

JPB BOARD MEETING  
September 5, 2019

Correspondence Packet as of  
August 30, 2019



August 26, 2019

Caltrain Board of Directors  
Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board  
1250 San Carlos Avenue  
San Carlos, CA 94070

**RE: Proposed Caltrain Go Pass Price Increase**

Honorable Members of the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board,

The cities of Menlo Park, Mountain View, Palo Alto, and Redwood City request the JPB reconsider the rate increases for the Go Pass in 2020 and subsequent years. Our four cities, along with Stanford University, are members of the Managers Mobility Partnership (MMP), which addresses mobility issues in the Mid-Peninsula region.

The MMP partnership represents the need for synergy and cooperation not only on a local level, but also at the regional level. The Caltrain Go Pass is a symbol of regional connectivity, helping many cities on the Peninsula mobilize employees to job centers. The Caltrain Go Pass has been essential to Menlo Park and Palo Alto who market it to employees as a cheaper, sustainable, lower stress alternative to driving. Although Menlo Park and Palo Alto currently participate in the program, these cities may be forced to seriously reconsider future participation due to proposed rate increases.

Mountain View and Redwood City do not currently participate due to the high costs associated with purchasing a Go Pass for the number of employees that would be required to be enrolled. These cities are not precluding future participation in the program, however a price increase would hinder justification to allocate money towards this type of employee benefit. As public agencies, budget funding is never guaranteed year-to-year. To help ensure our cities' – and potentially other future participant cities' – longevity in the program we respectfully ask the JPB to consider one or more of the following:

1. A special 'governmental/non-profit' rate for the Go Pass
2. Lower rate increases over the next few years
3. Offering Go Passes at market rate, but without the restriction of having to buy it for every employee because some cities have employees spread amongst multiple sites away from Caltrain, and/or the Caltrain schedule is not conducive to work shifts with odd hours meant for public safety

4. Offering Go Passes at a tiered discounted rate, with discounts for every threshold more passes are purchased for employees
5. Offering Go Passes at a rate proportionate to the size of employer, allowing more prospective participants (including small businesses) into the program

We appreciate the benefit that Caltrain provides for residents and employers in each of our cities. We urge you to consider action that will continue to benefit the economic vitality, mobility, and livability in cities along the Peninsula.

Sincerely,



Starla Jerome-Robinson  
City Manager  
City of Menlo Park



Daniel Rich  
City Manager  
City of Mountain View



Ed Shikada  
City Manager  
City of Palo Alto



Melissa Stevenson Diaz  
City Manager  
City of Redwood City