Bike Section Prior to Update

General Information

**General**

Cyclists must be at least 6 years old. Cyclists younger than 10 years of age must be accompanied by an adult and be able to carry their own bike in and off the train. For safety reasons, bicycles cannot be taken on escalators and must not be ridden in or around train stations or on platforms or ramps. Bicycles may be prohibited from boarding the train for violating the policy.

Each gallery car has a bicycle hold on the rear wall that is equipped with bike racks. The number of bikes is limited to 46 per gallery car. Each bike rack holds 6 bikes for trains and 24 per gallery car. There is no charge to bring a bicycle on board. In unusual circumstances, while on the discretion, the conductor may decline transportation or reserve the handling of bicycles due to overcrowding, bicycle condition or unsafe conditions.

Violations of any of these rules may result in disqualification from the train. It is the responsibility of the cyclist to know and obey program rules and guidelines. Caltrain may offer this bicycle program at any time, as necessary.

**Bicycle Types**

Only single rider bicycles are permitted on trains. Minimum bicycle length is 80 inches, and bikes must not protrude into the aisle. Bikes powered by tenant or three-wheel bikes are permitted. Bikes with attachment or attachments which extend bike length, such as sidecarriages, baskets, backpacks or trikes, are not allowed.

Bicycles must be kept clean and free of excessive dirt and grime. Bikes must have no protrusions which could cause injury or damage.

**Folding Bikes**

Folding bikes are allowed on any train car as they are no wider than 32 inches at the widest point.

Folding bikes must be in the folded position prior to boarding and must remain under the control of the owner while on board. Folding bikes must be able to be stored under the seat in front of you or be placed in the luggage racks provided by Caltrain.

Folding bikes may not be placed on seats and must not block aisles, doors or elevators. Folding bikes may not be stored in the space reserved for passengers' wheelchairs.

Delirious grease from folding bikes must not be transferred to the interior of the car.
Bike Section Prior to Update

Bike Access

Bicycles are a major mode of access to the Caltrain system. On a typical weekday, more than 3,000 of Caltrain’s approximately 50,000 customers ride their bike to the train station. Many will take advantage of Caltrain’s “Bikes on Board” program and bring their bicycle with them on the train. Others choose to park their bike at the station or may use a bikeshare system. For customers who have an ultimate origin or destination one to two miles from the station, bicycles provide an efficient and sustainable way to make a first- or last-mile connection. Caltrain is committed to sustaining and growing the use of bicycles to access its system.

Recent Planning Efforts

In 2014, Caltrain developed a Bicycle Access and Parking Plan Implementation Strategy that identified several challenges related to bicycle parking and access. One key issue identified was the need for Caltrain to establish a bike parking management plan.

Supported by a grant from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Caltrain began the planning process for the Bicycle Parking Management Plan in mid-2016. The plan was adopted by the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board on November 2, 2017.

To view the adopted plan and learn more about the recent planning efforts related to the Bicycle Parking Management Plan, please click here.

Previous Planning Efforts

2014 Bicycle Access and Parking Plan Implementation Strategy

During 2013 and 2014, Caltrain staff worked with the Caltrain Bicycle Advisory Committee to refresh and consolidate Caltrain’s 2006 Bicycle Access and Parking Plan with a new implementation strategy. This implementation strategy outlines the 2010 Bicycle Access and Parking Plan. To download a copy of the implementation strategy, please click the link below.

Bike Access and Parking Implementation Plan (2014) (PDF, 380 KB)
Bike Section Prior to Update
Safety & Security

Tips for Keeping Your Bike Safe

With some trains transporting as many as 80 bikes, there's a lot of movement in the two bike cars on each train. With so much activity, bikes may get mixed up or taken. With this in mind, we offer the guidance below as a way to help keep your bicycle safe. We also request that customers without bikes sit in the non-bike portion of the trains.

Bicyclists are encouraged to sit or stand near their bike(s). However, that can be difficult as riders continue to grow and trains become more crowded. If your bike is taken from the train, please complete a Lost & Found report at www.caltrain.com/lost.

To help protect your bicycle:

- Immediately report any suspicious people or activities on or near the bike cars to the conductor by calling Transit Police at 1-877-723-7245.
- Note the bike's serial number, take photos, and note any identifying markings in case of theft.
- Keep a bike tracker or station or participate in the Bay Area Bikeshare program.
- Transit Police handout “Tips to Keep Your Bike Safe” and reporting information.

