

Caltrain Mobile Ticketing App Serves Casual Riders

Caltrain launched Caltrain Mobile in February 2018 and since the launch, there have been over 110,000 downloads of the app, and over a quarter million tickets have been bought by riders using it. If you're an occasional Caltrain rider, Caltrain Mobile is your ticket to simplifying your ride.

Caltrain Mobile allows riders to purchase their tickets before arriving at the station, removing the need to use the Ticket Vending Machines on the platform. Tickets activate immediately and are valid for four hours after purchase, so don't feel the need to plan too far ahead.

A recent update added a "Buy Again" feature, so if you always take Caltrain to the same destination, you can make the same purchase as your last ride with a single tap. Also, the Trip Tools section that shows how Caltrain connects with other transit systems, allowing you to easily plan trips throughout the Peninsula and beyond.

Caltrain Mobile is one more way we're working to make Caltrain as easy to use as it could possibly be. Download Caltrain Mobile today and keep an eye out for new features in the months to come!



Winter 2019

Caltrain Connection

Information for **Caltrain** Customers

Celebrating King's Legacy



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebrants turnout for the Celebration Train.

New Funding for Additional Electric Cars

Following a \$164.5 million grant awarded in spring 2018 from the California State Transportation Agency's Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program, the Caltrain Board of Directors unanimously approved the purchase of additional electric train cars that will help address increasing ridership on the commuter rail system in the future. In addition to expanding the fleet of electric rail cars currently being built from 16 six-car trainsets to 19 seven-car trainsets, the grant funding also provides for the inaugural installation of Wi-Fi service onboard the new electric fleet and enhanced bicycle facilities at Caltrain stations.

What does this fleet expansion mean for the interior configuration of the seven-car trainsets? That decision will be informed by a public process in 2019. The Caltrain board will publicly discuss and assess design alternatives to address bike security and storage concerns while also balancing the needs of cyclists against the need for capacity improvements for all riders.

The funds needed to purchase additional electric

Since 1985, Caltrain has run a special train on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day to offer our community a chance to come together and celebrate the legacy of an American hero.

On Monday, January 21, nearly one thousand people boarded the MLK Jr. Celebration Train in San Jose, Palo Alto and San Mateo. Riders were entertained by Caltrain employee Tomisha Young and her New Life Fellowship Praise Team, as well as an MLK Jr. trivia contest that engendered fierce competition.

This marked the fifth year where Caltrain partnered with the Northern California Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Foundation to bring the Celebration Train to the Peninsula. This year, the Foundation organized multiple events throughout San Francisco, including the annual MLK Jr. March that has long been the main event, as well as film and music festivals, lectures on King's impact on the faith community, and an arts expo focusing on comics, which riders were eager to check out.

4 New Funding

continued from page 1

cars were crucial in addressing Caltrain's consistently growing ridership. The Caltrain Business Plan foresees a potential demand of over 240,000 weekday riders on the system by 2040, up from the current weekday ridership of 65,000. The new electric cars are scheduled to enter service in 2022.



New Caltrain EMUs being assembled in Salt Lake City.

Caltrain Connection is produced by the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board. Comments, questions, contributions and suggestions should be directed to:

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continued on page 4

CalMod CORNER

New Year, new Caltrain as CalMod improvements continue throughout the corridor as we move towards an electrified fleet. Currently, the biggest component of the project is the San Francisco Tunnel Closures, which is necessary to accommodate the new electric trains. This construction is expected to be resolved later this spring.

In addition, 550 foundations were laid, and so far 250 electrical poles have been erected in San Bruno, you can see our construction crew's handiwork along the rail line by the old San Bruno station. These poles will support the catenary system that will provide power to the trains when service begins.

Also, construction has begun on two of the 10 traction power facilities needed for Caltrain Electrification in San Jose and San Francisco. When complete, these facilities will help to regulate the power supply used to power our trains.

Meanwhile, at the Stadler facility in Salt Lake City, Utah, work has begun on the interior of our EMUs. Check out the work below.



Chew-Chew Train

LITTLE SHEEP HOT POT – DIY Deliciousness



Boiling broth brings big favor.

