Caltrain Modernization

What's Happening Now

In September, Caltrain began installation work on an advanced signal system that will significantly improve the performance and enhance the safety of the rail system. With this milestone, Caltrain formally kicked off the first installation element of the Caltrain Modernization Program which will provide commuter electrified service by 2019 and an electrified rail system that will support future high speed rail operations by 2026-2029.

The advanced signal system is called the Communications Based Overlay Signal System Positive Train Control project. The CBOSS PTC system will specifically equip the corridor with federally mandated safety technology and increase system capacity, providing more service to support significant ridership increases.

Currently, Caltrain is installing the advanced signal system fiber optic backbone along the Caltrain right of way. The installation work is complete in San Jose, Santa Clara, Sunnyvale, Mountain View and Palo Alto and is moving north to San Francisco. Continued installation of multiple subsystems of the project will occur through 2014.

Testing of the new system will span approximately two years, starting this year.

The project is scheduled to be operational by the end of 2015.

Customers Satisfied with Caltrain

Through Caltrain’s ups and downs, its customers have said that they’re satisfied. And, 92 percent of them would recommend Caltrain to family and friends.

Each June, Caltrain conducts a customer satisfaction survey to find out what customers think of the service. Caltrain staff uses the information to make service improvements. In the most recent survey, Customers rated their overall satisfaction at 4.04 on a 5-point scale. The vast majority of customers (81 percent) were somewhat or very satisfied, while 3 percent were somewhat or very dissatisfied.

Caltrain also asked “What areas should be the highest priority for improvement?” The top two responses – rated at 45 percent and 28 percent – were frequency of service and communicating service delays, respectively.

The survey report is available online at www.caltrain.com/surveys.

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Progress continues on the San Bruno Grade Separation Project. Crews are working on the northbound side of the project building the platform and installing an elevator.

Streets and sidewalks, including those at Posy Park, have been improved as part of the project.

Caltrain anticipates opening the new station this spring.
San Francisco Station Bike Shop Under New Management

The Caltrain bike parking facility at the San Francisco station recently switched operators, from Warm Planet Bikes to Alameda Bicycle.

Caltrain Connection was able to catch Gene Oh, owner of Alameda Bicycle, for an interview. Through a Q&A he shares his vision for the bike parking facility.

What’s your vision for the facility?

We will provide a full-service bicycle shop from repairs to complete bike purchases. Our sole focus will be on bike commuters to ensure that our small space packs a big punch.

We pride ourselves on attracting and developing great staff and computerized systems to increase productivity. This is the key to our operations as it allows us to continue growing as opportunities arise.

What attracted you to the San Francisco station bike facility?

Who wouldn’t want to operate this station? It’s in the heart of the South of Market district, and as a stand-alone building, it really stands out.

Besides, we’re eager to expand our re- Where is your vision for the San Francisco bike facility?

ber of interest, a bike station open near the Caltrain Fruitvale station.

The San Francisco Caltrain Station bike parking building takes on a more modern, hip appearance with the recent change of management.

2014 Holiday Schedule for Shuttles Serving Stations

The following shuttles will not operate on the holidays listed below:

Feb. 17, Presidents Day
Electronic Arts Caltrain
Mary Moffett Caltrain
Shoreline Caltrain
Seton

May 26, Memorial Day
No Caltrain employer shuttles will operate

The Tamien-Diridon Shuttle will operate on Memorial Day.

Improved SamTrans Service at Several Caltrain Stations

SamTrans recently launched the most comprehensive host of service changes the agency has undertaken in more than a decade.

The changes mean improved and more frequent service for Caltrain customers at the Millbrae, Redwood City and Palo Alto Transit Centers.

The Route ECR operates along El Camino Real between Palo Alto and Daly City every 15 minutes weekdays and every 20 minutes on weekends, optimizing your Caltrain connections. A one-year pilot flex route – FLX San Carlos also was launched and serves the San Carlos station.

Feeling adventurous? SamTrans also has a route that will take you steps from the soon-to-open Devil’s Slide Trail in Pacifica.

If you’re not familiar with the bus service, SamTrans will hold an Open House on Saturday, Feb. 22 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at its headquarters.

SamTrans will give behind-the-scenes guided tours of its South Base facility, showcasing its hybrid buses.

HSR Court Ruling Impact on Calmod

In December, the California High Speed Rail Authority met to discuss theSacramento Superior Court rul- ings issued recently by Judge Kenny.