Customers should not lock their bikes while on the train. If you have a tip you'd like to recommend, please post it to our Facebook page or Tweet us @GoCaltrain.
Bike Sharing Program

Bike Sharing has arrived in the Bay Area

The San Mateo County Transit District is participating in a first-of-its-kind regional pilot bike-sharing program. Bay Area Bike Share is a self-service system that provides members with easy access to a network of bicycles. At full build-out, there will be 750 bicycles at 750 bike stations along the Peninsula corridor in San Francisco, Redwood City, Mountain View, and San Jose. Members can check out a bike close to home or work and return it to any of the bike stations.

The bike-sharing program promotes bicycles as a first- and last-mile transportation alternative for commuters and residents taking all forms of transit. Increased bicycling reduces driving trips and greenhouse gas emissions and improves local air quality. In the Bay Area, the transportation sector accounts for more than 80 percent of air pollution. Significant emission reductions from the transportation sector helps the Bay Area attain and maintain clean air quality standards and reduce greenhouse gases.

How Bike Share Works

Similar to car sharing, bicycle sharing is a membership-based system for017. Members can check out a bike from a network of bike stations and return it to any other bike station in the system. Members can check out a bike for as long as they need to reach their destination, and return the bicycle to another bike station in the system. Members are charged for the time they have the bicycle and a small per-minute fee. Costs vary based on the duration of the rental. Members can choose from either a monthly or annual membership plan. Members are charged for a membership fee when they sign up for a membership plan. Members are entitled to unlimited rides of up to 30 minutes during their membership period. Additional charges are applied for rides longer than 30 minutes.

Program Partners

This regional pilot program, led by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, is funded through a combination of local, regional, and federal grants. Major funding comes from a $6.2 million grant from the California Transportation Commission’s innovative San Mateo County Bike Share Program. The bike share program will provide a total of $3 million, which includes a local match of $600,000 from the San Mateo County Transportation District. This $3 million grant provides for the purchase of 750 bicycles, an ridership demonstration, and a bike sharing infrastructure demonstration at 75 bike stations in the Peninsula corridor in San Francisco, Redwood City, Mountain View, and San Jose. The plan is to build-out the bike sharing network by 2015.
Bike Section: Draft Update

Landing Page

Bikes and Caltrain

Bicycles are a major mode of access to the Caltrain system, providing an efficient and sustainable way for riders to arrive at their origin or final destination. On a typical weekday, more than 7,000 of Caltrain’s approximately 65,000 customers ride their bikes to a station. With bike share’s growing popularity and the ongoing implementation of improved bike parking and access, riders can choose a variety of ways to bike and use Caltrain.

Parking
Caltrain offers a number of bike parking options at stations, including bike valet, shared parking garages, electronic lockers, keyed lockers, and racks. Learn what’s currently available, and how Caltrain plans to grow its bike parking program.

Bike Share
Bike share programs—where individuals can use a shared bike on a short-term basis—are thriving across the Caltrain corridor, offering riders an easy first and last mile solution to their commute. See which stations and cities have bike share programs.

Onboard
Caltrain encourages bike parking at stations and bike share, however, for those who need to bring their bike on the train there are a limited number of onboard bike spaces. Find out how to load and store a bike onboard, obtain a destination tag, and review the rules.

Safety & Security
Learn tips to help keep bikes safe, find reporting information, and access Caltrain’s lost and found.

Join the Community
Get the latest news about bikes and Caltrain, follow the Caltrain Twitter bike handle, and stay informed with the Caltrain Bicycle Advisory Committee.
Bike Section Draft Update – Bike Parking

Bike Parking
Caltrain currently offers a variety of bike parking options from full service bike valet to e-lockers and bike racks. Learn what’s available at the different stations and what Caltrain is doing to improve bike parking and access.

Check Parking Availability

CURRENT FACILITIES

Bike Valet
Free weekday valet bike parking is offered at the San Francisco 4th and King Station between the hours of 6:30 AM and 9:30 PM. For more information on overnight rates and special services such as bike repair, visit Bike Hub.

Shared Parking Garages
Self-park in a controlled-access, secure bike parking garage. Rates vary as service is offered by different vendors or cities. Check our bike parking options by stations page to find out which stations offer this option.

Electronic Lockers
On-demand, e-lockers allow multiple people to use lockers as available. Lockers can be activated through a BikeLink Card which can be purchased from www.BikeLink.org or at retail locations. Once the cyclist inputs time on the meter, the door will open and the bike can be stored. Rates vary by location but are typically 3 to 5 cents per hour. Check our bike parking options by stations page to find out which stations offer this option.

Keyed Lockers
For lockers managed by Caltrain, the cost is $33 for six months, plus a $25 refundable key deposit. The Caltrain locker entry dimensions are 30 inches by 44 inches. View availability and fill out the Caltrain Bicycle Locker Rental Agreement application (PDF, 23 KB).

