

**Bicycle Advisory Committee**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Part 2**

**November 16, 2013 –  
November 21, 2013**

## Averill, Joshua

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**From:** Caltrain, Bac (@caltrain.com)  
**Subject:** FW: Suggestions regarding bike capacity

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Shirley Johnson <dr\_shirley\_johnson@yahoo.com>  
**To:** "cac@caltrain.com" <cac@caltrain.com>  
**Cc:** "bac@caltrain.com" <bac@caltrain.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 18, 2013 2:11 PM  
**Subject:** Suggestions regarding bike capacity

Dear Citizen's Advisory Committee,

Thank you for addressing Caltrain capacity, including bike capacity, in agenda item 7 of your November 20 meeting: *Subcommittee Report: Discussion about the CAC Work Plan and Questions for Upcoming Presentations.*

You ask some excellent questions regarding train capacity, and bike capacity in particular. As leader of the BIKES ONboard team, I would like to offer some thoughts for your consideration.

### **Limit of 4 bikes per rack is too restrictive**

We agree that four bikes per rack is conservative. The important issue is adequate aisle width. We suggest that Caltrain put white lines on the floor to indicate minimum aisle width and allow bikes to stack until they reach the white lines. This would let conductors quickly glance into the bike car to see if there is more space and eliminate the time-consuming practice of counting bikes.

### **Give priority boarding to bicyclists at bike cars**

Caltrain has expressed concern that more bikes could cause dwell time delays. Walk-on passengers can choose any door, but cyclists must board at bike cars. If cyclists are given priority boarding, walk-ons could choose other doors to more evenly distribute boarding among all doors and thereby reduce dwell time. According to recent correspondence (and it has happened to me personally), some conductors choose the dangerous practice of closing the doors on boarding cyclists in an apparent attempt to get cyclists to board faster. This whole problem could be eliminated by giving bicyclists priority boarding at bike cars.

### **Conduct a Pilot for Three-Bike-Car Bombardier Trains**

Most bicycle bumps occur with Bombardier trains, which hold 48 bikes instead of 80 as for gallery trains. We suggest that Caltrain conduct a pilot program for three-bike-car Bombardier trains, and then survey customers about their opinion to make the pilot permanent.

This suggestion is patterned after BART, which conducted pilots to lift the ban on bikes onboard during commute periods, and then surveyed passengers in a random-sample survey. Despite load factors approaching 1.8 on some trains, 79% of passengers favored lifting the ban on bikes during commute periods, and the BART Board voted unanimously in October to lift the ban. Note that BART has no conductors and no limit on the number of bikes per car. Passengers self-regulate and wait for the next train if there isn't enough room for them and their luggage/stroller/bicycle.

According to Caltrain's web site, Caltrain has 25 Bombardier cars (10 of which are bike cars), all in service to make up the five Bombardier five-car consists. Therefore, to conduct a pilot, there seem to be three choices:

1. Convert one of the Bombardier trailer cars to a bike car.
2. Take one Bombardier consist out of service and replace it with a gallery consist, then break the Bombardier consist up and use the two bike cars on two other Bombardier consists. That means two of the four Bombardier consists in service would have three bike cars.
3. Rent or borrow a Bombardier bike car from another agency (perhaps ACE train?).

Following the pilot, Caltrain could conduct a survey of passengers and find out what they thought.

I'd like to share an anecdote. I was on the train in a non-bike car, and I saw a woman watching as a conductor bumped bikes. She looked at her friend, and said, "That's not right." Perhaps this is a prevailing view, as passengers recognize that mode shift toward biking frees up parking spaces in crowded parking lots, reduces traffic congestion, and reduces pollution.

Again, we thank you for your interest, concern, and questions about Caltrain's capacity issues. We look forward to constructive dialog and implementation of solutions.

Best regards,  
Shirley Johnson, PhD  
BIKES ONboard project  
[www.sfibke.org/bob](http://www.sfibke.org/bob)

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From the November 20, 2013 CAC agenda packet (for reference):

#### Capacity

- 1) Why is there a hard constraint on the number of bikes on a train when there clearly is 't such a constraint for people? That is, when there are too many people, they stand in the isles and at the doors, but conductors refuse to allow more bikes than the predetermined capacity.
- 2) If the answer to (1) is that too many bikes block access in an emergency, why are there seats in the carriages that necessitate passengers to walk past the bikes in an emergency?
- 3) It appears to us that the limit of 4 bikes per rack is conservative. By packing the bikes more efficiently a 5<sup>th</sup> bike should be able to fit. Has anybody looked into this possibility?
- 4) In an emergency, bike riders are often left with few options because the trains are so full it can take hours before a train arrives with bike space. Have you looked into the feasibility of exceeding capacity in emergency situations just as you do with people?
- 5) Have you studied other ways to increase capacity, like for example, using the racks at the end of the carriage for bikes that are bound for the terminal stops only. That way, the passage space between the bikes would not be needed (assuming that there were no seats to access)

## Averill, Joshua

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**From:** Shirley Johnson <dr\_shirley\_johnson@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 18, 2013 10:46 PM  
**To:** Caltrain, Bac (@caltrain.com)  
**Subject:** Caltrain needs three bike cars on Bombardier trains  
**Attachments:** 131118\_Bump\_Graph\_for\_BAC.docx

please see attached

November 18, 2013

Dear Caltrain Bicycle Advisory Committee,

As shown by the graph below, reported bicycle bumps are climbing. The bike capacity added in 2011 has been consumed by new customers.



This graph represents a lower bound, because not all bumps are reported.

For the first half of November, 147 bicycle bumps have already been reported, so November will be a bad month for bicycle bumps.

