**Pay for Parking**

In that time, more than 3,000 permits were sold through the app, with no reported issues. This is the first feature of its kind in the Bay Area, and was one of the most requested updates by Caltrain Mobile users. Caltrain Mobile allows riders to bypass ticketing machines before boarding at stations. The app offers One-Way, Day Pass and Zone Upgrade digital tickets for adults and passengers who qualify for discounted fare. Caltrain Mobile is ideal for occasional and weekend riders headed to special events, day trips, sporting events, visiting friends and shopping. The Buy Again feature allows riders to purchase the same ticket as they have purchased in the past with a single touch. Ticket prices are the same as paper tickets and there are no additional fees. Tickets for multiple people can be purchased and used on a single phone. Tickets are activated immediately upon purchase and the rules are the same as the ticket machine.

Future app updates could include trip planning and real-time departure information, among other functions.
It’s a new year, and there’s still plenty left to do before we get our electrified service up and running. Big news out of the Stadler Plant in Utah; our first seven-car train set has been completed! That leaves 18 to go, but this is a major milestone nonetheless. In addition, our train cars are going through the “squeeze test,” which subjects the shell of the car to twisting, bending and other external pressures in order to make sure they are safe and secure. So far, everything is looking good for the new fleet.

The San Francisco tunnels will be closing for six weekends from February 22 to March 29 in order to get the catenary system that will eventually power our trains installed. Foundations continue to be built throughout the corridor, and catenary poles are currently being installed in Santa Clara as well. Check the spring edition of Caltrain Connection for even more updates on the ongoing electrification of Caltrain.

I’m not surprising anyone by saying that Redwood City is a good place to get Mexican food. This was true when Redwood City was a boring little collection of brutalist government buildings, and it remains true now that it’s the hip, happening place that it has become. Recently, I noticed some changes at the old Tacos El Grullense. And as I’m not one to let pork-related developments slide by me, I hopped on the train heading south from San Carlos with an empty belly and an open mind.

This being a relatively new addition, a few things from the menu were not yet in house, so my desire for chicharrones and pickled pigs feet would have to wait for another day. However, when our assorted selections arrived, those absences fled our minds. The tacos were DIY, coming simply as tortillas with a generous helping of meat on top and allowing us to add our onions, cilantro and salsas at the salsa bar. The burrito had a good mix to it, with large chunks of avocado rather than guacamole, giving it a vibrant and fresh feel. And the carnitas plate had a flavorful rice and rich, creamy refried beans of which I left none behind.

But ladies and gentlemen, I must dedicate a paragraph solely to the pork. The carnitas mixtas was a work of art, something that should be kept in a museum and preserved for future generations. It looks to be a combination of all the meats in house, with some bits of gelatinous skin and possibly even buche thrown in with the tender bits of pork shoulder that melted in your mouth. As such, every bite delivered a range of textures and flavors, a simple presentation of a complex and sophisticated product.

This is a transit-oriented treasure, a welcome addition to Redwood City’s culinary scene and the best food one can have in a former Taco Bell.

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.

Caltrain Safety Tips

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Prevention:

• Wash your hands with soap and water before and after riding public transit.
• Stay home if you are sick.
• Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
• Do not cough into your hands. Cover your cough or sneeze with your elbow.
• Avoid eating while onboard.

Take Caltrain to these special events. The station name and any additional transit service are listed below each event.

April 5 - September 27
San Francisco Giants
Oracle Park, San Francisco
San Francisco Caltrain Station
www.mlb.com/giants

April 10
Celine Dion
Chase Center, San Francisco
San Francisco Caltrain Station
www.chasecenter.com/events

April 24
Ozuna
SAP Center, San Jose
San Jose Diridon Caltrain Station
www.sapcenter.com

May 17
Stars on Ice 2020
SAP Center, San Jose
San Jose Diridon Caltrain Station
www.sapcenter.com

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

May 22
Justin Bieber
Levi’s® Stadium, Santa Clara
Mountain View Caltrain Station
to VTA light rail
www.levisstadium.com

Chew-Chew Train
CARNITAS EL RINCON: A Celebration of PORK

The 2019 Holiday Train brought out thousands of people to donate gifts to children in need. Thanks to everyone that made this festive event such a success!