



JPB Board of Directors  
Meeting of October 1, 2020

Correspondence as of September 30, 2020

# Subject

- 1 Item 5 Caltrain Bylaws proposed amendment
- 2 Public Comment: San Carlos Residents Requesting to use Caltrain Parking Lot for Community Youth

**From:** [Roland Lebrun](#)  
**To:** [Board \(@caltrain.com\)](#)  
**Cc:** [SFCTA Board Secretary](#); [MTC Info](#); [VTA](#); [cacsecretary \[@caltrain.com\]](#); [SFCTA CAC](#)  
**Subject:** Item 5 Caltrain Bylaws proposed amendment  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 30, 2020 4:36:36 PM  
**Attachments:** [Caltrain 1996 agreement - Managing agency responsibilities.pdf](#)

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Dear Chair Pine,

Further to SamTrans' failure to prepare balanced budgets suitable for Board approval, please consider agendaing a motion amending Section 6 (C) (x) of the JPB bylaws (original attached for your convenience) to read as follows:

***"Prepare balanced capital and operating budgets for presentation to the JPB"***

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Roland Lebrun

CC:

SFCTA commissioners  
MTC commissioners  
VTA Board of Directors  
Caltrain CAC  
SFCTA CAC

B. SamTrans hereby is appointed as Managing Agency for the duration of the term, provided, however, that the JPB may replace SamTrans as the Managing Agency upon one (1) year's prior written notice given at the end of any fiscal year after SamTrans has been fully repaid monies advanced by it to cover the ROW purchase price.

C. The Managing Agency shall be delegated the following authority and required to perform the following responsibilities:

(i) Award the operating contract for the PCS, subject to the concurrence of the JPB as provided in Section 5 above, and administer and modify said contract consistent with the JPB's operating budget;

(ii) Maintain and manage the ROW and other system assets unless the administration of particular station sites is delegated by the JPB to an individual Member Agency.

(iii) Implement capital programs contained in the approved PCS capital budget unless the administration of particular capital projects is delegated by the JPB to an individual Member Agency;

(iv) Seek, obtain and administer grants;

(v) Develop and implement marketing programs;

(vi) Prepare and submit financial reports;

(vii) Recommend changes in fare structure to the

JPB;

(viii) Recommend changes in scheduling and levels of service to the JPB;

(ix) Prepare and implement changes in scheduling other than those requiring the approval of the JPB as provided in Section 5(C) above.

(x) Prepare capital and operating budgets for presentation to the JPB;

(xi) Keep staff of Member Agencies advised on PCS matters; and

(xii) Report regularly to the JPB regarding PCS issues.

#### **Section 7. FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS**

##### **A. Operations**

Each Member Agency agrees to share in the operating costs associated with the PCS. Member Agency subsidies for the Main Line Service shall be based on the existing passenger boarding formula which is predicated upon county of origin a.m. peak hour boardings of passengers as adjusted annually prior to the JPB's adoption of the operating budget. SCVTA shall be responsible for all net operating costs of the Gilroy Service based upon the fully allocated cost methodology.

##### **B. Capital Projects**

The JPB and the Member Agencies shall use their best efforts to fully fund from state, Federal and JPB Proposition 116 resources, capital projects contained in the approved capital budget. If approved by Member Agencies pursuant to Section 5(D),

**From:** [Sonia Elkes](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#); [monique.zmuda@sfgov.org](#); [Chavez, Cindy \[cindy.chavez@bos.sccgov.org\]](#); [waltonstaff@sfgov.org](#); [Heminger, Steve \[steveheminger1@gmail.com\]](#); [Stone, Charles \[cstone@belmont.gov\]](#); [Pine, Dave \[dpine@smcgov.org\]](#); [Collins, Ron \[rcollins@cityofsan-carlos.org\]](#); [Bruins, Jeannie \[jbruins@losaltosca.gov\]](#); [district6@sanjoseca.gov](#)  
**Cc:** [Sonia Elkes](#); [Petty, Sebastian](#); [Fromson, Casey](#); [Low, Lori](#); [cc: ara.vagharshakian](#); [Dan Givens](#); [Sheridan Ross](#); [Bethany French](#); [georgeandgracie2@gmail.com](#); [Fitzpatrick, Brian](#); [citycouncil@cityofsan-carlos.org](#); [Jeff Maltbie](#); [Maya Nayberg](#); [Al Savay](#); [Crystal Mui](#); [anna.dagum@gmail.com](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment: San Carlos Residents Requesting to use Caltrain Parking Lot for Community Youth Recreation Pilot  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 30, 2020 8:27:20 PM

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Dear Caltrain Board,

Thank you all for working so hard to keep our community's beloved Caltrain running in these difficult times.

I apologize for the late email, but I wanted to give you a quick heads up before tomorrow's Board Meeting about a public comment I will be making.

My name is Sonia Elkes and I'm a resident of San Carlos, CA. I am commenting on behalf of 500+ residents of San Carlos who are interested in using the south half of the Caltrain Parking lot on El Camino at Arroyo to install a **temporary/mini bike/skatepark for our youth (3-4 months)**.