It's cold. Yes, it's the Bay Area's version of cold which isn't all that cold, but it's cold enough that I want soup. Thankfully, I'm lucky enough to be in Mountain View, so Little Sheep Hot Pot is there to cure what ails me. I became acquainted with their San Mateo location back in the day, and while hot pot restaurants are proliferating on the peninsula, it's all but impossible to forget your first.

I entered the restaurant to find a packed house, with steam rising from nearly every table in the joint. We grabbed the one spare left and ordered the standard spread, with the table favoring chicken and pork and a half and half pot. Shortly after, our pot arrived, with the mild and spicy broths forming a yin-yang of flavor, as well as our individual boxes of ingredients. This includes thin-shaved pieces of meat, two kinds of fish balls, shitake and enoki mushrooms, wide potato noodles, tofu, fish tofu (which I did not know was a thing) and assorted greens. As our 1:30 meeting was drawing

closer, we endeavored to not watch the pot so that it could boil.

Shortly after, we started the dunking process. I've been told there's a rhyme and reason to the order in which you should add ingredients to a hot pot, but I've never had the patience or self-control to do anything besides grab what looks best.

I took a small spoonful of soup in order to get my palate comfortable. Cumin stood out the strongest, with the chilies and Szechuan pepper providing an easy heat that grew as the meal went on. The seasoning was marvelous, with flavors from throughout the Spice Road, providing richness without greasiness. I also love watching meat go from raw to cooked in a matter of seconds, which was enough to impart the rich flavor of the broth into that which had just before been completely plain.

As calendars and HBO marketing campaigns alike have warned us, winter is coming. But if you are at the Mountain View Station and the weather outside is frightful, treat yourself to a meal and a steam all at once.

Chew Chew Train is a monthly blog feature highlighting places to eat along the Caltrain line. If you have a suggestion for a future restaurant, please email Public Affairs Specialist Dan Lieberman at liebermand@samtrans.com.

Thousands Celebrate the Holiday Train



Mr. and Mrs. Claus greet kids and share holiday magic.

On December 1 & 2, approximately 30,000 people converged on Peninsula train stations to see the Holiday Train. The glittering show train had musical groups belting out holiday tunes, and brought along Santa and his friends to entertain families and encourage them to donate toys for children in need.

Approximately 1,976 toys and nearly \$2,000 were collected during Holiday Train weekend. An additional 359 toys were collected by San Mateo County Transit District employees and the SamTrans Stuff A Bus Toy Drive. Additionally, nearly 700 toys were collected by the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, which partners with Caltrain to make the Holiday Train a reality.

This season's Holiday Train brought in a total of 3,035 toys.

Toys donated at stations benefit the Salvation Army Season of Sharing Program. A \$15,000 donation made to the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots program by the Holiday Train enabled the purchase of approximately 1,500 toys for the non-profit organization. Since the Holiday Train's inception in 2001, more than 60,000 toys have been distributed to Bay Area children who otherwise might not have received gifts at Christmas.

Caltrain is proud to bring this holiday tradition to Bay Area families every year, and we hope to see you at the station on December 7 and 8, 2019!

Caltrain Safety Tips

- As we enter the rainy season, take extra precaution when it's wet. It can be easy to slip and fall when speeding to catch your train.
- When in doubt, let the train go first. Saving 30 seconds is not worth the risk of trying to barely slip past a million pound train going up to 79 miles an hour.
- Remember to always walk your bike on the platform.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Take Caltrain to these special events. The station name and any additional transit service are listed below each event.

Through April 6

San Jose Sharks

SAP Center, San Jose
San Jose Diridon Caltrain Station
www.nhl.com/sharks

March 26

Mexico vs. Paraguay

Levi's® Stadium, Santa Clara
Mountain View Caltrain Station to VTA light rail
www.levisstadium.com

April 5

San Francisco Giants Home Opener

Oracle Park, San Francisco
San Francisco Caltrain Station
www.mlb.com/giants

April 13

2019 Monster Jam

Levi's® Stadium, Santa Clara
Mountain View Caltrain Station to VTA light rail
www.monsterjam.com

May 4

San Jose Earthquakes

Avaya Stadium, San Jose
Santa Clara Caltrain Station
www.sjearthquakes.com

May 12

Countdown to the Cup

Levi's® Stadium, Santa Clara
Mountain View Caltrain Station to VTA light rail
www.levisstadium.com