JPB BOARD MEETING
September 5, 2019

Correspondence Packet as of August 23, 2019
RE: Caltrain service vision - please aim high for ridership growth, great connections, broader access

Dear Board Members

Honorable board members,

I am excited to see that Caltrain is looking to pursue a service vision that will increase ridership by 3x or more, with regular, 15-minute all-day service, less traffic and pollution, and better connections.

I am glad to see that Caltrain wants to leave the door open for the higher levels of ridership. The higher ridership options could take 3 more lanes of cars off the highway, reduce driving miles by 80%, reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an additional 50%, and enable much better regional connections.

To make this possible, I want to see the Caltrain board set a strong policy direction:
* to actively pursue the highest ridership growth possible, depending on funding and feasibility,
* to actively work to pursue the needed funding and solve practical challenges to increasing capacity
* to strongly support regional initiatives to provide a seamless system with coordinated fares, schedules, and great regional connections.

Also, I would like the service vision lay the groundwork for Caltrain to serve more diverse customers. The Caltrain board has already adopted a fare policy setting affordability as a goal. Now, with the prospect of more frequent all-day service, the board should adopt a broader set of policies to serve a wider range of people, instead of limiting the benefits of Caltrain to the well-off.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Aneerban Bhattacharya

Foster City, CA
Dear Caltrain Board,

I am writing to you to urge you to reject the staff recommendation at your upcoming board meeting. I have serious concerns that Caltrain is not taking bike theft seriously. Instead, I urge you to approve three or more bike cars to provide adequate seating in view of bike spaces.

Caltrain has also made commitments to improving bike parking and bike share connections at stations but I urge the board to direct staff to actual implement these improvements immediately.

I commute to work on Caltrain every day but am not able to do it or get to work without my bike. There is already inadequate space for bikes and these new electrified trains need *more* space for bikes, not less. We need to make room for commuter’s and their bikes and allow for safe passage without worry of theft.

Creating more space for bikes is not just the right thing to do ecologically and for your customers, but it makes good financial sense as well.

Thank you for listening to your riders.

Cindy Asrir
Redwood City