

Expressions - New Train Cars Riders Write in Service

Q: Would Caltrain ever consider having a “quiet” car?

A: Attempts have been made on commuter lines similar to Caltrain to set aside special cars for quiet commuters, or to ban phone use in the general seating area in some cars. However, none of these solutions have proven satisfactory as enforcement turned out to be of great concern.

This system does appear to work on routes where the average passenger travels a longer distance, such as the Amtrak Capitol Corridor trains. However, it is not suitable for Caltrain where the passenger turnover is frequent. Caltrain encourages customers to talk quietly while on the train, keep conversations brief and use phones only when necessary.

Caltrain has begun placing new Bombardier train cars into service, with all eight cars in service by the beginning of November.

With the addition of the new cars, which cost about \$2 million each, Caltrain has a total of 25 Bombardier passenger cars. Bombardier trains offer a smoother ride, lower floors and more doors for easier, more convenient boarding.

With its fleet at an optimal level, Caltrain is better able to ensure that riders enjoy the dependable service they have come to expect. All trains now operate with five cars. In addition, there is equipment available in case of unexpected mechanical failures.

Passengers can distinguish the new Bombardier cars from the older ones by the type of seat covering: the newer cars have vinyl.

Caltrain Board Approves Fare Increase

Following three community meetings and a public hearing, the Caltrain Board approved a 25-cent increase in the base Caltrain fare at its October meeting, with comparative adjustments made to multi-ride tickets. The new fares go into effect Jan. 1, 2009.

The increase, which will generate approximately \$943,500 in additional revenue this fiscal year, is necessary to help offset the effects of the volatile fuel market. The last fare increase was implemented in April 2007.

The board also approved replacing the 10-ride Ticket with an 8-ride

Ticket in order to eliminate the problems caused by the validator's cutting device.

The new 8-ride Ticket will not need to be cut, only stamped. The same approximate 15 percent discount offered with the 10-ride Ticket will continue to be offered with the 8-ride Ticket, as will the option to purchase a monthly parking permit with the purchase of two 8-ride tickets. The 8-ride Ticket is scheduled to be introduced by mid-2009.

CALTRAIN SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR



Take Caltrain to these special events. The station name and any additional transit service are listed below each event.

Dec. 6

Hometown Holidays
Courthouse Square,
Downtown Redwood City
www.redwoodcityevents.com
Redwood City Caltrain Station

Dec. 7

San Jose Holiday Parade
Downtown San Jose
www.sanjoseparade.com
San Jose Diridon Station
VTA light rail to downtown

Dec. 12-14

West Bay Model Railroad
Association's 2008 Christmas
Show
Menlo Park Caltrain Station

Dec. 19-21

International Motorcycle Show
San Mateo Expo Center
www.motorcycleshows.com
Hillsdale Caltrain Station

Fast Facts

Want to read about how Caltrain has been doing for the last year? Then download the latest edition of the **Caltrain Progress Report** at www.caltrain.com/progressreports.

Improved pedestrian safety and better access from the **San Martin** Caltrain Station to a new parking lot across the tracks are features of a \$1.3 million improvement project in the South Bay.

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority announced the completion of the project, which increases parking capacity, improves pedestrian safety and enhances access for commuters by easing congestion along San Martin Avenue. Other features of the project include 161 new parking spaces, dedicated left and right turn lanes from San Martin Avenue to Monterey Highway and improved drainage in the area.

Brian Hackney from CBS 5's *Eye on the Bay* recently did a story on



The Depot Cafe, which was recently featured on CBS 5's "Eye on the Bay," is located at the San Carlos Caltrain Station.

"Public Transit Daytrips" that featured three places to visit along the Caltrain line. Those places included The Depot Cafe at the **San Carlos** station, the historic Santa Clara Depot at the **Santa Clara** station and Brio restaurant at the **Broadway** station.

Get out and enjoy the events and attractions served by Caltrain without the worries of gas or parking. To receive discounts for various activities around the Bay Area visit the Caltrain Web site at www.caltrain.com/fun.

Holiday Service

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parting San Francisco after midnight. Visit www.caltrain.com for details. Service will be free beginning at 11 p.m. and continuing for the rest of the service day.

New Year's Day Thursday, Jan. 1

Caltrain will operate on a Sunday schedule.

For help planning your trip or for more information about schedules, call the Caltrain Customer Service Center at 1.800.660.4287 (TTY 650.508.6448) or visit www.caltrain.com.

Caltrain Connection is produced by the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board.

Comments, questions, contributions and suggestions should be directed to:

Tasha Bartholomew, editor
bartholomewt@caltrain.com
Caltrain Connection
1250 San Carlos Ave.
P.O. Box 3006
San Carlos, CA 94070

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Caltrain's Electrification Project

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upgraded in the next few years. A similar project is underway in Santa Clara County. All of the bridges on the railroad, some of which are more than 100 years old, also will be improved to meet current seismic safety standards.

