

**AGENDA ITEM #8
JULY 19, 2018**

CALTRAIN BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TO: Caltrain Bicycle Advisory Committee

FROM: Lori Low
Government Affairs Officer

SUBJECT: **ELECTRIC TRAIN ONBOARD BICYCLE STORAGE CAPACITY &
SECURITY LETTER**

The attached letter has been submitted by Caltrain BAC Member Cliff Bargar for the Committee's consideration and approval.

July 19, 2018

Re: Calling for improved bicycle security and capacity on board future Caltrain EMUs

Dear Caltrain Joint Powers Board and Caltrain Citizens Advisory Committee,

The Caltrain Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC), a voice for passengers who use bicycles to access Caltrain, wishes to provide input about Caltrain modernization to the Joint Powers Board (JPB).

Commuters across the Bay Area are experiencing longer and longer commutes (some even termed “megacommutes”), often requiring combinations of two or more modes of travel. Caltrain users in particular come from far and wide, including passengers commuting from Marin and Alameda Counties to San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties.

Scores of passengers have written emails and/or made public comment expressing concern over capacity and bicycle security due to a lack of dedicated seats within view of bicycles in the proposed EMU train cars and hundreds of paid-ticket holders with bicycles are left behind on the platform every year due to insufficient onboard bike capacity. The wayside Bike Parking Management Plan is a great step forward for passengers who need their bicycle on only one end of their trip, but the timeline and results are uncertain and Caltrain’s passenger surveys indicate that a large majority of passengers who bring their bikes on board require them on both ends of their trip.

The currently proposed “mixed fleet” may carry more bikes and more passengers per hour but a smaller proportion of bikes, with no indication that a smaller proportion of passengers will require bikes as ridership continues to grow. Further, the Caltrain Joint Powers Board approved a ratio of one bicycle space for every 8 seats in 2015.

When it comes to bicycle security, a survey of tweets by Caltrain riders shows that bicycle thefts are already on average at least a monthly occurrence on board Caltrain, with many going unreported to the Transit Police. There are even reports of passengers seated in the bike car thwarting attempted bicycle thefts.

As Caltrain has received additional funds from the California State Transportation Agency’s SB1 Transit and Intercity Rail grant program to procure more train cars, the BAC encourages the JPB to work with staff to **add more bike cars to longer trains** (both EMUs and diesel trainsets) while **increasing the number of seats within view of bikes** on EMUs to improve onboard bicycle security. The BAC also recommends that **each bike car have at minimum half as many seats as bike spaces** to allow passengers to watch their bikes to guard against theft.