COVID-19 Recovery Planning
Draft
Equity, Connectivity, Recovery & Growth Framework

August 6, 2020
Ongoing Recovery Planning Efforts

Caltrain has pivoted its Business Plan effort to focus on COVID-19 Recovery planning. This work is spread across multiple streams as shown on the right.

Caltrain staff will engage regularly with the Board, stakeholders and the public as recovery planning proceeds over the next several months.
Purpose

The following draft "Caltrain Framework for Equity, Connectivity, Recovery and Growth" has been developed for consideration by the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board to provide guidance to staff and transparency to the public as the railroad navigates a prolonged period of intensive challenges and transformation. In fall 2019, the JPB adopted the Caltrain 2040 Long Range Service Vision, setting a blueprint for the future development of the Caltrain corridor and service over the next two decades. The Framework for Equity, Connectivity, Recovery and Growth is a companion document that outlines initial principles and policy for how Caltrain will navigate near- and mid-term challenges while incrementally advancing toward its Long Range Vision.

Framework

The Framework is based on detailed technical analysis undertaken by Caltrain and its partner agencies as part of the "Caltrain Business Plan" process during 2018, 2019 and 2020. It builds on this analysis and outlines the initial principles, policies and actions the railroad must urgently pursue to help the region address the interrelated and compounding crises of the COVID-19 pandemic and longstanding systemic inequality and racism. The Framework is also a starting point. Over the coming months and years there is more work that Caltrain will need to do as we navigate a new and rapidly changing business environment and as we strive to better understand our role and responsibility in making the Bay Area a more inclusive and equitable region for people of all races and income levels.
Building on the Business Plan

The 2020 confluence of the COVID-19 Pandemic and urgent, widespread calls for racial justice have provided an impetus for reflection and action on the part of the railroad
Caltrain’s Long Range Service Vision is an aspirational endpoint- not a single project. There are many paths Caltrain can take to implement and grow toward its Long Range Vision.

The Pandemic has accelerated the pace of change for Caltrain and complicated our future. The way in which we recover will set the foundation for our long term growth.

Caltrain had assumed a future where the railroad and its operations would remain relatively stable until the rollout of initial electrified service – this is no longer the case.
Building on the Business Plan

Work undertaken as part of the Business Plan related to near-term service planning, connectivity and equity is useful and applicable in helping Caltrain develop an effective response to these crises and has formed the basis for the Draft Equity, Connectivity, Recovery & Growth Framework

Caltrain ridership closely mirrors the income demographics of all corridor commuters

However, Caltrain riders are proportionally higher income and less diverse than the overall population of residents living in the corridor

A higher share (25%) of Very Low-Income riders take transit to access the Caltrain system – more than any other income group

Caltrain’s “peaked” service means the railroad is underserving off-peak travel and trips. This has the greatest impact on low-income populations.
Building on the Business Plan

As part of the Business Plan Equity Assessment, Caltrain reviewed existing community based transportation plans along the corridor

Reviewed Existing Plans
1. Bayview Community Based Transportation Plan (2019)
2. Redwood City Citywide Transportation Plan (2018)
4. San Bruno/South San Francisco Community-Based Transportation Plan (2012)
7. Community-Based Transportation Plan for East San Jose (2009)
Building on the Business Plan

As part of the Business Plan Equity Assessment Caltrain also interviewed community representatives from all three counties.

Community Stakeholder Interviews conducted in late 2019 / early 2020:
- TransForm (all counties)
- Youth Leadership Institute (all counties)
- Florence Fang Asian Community Garden (SF)
- Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association (SF)
- Get Healthy San Mateo County (SMC)
- Midcoast Community Council (SMC)
- Paratransit Coordinating Council (SMC)
- Language Pacifica (SMC)
- AbilityPath (SMC)
- North Fair Oaks Council (SMC)
- ALLIES - Alliance for Language Leaners’ Integration, Education, and Success (SCC)
- Abode Services (SCC)
Part I: Guiding Principles

Caltrain’s Framework for Equity, Connectivity, Recovery & Growth directs the railroad to undertake both near-term recovery planning as well as the longer term planning and implementation of its services and projects in accordance with guiding principles that prioritize equity, connectivity and future-oriented planning.

See Framework Document for Exact Language
Part II: Equity

In accordance with principle 1A, the Framework guides Caltrain toward advancing equity-oriented policies and actions as soon as practicable and financially feasible with the goal of increasing social and racial equity on the system today and in the future. This section of the policy focuses on:

- Equity in Service
- Equity in Fares
- Equity in Planning & Communication

See Framework Document for Exact Language
Part III: Connectivity

In accordance with principle 1B, the Framework further directs Caltrain to advance the following policies and actions to maximize connectivity to other transit providers as part of an integrated regional rail and transit system. Policies relate to:

• Operating a clock face schedule
• Prioritizing transfer point in service planning
• Working toward regionally coordinated fares and transfers

See Framework Document for Exact Language
Part IV: Growth & Recovery

In accordance with principle 1C, the Framework directs Caltrain towards planning for recovery and growth in a manner that looks toward the future and incrementally advances and implements the 2040 Long Range Service Vision over the course of the coming decade. This includes:

- Advancing key elements of the Long Range Service Vision
- Working toward and 8 tph level of service
- Continuing to advance key regional and state projects