More bike capacity is needed, particularly on Bombardier trains, which hold only 48 bikes instead of 80 as for gallery trains. We encourage Caltrain to conduct a pilot program to evaluate the feasibility of Bombardier trains with three bike cars.

Best regards,  
Shirley Johnson  
BIKES ONboard project  
[www.sfbike.org/bob](http://www.sfbike.org/bob)

## Averill, Joshua

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**From:** dandodger1@gmail.com on behalf of Daniel Hall <dhall12@stanford.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 18, 2013 3:18 PM  
**To:** Nabong, Sarah  
**Cc:** bikesonboard@sfbike.org; Martinez, Martha; Bartholomew, Tasha; cac@caltrain.com; Caltrain, Bac (@caltrain.com)  
**Subject:** Bikes on Caltrain Comment  
**Attachments:** photo.jpg

Here is Another victim of a caltrain bike bump at 22nd street. I assume the yellow tag means this rider got bumped, and tried to lock up. A cut cable could be found not far from here, so I'm guessing they had their wheels locked but this was not enough to stop the thief.

Please consider a more secure lock up at 22nd for riders who get bumped! Thanks!

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### Daniel Hall

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**From:** pat giorni <hogorni@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 17, 2013 3:29 PM  
**To:** Martinez, Martha; Caltrain, Bac (@caltrain.com)  
**Cc:** BIKES ONboard; bikesmc; Corinne Winter  
**Subject:** Anecdotal Bump Count from the November 7, 2013 JPB Correspondence Packet  
**Attachments:** Bump Count Nov 7, 2013.doc

Please find attached for easy reproduction the monthly bump report as reflected in the November 7, 2013 JPB and the BAC Correspondence through November 15, 2013 because most of the October and early November report letters were not included in the Board packet. Please note that a subtotal of the BAC letters submitted by November 6 that should have been included in the Board packet substantially increases the total number of bumps from 24 to 221 for that period.

Regards,  
Pat Giorni

<b>Nov. 7, 2013 Packet</b>	<b>Bumps Reported</b>	<b>Station-Time/Train#</b>	<b>Name</b>
Oct. 1		1 22nd-#324	Kerensa Crump
Oct. 7		5 RWC-#385	Daniel Low
	5+	RWC-#269	Jacky Schuler
Oct. 8		4 RWC-#269	Ryan Schmidt
		4 SM-#319	Mike Swire
Oct. 10	5+	22nd?-#220	Alex Portilla
<b>Total</b>	<b>24+</b>		
<b>BAC packet to Nov. 15</b>			
Oct. 1		3 RWC-#269	Ryan Schmidt
		1 22nd-#324	Chris Tilton
Oct. 10	13+	22nd-#332	Marion Silies
Oct.14	20+	22nd-#324	Elizabeth Bennett
	4+	22nd-#230	Andrew Ness
	4+	Millbrae-#230	Andrew Ness
Oct. 15		5 PA-# 269	Alex Portilla
		3 Hillsdale-#371	jean fraser <
		7 RWC-#385	Daniel Low
		1 Hillsdale-#323	lingling c
Oct. 21,		16 22nd-#324	Kevin Brosnan
	5 (repeat)	22nd-#230	AdamBovill
	20+ (repeat)	22nd-#332	Timothy Seward
	1(repeat)	22nd-#230	Mirko Schmidt
	1(repeat)	22nd-#332	Mirko Schmidt
	5+	22nd-#230	Jonathan Dirrenberger
		30 22nd-#332	Jonathan Dirrenberger
		9 RWC-#289	Lucy Maxian
	1 (repeat)	22nd-#332	Lizelle Serrano
	1 (repeat)	22nd-#332	Yoichi Shiga
Oct. 22		1 22nd-#324	Lizelle Serrano
		7 22nd-#332	Argyrios Vlasakakis
	1 (repeat)	22nd-#332	Yoichi Shiga
		1 Burl-#225	Cody Andersen
Oct. 23		4 RWC-#385	Daniel Low
	4 (repeat)	RWC-#385	AJ Schrauth
Oct. 28		1 22nd-#324	Parijat Kalia
Oct.29		1 22nd-#324	Parijat Kalia
		7 22nd-#332	Argyrios Vlasakakis
		5 RWC-#269	Jason Terk
Nov. 4	11+	22nd-#324	Andrew Ness
	6+	Millbrae-#324	Andrew Ness
	5 (repeat)	RWC-#269	Jason Terk
		8 RWC-#269	Ryan Schmidt
	6+	RWC-#375	Scott Yarbrough
Nov. 5	15+	22nd-#324	Daniel Hall
Nov.6		3 RWC-#289	Jason Terk
	1(repeat)	RWC-#289	Lucy Maxian
<b>Sub-total</b>		<b>197</b>	

Nov. 7		5 Millbrae-#220	Dan Yang
		6 22nd-#314	Tim Hickey
		9 PA-# 269	Jeremy Sabol
Nov. 8	12+	PA-# 279	Jonathan Dirrenberger
	20 (approx)	PA-# 279	Karen Shakespear
Nov. 12		1 S Carlos-#269	Micheal Fitzsimons
Nov. 13		7 SF-#324	Jean Fraser
	unspecified	22nd-#324	Jean Fraser
		8 Burl-#225	Cody Andersen
	15+	MV-#323	Conny Barton
	unspecified	MV-#225	Conny Barton
	2+	MV-#385	Rob Kahn
	6+	PA-#385	Rob Kahn
		4 RWC-#385	Daniel Low
	6+	MP-#279	Karen Shakespear
	5+	MP-#225	Karen Shakespear
Nov. 14	1 (repeat)	S Carlos-#269	Micheal Fitzsimons
		2 S Carlos-#269	Jonathan Withrington
<b>Total</b>		<b>305</b>	