Purpose & Needs:
Caltrain, in cooperation with the City of San Mateo, is preparing to replace four rail bridges in San Mateo’s North Central Neighborhood. The 100-year-old bridges, located at Tilton, Monte Diablo, Santa Inez and Poplar avenues, do not meet current seismic safety standards.

State and Federal design requirements and the City of San Mateo’s desire for increased vehicular clearances on city streets require raising the height of the tracks throughout project area.

The project will ensure that the aging bridges are safe and equipped to meet the region’s future transportation needs, including new electrified rail service, and improved traffic flow on city streets.

Bridge Design:
The four bridges will be replaced with single-span structures to comply with Federal and State seismic safety standards. The construction of the single-span bridge combined with updated vehicle clearance regulations requires a more robust design that raises the height of the tracks.

The new height of the bridges will require the construction of both a retaining wall and fence to support the raised berm, which necessitates the removal of vegetation (shrubs, weeds, bushes and trees) along the Caltrain right of way. Vegetation removal work has been performed and was completed in April 2014.

Construction Impacts:
Work to replace the four Caltrain bridges is expected to begin in November 2014 and will last approximately two years. During the construction period, work will take place during the week and will require both night and weekend work. During construction it will be necessary to close each of the four streets for approximately 8 weeks during the construction of the new bridge to ensure the safety of pedestrians and neighbors in the area and facilitate bridge construction. Road closures are not expected to take place until late 2015 into 2016. Due to the nature of the construction activities, there will be temporary, localized noise impacts as a result of site clearing and construction activities.

Project Cost
The cost of the San Mateo Bridges Replacement Project: $38 million. The project is being paid for by a combination of local, state and federal funds.
San Mateo Bridges Replacement Project

Tilton Avenue Bridge

Monte Diablo Avenue Bridge

Santa Inez Avenue Bridge

Poplar Avenue Bridge