In the upcoming years, the signal system will be upgraded to allow trains to operate with five-minute headways. A positive train control system, which can automatically stop

trains in an emergency, also is included in the plan.

Caltrain expects the Federal Transit Administration to give the electrification project its environmental approval early next year. Planners also hope to award the contract for managing the complex project in the next six to nine months. The final design is expected to be completed by mid-2010.



Connection

The Newsletter for Caltrain Riders

Fall 2008

Kids to Work Day Child's Play



Ryan Hail (left) and his dad Senior Engineer Gordon Hail get off the train at the Burlingame Caltrain Station. Thirty-nine children came to work with their parents for the San Mateo County Transit District's annual "Take Your Child to Work Day."

The day began with a scavenger hunt, followed by a train ride and picnic lunch at a park across from the Burlingame station. The transit district is the managing agency for Caltrain.

Caltrain's First Step Toward Electrification Completed

Caltrain's plans to electrify the system by 2015 passed an important milestone recently with the completion of 35 percent of the design.

Electrification is the second phase of Caltrain 2025, a larger project which will bring the 145-year-old railroad up to world-class standards. The first phase was completed in 2005 and included upgrading the signal system and adding passing tracks in two locations. The benefits of these improvements can be seen in dramatic increases in revenue and ridership. Since 2004, revenue has increased more than 100 percent and ridership is up about 50 percent.



The images (above and below) are two train concepts under consideration for electrification.

This success has increased customer expectations: Caltrain riders want more stops and reduced run time.

Caltrain officials believe that electric multiple

units, or EMUs, are the answer to this challenge. Each EMU is self-propelled, which means that trains can stop and start more quickly. Caltrain is currently working with federal regulators to allow the railroad to operate this non-traditional style equipment.

The railroad is currently working on a number of improvements to pave the way for electrification, which calls for an overhead contact system to supply power to the trains. Twenty-five grade crossings in San Mateo County will be



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Public Art Transportation Mural for San Bruno

Two new murals depicting transit and nature were recently unveiled in San Bruno. The public art pieces were created so passers-by could be reminded of the city's rich history and diverse wildlife.

The transportation mural was unveiled at the intersection of San Bruno and Huntington avenues, the site of a Caltrain construction project (the old San Bruno Lumberyard) and steps from the Caltrain tracks.

"The History of Transportation," was created by Jennan Beers and Marianne Bland, two Bay Area artists. Bland said she and Beers used historical photographs to interpret the theme of transportation over the



A new fence and a 10-panel mural greet visitors in San Bruno at the intersection of San Bruno and Huntington avenues.

decades in San Bruno.

The 50-foot mural consists of 10 paintings that show different historical periods in the form of photography that was popular in each era. The paintings show trains, trolleys, the Tanforan Racetrack, El Camino Real as a dirt road, airplanes, SamTrans buses and a BART train painted to look like a modern digital photograph.

The second mural, "A Dreamer's Song," by

Boris Koodrin focuses on nature and places that have defined San Bruno. This 90-foot mural, which has five paintings, is located at a small park at the intersection of San Mateo and Jenevein avenues.

"These are the first public murals we've had installed and I know they're going to be really appreciated," said John Alita, staff liaison for the San Bruno Culture and Art Commission, which selected the works. "It's a big, exciting time for the city. People here really have an appreciation for public art."



Artists Marianne Bland (left) and Jennan Beers used a photographic style for the murals in San Bruno.

Caltrain to Adjust Schedule for Upcoming Holidays

As the holiday season begins, Caltrain will adjust its schedules for the following holidays as noted below.

Thanksgiving Day Thursday, Nov. 27

Caltrain will operate on a Sunday schedule.

Day After Thanksgiving Friday, Nov. 28

Caltrain will run a modified Saturday schedule with 38 trains operating between San Francisco and San Jose, and two round trips to Gilroy. The schedule will include two limited stop trains, a great way to start the shopping season.

Christmas Day Thursday, Dec. 25

Caltrain will operate on a Sunday schedule.

New Year's Eve Wednesday, Dec. 31

Caltrain will operate a regular weekday schedule, with extra service de-

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Holiday Train Toy Drive Set for Dec. 6 & 7

As the holidays draw near and people begin looking forward to time with family and friends, there is one more thing to look forward to – the Caltrain Holiday Train.

For the eighth consecutive year, Caltrain will roll out its glittering Holiday Train. Decorated with more than 40,000 lights, the Caltrain Holiday Train will visit nine stations between San Francisco and Santa Clara over two nights, Saturday, Dec. 6, and Sunday, Dec. 7.