Two rulings were issued regarding the sale and allocation of state Proposition 1A bond funding to support the California High Speed Rail project. One ruling, addresses the California High Speed Rail Authority’s request to validate the sale of state Proposition 1A bonds for its project, and the other addresses whether the funding and implemen- tation plan proposed by the Author- ity for its Initial Operating Segment (between Merced and Los Angeles) is compliant with Proposition 1A.

In terms of its impact on Caltrain, at this time Judge Kenny’s rulings do not affect the ability of the Caltrain Modernization Program to proceed on schedule.

Caltrain’s advanced signal system project has already received its full Prop 1A allocation and the planning, environmental and pre-construction work for Caltrain’s electrification project can be completed without additional Propo- sition 1A funds.

At the December board meet- ing, the Authority signaled its intent to take the administrative actions necessary to address the bond vali- dation ruling and allow Proposition 1A bonds to be sold, so that they can be available for Caltrain moderniza- tion and other high speed rail project capital needs.

As for the ruling dealing with the Initial Operating Segment and its compliance with Proposition 1A, it is clear that there are several options available to ensure that these funds can be committed as directed by the Legislature when it approved $600 million in Prop 1A high speed rail funds for Caltrain last year.

We will continue to work closely with the Authority to review these options and proceed accordingly.

EVENTS CALENDAR

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

Feb. 15
Chinese New Year Parade
San Francisco
www.chineseparade.com
San Francisco station
Muni Route 30 or 45

Feb. 19 – 23
Disney on Ice
SAP Center at San Jose
www.sapcenteratsanjose.com
San Jose Diridon station

Feb. 20 – 23
Stitches West
Santa Clara Convention Center
www.knittinguniverse.com/west
Mountain View station

Feb. 22 & 23
Truck & Jeep Fest
San Mateo Event Center
www.sanmateoexpo.org
Hillsdale station

March 5 – 30
Once on this Island
Lucie Stern Theatre
www.theatreworks.org
Palo Alto station

March 15
Damage Inc., Tribute to early Me- tallica, The Butlers
Club Fox
www.clubfoxrwc.com
Redwood City station
Looking Forward to the Next 150 Years

those two cities. In addition to offer and economical way to get between San Francisco & San Jose Railroad “Caltrain” was constructed by the railroad known today as the next 150 years.”

Chairman Tom Nolan. “Just as it did Jan. 16, 1864,” noted Caltrain Board Francisco and San Jose began “Railroad service between San

the railroad continues to open new markets for local produce grow -ing an alternative to a long, dusty stagecoach ride, the train opened historic preservation,” said Duane Gavin, past president of the Native Sons, “and we are pleased that these plaques will help passengers and the public better understand the importance of the railroad and its historic depots.”

Caltrain’s operator, Transit America Services, Inc., provided significant sponsorship support for the event. TASI will play a critical role in providing service along the Peninsula route as the rail agency works to modernize through electrification, among many other improvements. The South Bay Historical Railroad Society, which restored and maintains the Santa Clara depot, provided extensive support for the event, as well.

For information on Caltrain’s 150th, visit www.caltrain.com/150 or follow @SFSJRailroad on Twitter for historic tidbits.

SAFETY TIP

Keep a Safe Distance

Standing too close to the tracks is dangerous. A train can create a strong wind with flying debris and could cause you to lose your balance and fall.
Travel in Groups, Enjoy Savings

Caltrain is a great way to travel together for field trips and special outings, such as to ballgames.

Groups of 25 or more that pre-purchase their Caltrain tickets get a 10 percent discount and save time and avoid standing in line at the ticket machine on the day of their trip.

Group tickets are sold at a 10 percent discount off the Day Pass or One-way paper ticket prices.

To place your order, simply fill out the Group Travel Order Form online at www.caltrain.com/groupsales.

Presidents Day Schedule

Caltrain will operate a modified schedule on Feb. 17. The schedule is available at www.caltrain.com/PresidentsDay and will be on trains.

Caltrain is currently conducting the environmental work for the electrification and vehicle components of the CalMod program.

Caltrain initiated the environmental process in January 2013. The Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Peninsula Corridor Electrification Program will be published for review in early 2014. The project includes electrification infrastructure from the San Francisco Caltrain terminus to Tamien station in San Jose and conversion from diesel to electric multiple unit trains.

The DEIR will allow public agencies, stakeholders, the public and decision-makers the opportunity to review and comment on the project’s environmental effects.

The environmental process is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2014 to be followed by final design and construction of the electric system and spec development and manufacturing of the electric multiple units for revenue service by the end of 2019.

For more information on the Caltrain Modernization Program and the environmental process, please visit www.caltrain.com/calmod.