

Caltrain BAC Bike Capacity Subcommittee Report  
September 18 2014

**Subcommittee Members:** Steve Vanderlip (chair), Ed Saum, Jesse Quiron  
Caltrain Staff Member: April Maguigad

Subcommittee teleconference held 8/28/2014

Discussed the following 4 ideas. These were predetermined to be the most promising ideas.

1. Allow more bicycles per rack; current limit is 4 per rack.
  - Caltrain is reviewing this idea.
  - There are no regulations determining the maximum number of bikes per rack.
  - Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) suggested Caltrain needs to ensure adequate emergency access and a hazard analysis should be conducted.
  - Caltrain has engaged a third party to conduct hazard analysis which will review two items: emergency egress and the number of bikes which might be thrown around in an accident.
  - This analysis will take 1-2 months to complete.
  - If the hazard analysis is favorable toward allowing more bikes per rack, Caltrain should be able to support this change.
  
2. Adding a third bike car to existing trains.
  - This would probably only apply to Bombardier trains which currently have a lower 48 bike per train capacity.
  - This is not a change supported within Caltrain as train ridership is going up and this would reduce seating capacity.
  - Based upon a review of correspondence it does not appear this is a problem just with the lower capacity Bombardier trains as insufficient bike capacity also occurs on higher bike capacity Gallery trains sets. Caltrain will try to study this for the next couple of months.
  - This would be a hard change to make given all the competing interests at Caltrain.
  
3. Longer six car trains.
  - Caltrain is currently looking into making longer trains and the upcoming purchase of additional Bombardier trains will provide additional cars to make 6 car train sets.
  - Internal discussion are being held to determine if the additional car will be a bike car or remain as is to provide additional capacity.
  - Has funding in the current capital budget to study changes to accommodate longer trains.
  - Looking for low cost methods such as changing where the train stops at a station to accommodate longer trains.
  - If all trains had 3 bike cars and 5 bikes per rack

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- Gallery current 80 per train, could be 150 with 5 per rack 3 bike cars
- Bombardier current 48 per train, could be 90 with 5 per rack 3 bike cars

4. Folding Bike Storage

- Change to cubby hole luggage racks to fit more folding bikes. Not yet considered by Caltrain. April will study further
- Possible idea to remove a full size bike rack to provide high capacity folding bike storage rack
- Possible to do a formal survey to see if better folding bike storage is provided would more folding bikes be used.
- Might be a funding issue

**Other Items**

1. New schedule will have more stops at 22th street which will provide more train options for some.

**Action Items**

1. Complete hazard analysis for increased per rack capacity. April 1-2 months
2. Complete study for bumps on Bombardier or Gallery Trains. April 1-2 months
3. Review folding bike cubby hole storage. April
4. Poll bicyclists and see if interest in folding bikes if better storage. Steve and Edward