See Framework Document for Exact Language
Outreach and Feedback
July Stakeholder Outreach

July

7  Project Partner Committee
9  JPB Board
13  Stakeholder Advisory Group (95 members)
15  City/County Staff Coordinating Group
21  Virtual Public Meeting
22  JPB WPLP
23  Local Policy Makers Group

August

6  JPB Board

Follow-up individual and group meetings with SAG and PPC members

VTA
CCSF
Caltrans
CHSRA
City of San Jose
Stanford University
MTC
SMCTA
San Mateo County
SamTrans
SFCTA

TransForm
Youth Leadership Institute
Voices for Public Transportation
Friends of Caltrain
SVLG
SAG/CEBA
Genentech
Commute.org
San Mateo Central Labor Council
Capitol Corridor
PFRUG
...And many others

City and County staff representing all 21 corridor jurisdictions

City and County policy makers representing all 21 corridor jurisdictions

Work Program – Legislative – Planning Committee

Consideration of Revised Policy for Potential Adoption
Additional Outreach Methods

Virtual Public Meeting

- 45-50 Live attendees
- 250+ Total views
- 2,400 Impressions

Additional Outreach Tools

- Press Release
- VMS Signage at Caltrain Stations
- Social media posts
- Individual follow-up with prior interviewees
- Requested Cities, SAG Members, and Partner Agencies spread the draft framework through their networks
- E-Blasts and E-News promotion
Community Based Organization Outreach

500+ CBOs/Nonprofits contacted multiple times for feedback
List derived from internal CBO outreach list and MTC
CBO outreach list; framework provided in multiple languages

Bayanihan Equity Center
Bayview Hunters Point Foundation
Causa Justa :: Just Cause
Chinatown Community Development Center
Dogpatch Neighborhood Association
Dolores Street Community Services
Florence Fang Community Garden
GLIDE Foundation
Greenbelt Alliance
Healthright 360
La Casa de las Madres
Mission Economic Development Agency
North of Market/Tenderloin Community Benefit District
Potrozo Boosters
San Francisco Bicycle Coalition
San Francisco Rising
SF Coalition on Homelessness
SPUR
Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Coro
TODCO
Yerba Buena Community Benefit District

Ayundando Latinos A Sonar (ALAS)
Belle Haven Action
Chicana Latina Foundation
Coastside Clinic
College Track East Palo Alto
Daly City Youth Health Center
East Palo Alto Senior Center
EPA CAN DO
Fair Oaks Community Center
Friends of Caltrain
Gatepath
Housing Leadership Council
Imagine Menlo
Menlo SPARK
Mid-Peninsula Housing
NAACP San Mateo County Chapter
Neustra Casa
One East Palo Alto, East Palo Alto
Pacific Climate Committee
SAMCEDA
Youth Leadership Institute

Asian Immigrants Women’s Advocates
Avenida Espana Gardens
Center for Employment Training (CET)
Community Solutions
First Community Housing
Gilroy Economic Development Corp.
Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley
Housing Authority - Santa Clara County
India Community Center
Jain Center of Northern California
Latina Coalition of Silicon Valley
Mayfair Neighborhood Advisory Coalition
Palo Alto Housing
Sacred Heart Community Service
San Jose Senior Services
SIREN
Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition
Somos Mayfair
Transform
Transportation Justice Alliance
Youth Leadership Institute
Key Themes

The following are some of the recurring themes that Caltrain staff has heard through outreach and comments received to date.

The majority of comments and input received relate to “Equity” section of the framework and the themes shown to the right specifically touch on areas where significant changes or additions to the policy are anticipated.

These and other input received will be incorporated into a revised framework document.

Positive Feedback
Overall response to framework has generally been very positive – with bulk of comments relating to ways in which policy could be expanded or implemented.

Detailed Comments
Many comments fall within the draft framework, emphasizing specific recommendations or issues – particularly related to fares.

Acknowledge Efforts Underway
Describe existing efforts associated with Title VI, ADA compliance and other current programs.
Describe equity improvements that will result from PCEP.

Passengers with Disabilities
Be explicit as to how the framework will provide improvements for individuals with disabilities.
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Land Use and Displacement
Include language related to affordable housing, local land use policies and concerns about the potential for rail investment to spur displacement.

Corridor Impacts
Add language addressing the past, current and future physical and environmental impacts of the corridor and capital projects on adjacent communities.

Organizational Implications and Actions
Include steps that the organization can take related to hiring practices and internal policies and training.

Measurement, Accountability & Implementation
Define “equity” clearly and strengthen accountability language included in the framework. Clarify which policies and actions will be undertaken in the near term.
Next Steps

• Comment period extended to August 21st
• Additional outreach and engagement planned including:
  – Further work with Board members, partner agencies, cities, SAG members to leverage their networks
  – Possible equity focused roundtable hosted by nonprofit
  – Targeted follow up with community leaders and Community Based Organizations
• Revised Framework brought to Sept. board for consideration and action
What do you think about the Equity, Connectivity, Recovery, and Growth Policy? [Link to Document]

Share feedback at [equity@caltrain.com](mailto:equity@caltrain.com) or 650-508-6499

Deadline: Tuesday, August 21