J PB BOARD MEETING
September 5, 2019

Correspondence Packet as of August 8, 2019
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,
Mr. Prashanth Mundkur
670 Oak Grove Avenue
MENLO PARK, CA 94025
RE: Caltrain service vision - please aim high for ridership growth, great connections, broader access

Dear Board Members

Honorable board members,

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Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,
Mr. Jonathan Quinteros
San francisco, CA 94118
(415) 465-4440
Dear Caltrain Board of Directors,

My name is Brad Wiblin and I am a resident of Berkeley, but my business has included building housing in partnership with a variety of transit agencies along the West Coast. I am in the affordable housing development business with a focus on TOD. We have partnered with transit agencies in the Bay Area (BART, Sam Trans, VTA), San Diego (MTDB), LA (MTA), Seattle (Sound Transit), and Portland (TriMet). I have seen first-hand the benefits of public private partnerships between the development community and transit agencies where the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. This synergy is enhanced when affordable housing is included in the mix.

I support adopting a Transit-Oriented Development Policy that prioritizes affordable homes on Caltrain land and that provides a 20% affordable requirement.

In the current environment of high land prices and limited supply of land, it is expensive to build affordable homes. As the region’s housing affordability crisis continues to worsen, it affects the well-being and financial security of low- and moderate-income residents. In addition, jobs in the region have continued to increase far faster than housing supply. The lack of affordable homes has led to ever-lengthening commutes, with resultant increases in traffic congestion, air pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions. These interrelated challenges call for bold, innovative solutions.

Caltrain has an incredible opportunity to create compact, walkable, affordable communities that can help sustain Caltrain’s service for the years to come.

In addition to helping address our region’s housing affordability challenges, new homes near Caltrain stations hold economic benefits for both Caltrain and the cities it serves, spurring economic growth and supporting local commercial development in nearby neighborhoods. New homes will help support long-term transit ridership as residents are five times more likely to use transit if they are able to live within a half mile of a major transit stop. Affordable homes can especially benefit Caltrain, as low-income residents are four times as likely to ride transit as their wealthier counterparts.
To address our region’s affordability challenge, build a diverse base of regular riders, and support the creation of more economically diverse and inclusive communities, Caltrain should adopt an inclusionary housing policy that ensures that at least 20% of new homes developed on land controlled by the agency are affordable to low-income residents.

Please consider a TOD policy that benefits our community!

Sincerely,

Brad Wiblin
Senior Vice President
BRIDGE Housing Corporation
Dear Caltrain Board of Directors,

My name is Diane Warner and I am a resident of San Mateo City. I support adopting a Transit-Oriented Development Policy that prioritizes affordable homes on Caltrain land and that provides a 20% affordable requirement.

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Please consider a TOD policy that benefits our community!

Sincerely,

Diane J. Warner
1 Baldwin Ave #602
San Mateo, CA 94401

P. S. The need for persons with mental illness is acute. Building full service permanent housing is a goal long overdue after the closing of asylums and a return to the community. My 56 year old son is deserving of a safe place to live where he can receive treatment for his “no fault” disability.
Dear Caltrain Board of Directors,

My name is Felipe de la Cruz and I am a resident of San Mateo.

I support adopting a Transit-Oriented Development Policy that prioritizes affordable homes on Caltrain land and that provides a 20% affordable requirement.

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Please consider a TOD policy that benefits our community!

Sincerely,

Felipe de la Cruz morales
192 36th ave apt.D
Dear Caltrain Board of Directors,

I'm writing in support of adopting a Transit-Oriented Development Policy to prioritize affordable homes on Caltrain land. The dire lack of affordable homes in the Bay Area has led to increased traffic congestion, air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and lower quality of life for residents.

With the Transit-Oriented Development Policy, Caltrain has the opportunity to create communities that will sustain Caltrain’s service for the future.

I hope you will adopt an inclusionary housing policy that ensures that at least 20% of new homes developed on land controlled by Caltrain are affordable to low-income residents.

All my best,
Heather Hopkins
361 Camino al Lago
Menlo Park, CA 94027

Heather Hopkins
650.283.5112
Dear Caltrain Board of Directors,

My name is Estephanie Sunga and I am a resident of San Francisco.

I support adopting a Transit-Oriented Development Policy that prioritizes affordable homes on Caltrain land and that provides a 20% affordable requirement.

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Please consider a TOD policy that benefits our community!

Sincerely,

Estephanie Sunga
484 18th Avenue San Francisco 94121
Dear Caltrain Board of Directors,

My name is Marty R Cerles Jr and I am a resident of San Francisco.

I support adopting a Transit-Oriented Development Policy that prioritizes affordable homes on Caltrain land and that provides a 20% affordable requirement.

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Sincerely,

Marty R Cerles Jr
270 9th Ave
San Francisco, CA 94118