Caltrain Joins Regional Pilot Program for Means-Based Fares

The Caltrain Board of Directors unanimously adopted a resolution of support for the agency’s participation in a regional means-based fare pilot program. The program, led by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), will allow low-income transit riders to qualify for a discount through the use of a Clipper card. The regional pilot program is currently in the process of being developed, based on a Means-Based Fare Pilot Program Framework approved by MTC on May 23, 2018.

The regional pilot program will run for 12 to 18 months and is expected to launch in fall 2019. Adults that earn less than 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level will be eligible for pilot program participation and will receive a minimum discount of 20 percent off of single-ride adult Clipper Card fares. In addition to Caltrain, other pilot program participants include BART, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency and the Golden Gate Transportation District. The pilot program will be centrally administered and implemented on behalf of all participating agencies.

Additional Caltrain Board actions will be necessary to formally approve Caltrain’s participation in the pilot program, including completing the process of updating the agency’s Codified Tariff. This resolution of support indicates that the Caltrain Board intends to approve Caltrain’s participation in the regional pilot program in 2019. One of the goals of the Caltrain Fare Policy, adopted by the Caltrain Board in 2018, is to “advocate for and participate in State and regional programs that make it more affordable for low-income customers to use transit.”

MTC staff is working in close coordination with staff from transit agencies and county social service and public health agencies in the process to develop and implement the pilot program.

Bruce Bochy has begun his last year as the head coach of the San Francisco Giants, and Caltrain can help you see every minute of it. The weekend special services in the 600s. Caltrain will also run two extra post-game trains that will depart approximately 15 minutes and 25 minutes after the last out or when full. These trains will express to Millbrae, and then make all local stops to the San Jose Diridon Station.

To help make it a pleasant trip for all, Caltrain reminds fans to drink responsibly and to remember that open alcoholic beverages are prohibited on trains departing from San Francisco beginning at 9 p.m. on game days.

Fans can keep up to date on all Caltrain special services throughout the Giants baseball season by visiting caltrain.com/sfgiants. Brochures are available onboard trains.
We step out of the blustery rain into a packed house with a sizable line, which thankfully gives us time to peruse the sizable menu. We want to cover the gamut, so I ordered the Downtown and Pineapple Express from the hot dog category, while one colleague picked up a Vicki Balboa sausage and the other got a Holy Aioli burger, with a mix of cheese fries, onion rings, and chili cheese tater tots for the table. After ordering, we perched next to the cash register so we could swoop into the next open table, as the outdoor patio was looking less appealing than usual in the rain. Moments later, we were sitting and trying to pretend we weren’t as hungry as we were.

Upon arrival, my first target was the tots, as anything under chili and cheese has a limited lifespan. Thankfully, they were still properly crisp, holding up under a simple meaty chili with a good hit of cheese. The cheese fries were not drenched in a neon orange ocean, but instead topped with a reasonable quantity of actual molten cheese, cheese that had a solid form at one point in its life. The onion rings were fried hard, slightly darker than the usual, but that gave them a good crisp that I wouldn’t say no to.

The main event arrived shortly after, laying out an impressive array of meats and toppings laid out on toasted Hawaiian rolls. The Downtown was a somewhat conservative choice compared to the many options, with a lot of sweet notes from the bread, onions and ketchup (something I haven’t put on a hot dog in decades). The Pineapple Express was more akin to a pizza ordered at 1 a.m., with a riot of flavors and textures that found balance in excess. The Vicki Balboa had a creamy quality to the sausage from the incorporation of mozzarella, nicely offset by the arugula and peppers. The Holy Aioli was designed for the sort of person that gets mad at the existence of vegetarians, as it’s a celebration of meat, fat and flavor.

If you’re waiting on a train and want to see the full extent of what can be done with these humble treats, then Dog Haus Biergarten will welcome you into the fold.

The work that began in October 2018 in Caltrain’s four San Francisco tunnels is now complete, meaning direct weekend service to and from the City is returning as of the weekend of April 6-7. However, additional tunnel work will be necessary in the fall.

When closures begin again, SamTrans will again be offering free bus service to connect riders to and from Caltrain’s Bayshore Station and the stations north of the tunnels. These schedules were selected so as to not interfere with Giants service, as well as other major events.

The tunnel work was necessary to pave the way for Caltrain Electrification and to bring the tracks to a state of good repair. In order to accommodate the new electric trains, crews have created additional clearance and installed anchor bolts in the tunnel ceilings to facilitate the installation of the overhead contact system that will power the new electric trains.

We look forward to seeing you on our weekend service soon!

### Chew-Chew Train

- **They Got the Meats**

Chew-Chew Train is a monthly blog feature highlighting places to eat along the Caltrain line. If you have a suggestion for a future restaurant, please email Public Affairs Specialist Dan Lieberman at liebermand@samtrans.com.

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**Caltrain Safety Tips**

- Caltrain has adopted a Bikes Board First policy. If you don’t have a bike, wait your turn or board a non-bike car in order to avoid a pile-up.
- Always hold onto something while standing on a moving train.
- Trains move much faster than it appears to the naked eye. If you’re not sure you can cross the tracks in time, don’t try.

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**Foundation potholing crew in San Francisco**

Hi-Rail vehicle for tunnel work in San Francisco

**Weekend Train Service**

- **April 5 - September 29**
  - San Francisco Giants
    - Oracle Park, San Francisco
    - San Francisco Caltrain Station
    - www.mlb.com/giants

- **May 12**
  - US Women’s Soccer vs. South Africa
    - Levi’s® Stadium, Santa Clara
    - Mountain View Caltrain Station
    - To VTA light rail
    - www.levisstadium.com

- **May 19**
  - Bay to Breakers
    - Howard & Main Streets, San Francisco Caltrain Station
    - www.baytobreakers.com

- **June 8-16**
  - San Mateo County Fair
    - San Mateo County Event Center
    - Hillsdale Caltrain Station
    - www.sanmateocountyfair.com

- **June 13**
  - Jennifer Lopez
    - SAP Center, San Jose
    - San Jose Diridon Caltrain Station
    - www.sapcenter.com

- **July 4**
  - Independence Day Parade
    - Courthouse Square, Redwood City
    - Redwood City Caltrain Station
    - www.parade.org

- **July 10**
  - Paul McCartney
    - SAP Center, San Jose
    - San Jose Diridon Caltrain Station
    - www.sapcenter.com