People who come to the event are encouraged to bring new, unwrapped toys and books to drop into toy barrels at stations. Since the inception of the Holiday Train in 2001, more than 34,000 toys and books have been donated to the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots Program and the Salvation Army, beneficiaries and partners in putting on the Holiday Train.

Not a passenger train, the Caltrain Holiday Train is a "show" train which stops at each station for about 20 minutes of entertainment. Visitors to train stations have a chance to sing along with live holiday music and meet Santa, Mrs. Claus and all their North Pole family. From a specially decorated stage car, a Salvation Army brass band performs both nights, joined by Masterworks Chorale on Saturday and the Peninsula



Marines help with the special train that will roll out Dec. 6 and 7 bringing Santa, musical entertainers and an opportunity to donate new toys to needy children.

Harmony Chorus on Sunday.

In October, Caltrain staff, community volunteers and Marines started decorating the train, which includes a Caltrain diesel locomotive, one Caltrain passenger car and two flatcars. The decorating work is done at the Port of Redwood City, which graciously makes space available for the train. Santa and his crew will ride in style aboard two private rail cars – the famed Virginia City and Yosemite Falls – courtesy of their owners.

Community Support

The Caltrain Holiday Train would not be possible without the charitable support of local businesses and community groups. Their generosity has helped with a range of needed expenses, from giant glittering decorations to costuming larger-than-life

teddy bears and gingerbread men. Caltrain is grateful to these sponsors, which include Linear Technology, Genentech, Inc., Palo Alto Medical Foundation, Parsons Brinckerhoff, HNTB Corp., Shimmick Construction Co. Inc. and Rinat.

Media sponsors include Bay Area News Group, Radio Disney and The Daily Journal. Peterson Power Systems of San Leandro every year donates the use of a generator to light up the decorations, and the Subway sandwich shop at the San Francisco Caltrain Station and Raison D'etre bakery are both donating food for the crew.

Amtrak, Caltrain's operator, provides crews to operate the train.

Additional entertainment is scheduled at stations before the train arrives. Details and other information is available by calling Caltrain at 1.800.660.4287 or by visiting www.caltrain.com/holidaytrain.



Businesses Turn to Caltrain for Transportation

As more people become concerned about the future of the planet and the cost of gasoline, many companies are starting to give their employees options for getting around without using their cars – and they're calling on Caltrain to help them do it.

Since the beginning of the year, Caltrain has received dozens of requests from companies all along the Peninsula to participate in transportation, commute and environmental fairs to share information about service. Some of those companies have included San Francisco General Hospital, Oracle in Redwood City and Microsoft in Mountain View.

Earlier this fall, S.F. General held its first transportation fair. Plans to renovate the hospital are underway, which could affect how some people

get to work, said Transportation Demand Manager Christina Foushee.

"The hospital is in the process of being rebuilt and when that happens, we will lose some parking spaces," she said. "So we need to encourage people who normally drive to start using public transit."

Of San Francisco General's 3,500 employees, about 31 percent either bike, walk or use public transportation to get to work, Foushee said. About 200 employees visited the Caltrain booth to learn how the service could help them.

This past summer, Nektar Therapeutics in San Carlos hosted its first commute fair to help employees find alternative ways to work. Nektar also used the fair as an opportunity to connect co-workers to possible

carpool buddies.

According to Alicia Collins, a senior staff environmental specialist for Nektar, only 8 percent of the company's 300 employees use public transportation to get to work - and she is one of them. Collins rides Caltrain a couple times a week to save on gas and help the earth.

"When I take Caltrain, I can relax and not have to worry about traffic," Collins said. "Since we don't have any shuttles, I get some exercise and fresh air by walking (about two miles) to and from the station."

To request Caltrain's participation in an upcoming outreach event, call 650.508.7934 or e-mail outreach@caltrain.com.

Caltrain to Improve Bike Access & Parking

In the future, bicyclists will have more places to park their bikes at various Caltrain stations and may have more places to park their bikes onboard, too.



After holding three community meetings, the Caltrain Board approved the Bicycle Access and Parking Plan at its October meeting.

Nearly 2,400 customers bring their bikes onboard Caltrain each weekday, and sometimes Caltrain runs out of space during peak hours to accommodate all of the bicycles.

Caltrain developed the bicycle plan in an effort to address this issue. The plan focuses on ways to improve bike parking at its 10 most-popular stations. Caltrain has worked on the plan, which incorporates extensive public input, for a year.

Caltrain also plans to study ways to improve onboard capacity, which could include rearranging passenger seats or adding spaces for more bicycles inside the bike cars.

Safety Tip

The crossing arms lower as a train is approaching an intersection or station (for those with pedestrian crossings). It's imperative that you wait until the train has passed and the gate has returned to its upright position before crossing the tracks. Remember, the gate means wait.