Racks
Bicycle racks are located at all stations, except College Park and San Martin. For tips on how to lock a bike to minimize theft, visit the bike safety and security page. Do not lock your bike to railings, furniture, trees, poles or other fixed objects because it could impede access for others.

Bike Parking Options Video
See examples of the different types of bike parking facilities at Caltrain Stations.

IMPROVEMENTS

Bike Parking Management Plan
In November 2017, the Caltrain Board adopted the Bicycle Parking Management Plan, which recommends a set of management and administrative reforms and implementation strategies to optimize the performance of Caltrain’s bike parking system.

Implementation Update
Caltrain recently was awarded some funds for secure bike parking at stations, and in August 2018, Caltrain hired a full-time staff member dedicated to station access planning and the implementation of the Bike Parking Management Plan. Join the community to learn more.
Bike Section Draft Update

Bike Share

Bike Share

Bike share is an easy and manageable way for Caltrain commuters to get to and from their station of choice without worrying about theft or bike space on the train. Similar to car share, cyclists can check a bicycle out from a network of bikes, ride to their destination, and leave the bike in a designated area. User-friendly technology makes accessing the bikes relatively stress-free.

Caltrain coordinates with local cities as they explore partnerships with bike share companies. Once a program is supported by a city, Caltrain will work on siting facilities at or near a station. Check our bike parking options by stations page to find out which cities and stations offer bike share.
Bike Section Draft Update

Security

**Bike Safety and Security**

Whether using a bike for the first or last—or more—mile connection to a station, Caltrain recommends following these tips to keep your bike safe. To offer additional helpful tips, please post them to the Caltrain Facebook page or Tweet @Caltrain.

**How to Lock a Bike Properly**

Learn proper bike locking techniques from the San Francisco Bike Coalition. [https://bike.org/news/1001-how-to-lock-your-bike](https://bike.org/news/1001-how-to-lock-your-bike)

**Lost and Found**

A number of bikes each month end up in Caltrain’s lost and found. If a bike is stolen or missing, first call the Transit Police at 1-877-723-7245. Riders are then encouraged to fill out a [lost and found report](https://www.caltrain.com/faq/lost-found) and include as much detail as possible, such as the make, model, serial number, color, and any defining characteristics of the bike.

**Theft**

If a bike is stolen or missing, immediately call the Transit Police at 1-877-723-7245. Be ready with as much detail as possible, including the exact location, date, and time, and bike information such as the make, model, serial number, color, and any defining characteristics. Riders are then encouraged to fill out a [lost and found report](https://www.caltrain.com/faq/lost-found) with as much bike detail as possible.

**Abandoned Bicycles**

Abandoned bicycles, or bicycles with parts stolen, take up space and potentially deter others from utilizing bike parking. The Transit Police regularly patrol bike parking areas. When a bicycle appears abandoned, they will tag the bike with a 72-hour warning notice. After 72 hours the bike will be removed to Lost and Found. If a bike is blocking the path of travel or ADA accessible points, it will be impounded by the police and stored in Lost and Found for 90 days. To recover an impounded bicycle, fill out a [lost and found report](https://www.caltrain.com/faq/lost-found). A fee of $120 is required for its release.

To report an abandoned bicycle, contact 1-877-SAF-RAIL.

**Bike Security Task Force**

In early 2018, Caltrain embarked on a bike security effort that was coordinated across departments—Operations, Planning, Outreach, Marketing, Social Media, Customer Service, Safety & Security, and the Transit Police—to collect and examine data and explore potential solutions to improve bike security at stations and onboard. The Task Force successfully identified several issues and implemented changes to improve security. The Task Force will continue to meet on a regular basis to collectively discuss security issues. If you have any questions or ideas, please contact Customer Service.
Bike Section Draft Update
Community

Join the Community
Caltrain has one of the most extensive bicycle access programs among passenger railroads in the nation. Riders who use their bikes to access Caltrain help reduce pollution, relieve congestion, and help promote healthy, active transportation.

Know the Latest
Follow the Caltrain bike Twitter feed for community-generated bike information. Find out about the latest bike share, new bike parking, when a train is at bike capacity, and more.

[Bullet (Twitter icon?): @Bikes&Caltrain]

Bicycle Advisory Committee
Caltrain’s Bicycle Advisory Committee serves as the primary venue for the interests and perspectives of bicyclists to be integrated into the Caltrain planning process.

Learn more ▸

News & Media
June 8, 2018  Caltrain Expands Bikes Board First Pilot Program
April 26, 2018  Caltrain Celebrates 184 million Grant Award from Senate Bill 1
April 11, 2018  Caltrain Launches Pilot Program to Speed Boarding Process
January 30, 2018  Senate Bill 1 Creates Opportunity for Caltrain Improvements
Feedback & Questions