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Caltrain to Host Online 'Town Hall' on Hillsdale Station Temporary Closure

On Wednesday, July 31, from noon to 1 p.m., Caltrain will host a Virtual Town Hall about the temporary closure of Hillsdale Station, set to begin in December. This long-planned stage in the multi-year <u>25th Avenue Grade Separation Project</u> is a necessary milestone in the progression of this safety effort that will improve rail operations and traffic flow.

The town hall will be live-broadcasted, and interactive on <u>Caltrain's YouTube page</u>, and will include an overview and timeline of the temporary station closure. Registered participants can interact with project staff in a live chat.

The 25th Grade Separation Project is a collaboration with the City of San Mateo to make improvements to safety, traffic flow and to reduce train noise. Once completed, the grade separation will allow traffic to pass under the tracks at 25th Avenue, as well as complete east-west connections at 28th and 31st avenues, reducing local traffic congestion and increasing safety for drivers and pedestrians. In addition, the project will result in a new, modernized Hillsdale Station that is scheduled to open in 2020.

The project stated in October 2017. Construction work has been ongoing since then, including relocation of utilities; the building of bridge abutments and girders; and the installation of mechanically stabilized earth walls. While a majority of the construction activities are taking place during the day, some activities need to be conducted during nights and weekends outside of normal train service hours, due to their close proximity to the railroad tracks. Neighbors may experience construction noise and light during these times and can sign up for a weekly construction notice at www.caltrain.com/25thGS.

The project, funded by a combination of city, state, High-Speed Rail Authority and San Mateo County Measure A funds, is estimated to cost \$180 million.

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About Caltrain: Owned and operated by the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board, Caltrain provides commuter rail service from San Francisco to San Jose, with limited commute service to Gilroy. While the Joint Powers Board assumed operating responsibilities for the service in 1992, the railroad celebrated 150 years of continuous passenger service in 2014. Planning for the next 150 years of Peninsula rail service, Caltrain is on pace to electrify the corridor, reduce diesel emissions by 97 percent by 2040 and add more service to more stations.

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