



San Mateo Bridges Replacement Project
Public Meeting FAQs

- 1. What is the construction timeline for the project?**
 - a. Vegetation removal will begin in November 2013 and continue through February 2014. Principal construction is expected to begin in April 2014 and last approximately two years.

- 2. Will there be property taken for the project?**
 - a. No. Caltrain will be surveying our property line and where there are concerns about a neighbor's proximity to our project we will reach out to them directly.

- 3. Is there an environmental clearance process to the project?**
 - a. Yes. Caltrain went through the environmental clearance process in 2009 and received a categorical exemption and clearance from FTA allowing the project to move forward. Documents associated with this approval can be found here.

- 4. Is there a public review process for the planning and design of the project?**
 - a. In response to community requests, Caltrain is participating in a Public Works Commission hearing on July 10, 2013 to review the design and discuss design elements that have been added specifically to address community concerns.

- 5. Will the City of San Mateo review the design of the project?**
 - a. Yes, the City of San Mateo will review the design of the project at each design phase.

- 6. Will all vegetation on Caltrain property need to be removed for the project?**
 - a. No. A large amount of vegetation including trees, bushes and shrubs will need to be removed to accommodate the project; however Caltrain has designed the project to retain as many trees as possible.

- 7. Where can we see the plans for vegetation removal?**
 - a. Vegetation that will need to be removed can be viewed at www.caltrain.com/SMBridges.

- 8. Will the project require the removal of heritage trees?**
 - a. The City's arborist has determined that the project will require the removal of 70 heritage trees. Caltrain has offered to compensate the City for the removal of these trees.

9. Is there a replanting process for the trees that are being removed?

- a. The City of San Mateo will determine how to use funds associated with the removal of heritage trees.

10. What will the new retaining wall look like?

- a. The new retaining wall will be concrete. Caltrain is still examining the best options for a finish to the concrete.

11. For the new retaining wall, will there be any pile driving?

- a. In order to reduce noise impacts, piles will be drilled, rather than driven.

12. How tall will the new retaining wall be and what will I see from my backyard?

- a. The retaining wall will be roughly five feet tall with standard Caltrain wire mesh fencing on top of the wall.

13. Is there a place where we can see the design plans?

- a. The designs for the retaining wall, berm and bridges are posted at www.caltrain.com/SMBridges.

14. Will the construction require night and weekend work?

- a. Yes. In order to accommodate rail operations, some night and weekend work will be required. Caltrain will ensure that affected residents and business are noticed well in advance about the timing and extent of these impacts.

15. What are the typical hours for night work?

- a. Night work will need to take place when Caltrain is not running in order to access the tracks. Therefore during the week, work will take place after the last train runs at 12 a.m. until 4 a.m. and on the weekends work will take place after 12 a.m. until 7 a.m.

16. What type of work will be done at night time?

- a. Track and bridge construction will take place at night as this is the only time the contractors can safely work on these portions without impacting the current Caltrain schedule.

17. Will the road closures be one street at a time or multiple streets?

- a. Road closures will close one intersection at a time for up to 8 weeks at a time.

18. What are some mitigating measures to limit construction noise?

- a. To the fullest extent possible, noise producing work will be performed during day time hours.
- b. A construction hotline and email address will be available to alert the project team about any concerns. The phone number is: 650.508.7726 and the email address is: smbridges@caltrain.com.

19. Will the street and sidewalk be any wider than it is now?

- a. No, but the removal of the steel bents that are currently below the existing bridges, will free up additional space.

20. Will there be lighting improvements under the bridges?

- a. In response to community concerns, Caltrain is reviewing the project design to determine whether additional lighting can be accommodated.

21. Can we review the property surveys?

- a. Yes. If you have any concerns about property surveys or impacts on your property specifically, please contact Caltrain directly at 650.508.7726 or smbridges@caltrain.com.

22. Will the new construction be a throw away when it comes to Caltrain modernization and high-speed rail?

- a. No. The bridges are being replaced in order to maintain safe rail operations. They will support future modernized Caltrain and high-speed rail service, but they would need to be replaced regardless of these plans.

23. How is this work different from the work done in 2011?

- a. The work done in 2011 was preparatory foundation work for the bridges that are being replaced as a part of this project.

24. How will you ensure that you do not run over schedule?

- a. The contractor's contract mandates they complete their work in the time allotted or they must pay a penalty to Caltrain.

25. Will the project have any impact on driveway access?

- a. If you are one of the few properties that is more directly impacted by these upgrades, a Caltrain representative will be in touch with you directly to discuss options.

26. Will the project include any measures to abate graffiti?

- a. Yes. In response to community concerns, Caltrain is reviewing the best mitigation strategy for graffiti.

27. How is this project being funded?

- a. This is primarily a federally-funded program that includes state as well as some local matching funds.

28. Did Caltrain assess the viability of lowering the roads rather than raising the rail bridges and berms?

- a. Yes. There are two reasons why lowering the streets is not viable in this case. One there are gravity fed sewers just below grade level which would conflict with

the lowering, and secondly: in order to lower the streets, private driveways would need to be purchased and lowered and in some cases this is not feasible due to the geometry.

29. How will Caltrain ensure that rodents and other pests do not proliferate throughout the neighborhood during vegetation removal and construction?

- a. In response to concerns raised by the community during the May 2 public meeting, the JPB has amended the project specifications to include a provision requiring the contractor to submit and implement vector control any time that work is performed.

30. How will parking be impacted throughout the neighborhood during construction?

- a. The JPB continues to work with the City of San Mateo to minimize impacts to parking during construction. Construction is being staged in a manner that limits the amount of time that parking restrictions will exist at any given location. In addition, the Contractor will be required to obtain a staging yard, and will be prohibited from storing equipment, vehicles or material outside of the yard. Finally, the JPB is still working with the City to determine what type of enforcement protection (ex. Resident only parking allocations) is warranted.