Asking:

Our ask is that you, the Caltrain Board, **direct Caltrain/SamTrans staff to work with myself, Sonia Elkes and our San Carlos Youth Advisory Board to figure out what parameters would be acceptable for you to be able to approve San Carlos creating a mini/temporary skate/bike pilot in the south half of the San Carlos Caltrain Parking Lot.**

Background:

In light of Covid-19 and the need to keep our youth active with appropriate places to bike and skate, our community is coming together to donate the funds needed to put up some temporary ramps for a 3-4 month pilot project, and this parking lot we think would be the perfect location. This location is special because of its **accessibility from both sides of our tracks** (as there's a pedestrian underpass at Arroyo), **its in-public view** (which meets the needs of our risk-taking youth who are ever more desperately looking for an audience *and* provides plenty of public oversight into what's happening at any given moment there), and its **spaciousness, smoothness, and of course, emptiness**.

This sort of 'pop-up/temporary' skate/bike park pilot *near a Caltrain/SamTrans station* is bound to positively impact train and bus ridership **at the same time that it promotes equity by bridging the two sides of San Carlos (our east and west sides that the Caltrain track divides) for positive, recreational purposes**.

During lengthy, in-depth, online community discussions on this topic (on the notoriously negative social media platforms like Facebook and Nextdoor), there has been ONLY positive and neutral response/encouragement from the public for the project — virtually zero negative sentiment, which is something of a small miracle in this day and age. While our community has long needed and would benefit from a permanent skate/bike park, for the time being a mini/temporary pilot project seems to be the best place to start and it has enormous public support.

SamTrans initial response to our request was rejection of our petition, but we residents strongly believe that reconsideration is needed, as the extremeness of present environmental concerns, air quality/wildfire concerns, pandemic concerns, and equity concerns converge to demand new, more creative solutions to the obstacles and challenges that 2020 has wrought.

Therefore we have reached out to Caltrain staff to better understand why they rejected

the petition originally, and how we can submit a "Use Variance" application for reconsideration. Greater detail of the layout being proposed and what kind of temporary fencing could be used to separate the parking lot from El Camino will be included in this formal re-application.

As background, here is a link to the emails exchanged with Caltrain staff so far, as well as a brief overview of the project that we've submitted to our San Carlos City Council:

**Email Exchange with Caltrain/SamTrans about Temporary Skate/Bike Park Proposal:**

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ma\\_5nxAudnkfg8xGj5d0ChYsAZms\\_TFkaSy6OypLUCw/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ma_5nxAudnkfg8xGj5d0ChYsAZms_TFkaSy6OypLUCw/edit?usp=sharing)

So far we've received support for this project from several members of the Caltrain Citizens Advisory and Bicycle Advisory Commissions when we brought it up at the last meetings, as well as the support of our San Carlos Youth Advisory Council.

Additionally, our San Carlos City Council advised City Staff at their meeting 2 weeks ago to look into how to create more youth-friendly opportunities like this temporary/mini skate/bike park in our town, especially in light of pandemic conditions.

In closing, we want to reiterate that we understand there are a lot of unknowns that Caltrain faces currently—with regard to funding, COVID-19 prevention measures and ridership. However, it's also **important to recognize that what we are asking Caltrain to consider are some very clear knowns—**

- a) that our youth need safer, more appropriate places (than our streets) to burn off steam and test their limits that also get them off screens, outdoors, and interacting with peers at safe distances (as wheeled sports encourage),
- b) that this parking lot has and is sitting empty and that is not expected to change in the next 3-4 months,
- c) that for equity purposes the very tracks that divide the two sides of our town can help knit us together with a project like this that appeals to community members across all socioeconomic levels, and
- d) that there are few more appropriate uses of an organization tasked with sustainable mobility in our community than to actively promote micro-mobility near one of its Caltrain stations.

Thank you for your consideration,

Respectfully,  
Sonia Elkes, on behalf of the San Carlos community  
Founder, *San Carlos Bikes*  
[www.sancarlosbikes.org](http://www.sancarlosbikes.org)  
(415) 806-4632

**Addendum:**

Attached are some Public Comments/Statements from our San Carlos Youth, who would like to call in but are in school at 9am on a Thursday and can't attend the Board Meeting.

*"Where we live (in the hills by Heather School), there aren't a lot of places to ride my skateboard or rollerblade. I would love if there was a place where I can practice safely without worry about running into the street, falling down a steep hill, or having my board stolen. I would also like to learn from watching other kids. I can't do that now."*

**Mattie, age 13**

*"During Quarantine it's been a lot more boring than usual and I'm trying to fill up my time with fun things to do when I'm not doing school. I really like to skateboard but I haven't been going places regularly where I would skate to. I'd really like our town to have a skatepark, and I would definitely wear a mask and social distance. "* **Jacob, San Carlos, 12 yrs old**

*"If kids got a skatepark, then cops wouldn't have to be on the streets pulling us over and giving us tickets, [and] adults wouldn't have to call us a "public disturbance", and us kids wouldn't have to get recorded and posted online because parents don't like the things we're doing. It could be prevented if we simply have a skatepark, it would be helpful for the kids of San Carlos and Belmont."* **J.D.**

*"I'm 13 and if we got a skatepark adults would stop yelling at us, and it would be a fun thing to have."* **Coco, San Carlos**