@samtrans.com](mailto:board@samtrans.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Caltrain Horns

**ATTENTION:** This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from external senders.  
Hi Todd,

Thanks for your response. According to FRA document 222.21 When must a locomotive horn be used?, " ... the locomotive horn on the lead locomotive of a train ... shall be sounded when such locomotive or lead cab car is approaching a public highway-rail grade crossing".

The significant part here, is "grade crossing". When it comes to sounding a horn or bell at stations, it boils down to two issues: a) is the station "at grade" with the tracks, and/or b) is

there an imminent hazard of death or injury to a person or persons.

University Ave. Station in Palo Alto, is grade-separated, and thus the only validation for ringing a bell or blowing the horn, is if someone has jumped or fallen onto the tracks, and is in "imminent danger".

The idea of the new electric trains ringing their bell on every entry and exit of the University Ave. Station, is not required, and is creating public noise pollution ... something we worked so hard to eliminate, in electrifying Caltrain.

Please stop sounding the bell and/or horn, every time a train enters or exists University Ave. Station in Palo Alto!!

Ref: <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-49/section-222.21>

Martin

On 10/14/24 3:24 PM, Todd Douglas wrote:

**Hello Martin Sommer,**

**Thank you for taking the time in contacting Caltrain with your comments concerning horn noise in your area. Your comments were sent to Rail Operations for further handling.**

**The application of a train's horn/bells is governed by Federal and State law. One of the locations where they must sound their horn is when the tracks cross a street and also pull into the station.**

**I can tell you we frequently inspect the volume of these systems to ensure they fall within the mandated decibel range for this type of equipment.**

**We are sorry the sound has been disturbing you, and will maintain our programmed monitoring of these systems to ensure they are only as loud as necessary.**

**Again, thank you for your comments.**

**Regards,**

**Todd Douglas**

San Mateo County Transit District  
Customer Service Dept.  
1250 San Carlos Avenue

San Carlos, CA 95070-1306

1-800-660-4287

[www.smctd.com](http://www.smctd.com)

--

Martin Sommer

650-346-5307

[martin@sommer.net](mailto:martin@sommer.net)

[www.linkedin.com/in/martinsommer](http://www.linkedin.com/in/martinsommer)

"Turn technical vision into reality."



**From:** [Caltrain BOD Public Support](#)  
**To:** [mikasheerin@gmail.com](mailto:mikasheerin@gmail.com)  
**Cc:** [Board \(@caltrain.com\)](mailto:Board (@caltrain.com))  
**Subject:** Re: Bathrooms on trains need to be in working order  
**Date:** Friday, October 25, 2024 1:58:34 PM

---

Dear Mika Sheerin,

Thank you for reaching out and sharing your experience with us. Your message to the Caltrain Board of Directors has been referred to me for response, and I want to assure you that the Board members will receive a copy of our correspondence.

We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience you faced during your trip due to the lack of a functioning bathroom on the train. We understand how important restroom access is, especially during long commutes. The decision to have one restroom per trainset was made after extensive public input on the overall train design, which included feedback from the general public, the Citizens' Advisory Committee, and the Caltrain Board. At the time of this decision, Caltrain was experiencing high ridership, often with standing room only during peak periods. As a result, the design prioritized space for passengers, whether standing or sitting.

The final design recommendation included two bike cars and one bathroom, which was a compromise to maximize space for additional standing or seating areas. However, we recognize that this may not meet the needs of all our passengers, and we appreciate your perspective on this matter.

To assist you further and investigate this issue, could you please provide the train number and any additional details about your journey? This information will help us address the matter more effectively.

Thank you for your understanding, and we appreciate your feedback as we strive to improve our services.

Best regards,

Your Caltrain BOD Public Support Team

---

**From:** Board (@caltrain.com) <Board@caltrain.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 24, 2024 7:13 PM  
**To:** Caltrain BOD Public Support <CaltrainBODPublicSupport@caltrain.com>  
**Subject:** FW: Bathrooms on trains need to be in working order

From: Mika Sheerin <mikasheerin@gmail.com>  
Sent: Friday, October 25, 2024 2:13:32 AM (UTC+00:00) Monrovia, Reykjavik  
To: Board (@caltrain.com)  
Subject: Bathrooms on trains need to be in working order

[You don't often get email from mikasheerin@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

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

Hi there,

I had to delay my trip because there's only a single bathroom on the train and it was out of working order. I don't know a single train service that only offers a single bathroom and it's ridiculous to expect trains to run long commutes without one. The personnel on my train told me they had to delay their train just to use the restroom which clearly means they have terrible working conditions not to mention it's pretty ableist to assume people can easily get off the train to use a restroom when they're paying to use this service. Every train should have at least one working bathroom at all times, and at least two bathrooms would hopefully insure that's the case.

Regretfully,  
Mika Sheerin

**From:** [Caltrain BOD Public Support](#)  
**To:** [bgarcia@prometheusreg.com](mailto:bgarcia@prometheusreg.com)  
**Cc:** [Board \(@caltrain.com\)](mailto:Board (@caltrain.com))  
**Subject:** Re: Cal-Train Gate at Trestle Apartments in San Carlos  
**Date:** Friday, October 25, 2024 2:24:45 PM

---

Dear Nicole Garcia,

Thank you for your email. Your message to the Caltrain Board of Directors was referred to me for response. The Board members will receive a copy of our correspondence. I appreciate you bringing this matter to our attention. I will forward your concerns regarding the gate security at Trestle Apartments to the necessary parties for their prompt attention.

If you have any further questions or need additional assistance, please feel free to reach out directly.

Best regards,

Your Caltrain BOD Public Support Team

---

**From:** Nicole Garcia <[bgarcia@prometheusreg.com](mailto:bgarcia@prometheusreg.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 23, 2024 6:58:03 PM (UTC+00:00) Monrovia, Reykjavik  
**To:** Board (@caltrain.com) <[Board@Caltrain.com](mailto:Board@Caltrain.com)>  
**Subject:** Cal-Train Gate at Trestle Apartments in San Carlos

You don't often get email from [bgarcia@prometheusreg.com](mailto:bgarcia@prometheusreg.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

**ATTENTION:** This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links unless you know the sender.

Hello,

My name is Nicole, I work over at Trestle Apartments located in San Carlos. I had a gentleman by the name of Steve come by 2 weeks ago stating that he will be talking to his team about putting up a lock that secures the gate behind Trestle Apartments so we can stop having transits coming from the railroad tracks into our property. I have not heard anything back and we really need to get this done as soon as possible.

Please feel free to reach out to me at 650-453-0800.

Thank you,

**Nicole Garcia | Trestle Apartments (San Carlos) & Brickline Flats (San Mateo)**

p:650.453.0800 | **Certified B Corporation™**

**Trestle Apartments** | 333 El Camino Real | San Carlos, CA 94070

p: 650.453.0800 |

**I AM HOME®.** When I'm with my partner and fur child, watching a scary movie.

---

## CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

This message, including attachments, is confidential and/or privileged and is intended only for the recipient(s) named above. If you are not the intended recipient, you may not review, copy, disclose, or distribute the message or the information contained in it. If you have received the message in error, please notify the sender and immediately delete the message.