Caltrain plans to expand bike access on electrified trains

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Caltrain has selected a stacking onboard bike storage design for the system’s new electric trains that aim to maximize onboard bike storage capacity by providing a 12.5 percent systemwide increase when the trains debut in 2021, according to the transit agency.

Many peak-hour trains are well over 100 percent capacity following historic surges in ridership demand in recent years and despite carrying over 6,000 bikes per day, cyclists are frequently left without access to onboard bike space. In 2015, the Caltrain Board of Directors directed staff to increase onboard bike storage, by approving a ratio that assures one bike space for every eight seats on the electric trains procured as part of the Caltrain Electrification project. The current service includes one bike space for every nine seats, according to Caltrain.

Caltrain engaged in multiple avenues to receive rider input regarding the new design, including an online poll, a solicitation for public comment and in-person outreach at Caltrain stations and community events. In addition, staff had extensive community engagement with Caltrain’s Bicycle Advisory Committee, as well as both the San Francisco and Silicon Valley Bike Coalitions, according to Caltrain.