



JPB Board of Directors
Meeting of September 3, 2020

Correspondence as of September 2, 2020, Part II

Subject

- 1 Closure of Atherton Train Station
- 2 Resident Objection to Proposed Closure

From: [Janet Davis](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Closure of Atherton train station
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 12:12:08 PM

There is a wider population that would want to use the Atherton station than merely the residents of Atherton: there is the nearby community of South Fair Oaks and the residents of the county and RWC area on the other side of El Camino. Ridership is low in good part because of the incompetent management of Caltrain, which is under the "leadership" of Jim Hartnett who has absolutely no qualifications for the job. If you want more people taking advantage of public transportation you need to make that transportation available to people when and where they need it. Atherton is an exclusive community, but Caltrain is supposed to be for the benefit of the entire population, not merely the privileged few. Rather than closing down stations and reducing service Caltrain should hire a competent executive and do a survey of public needs, so that the train can be better utilized.

From: [Laura Caplan](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Resident objection to proposed closure of Atherton station
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 12:44:45 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

I have only today learned that the Board is considering a permanent closure of the Atherton Train station. It is disappointing to say the least that the Board would consider this during a pandemic when of course ridership is down. What a shortsighted move this would be!

Why have local residents not been notified of this proposal? Why would it be done in relative secret at a time when so many people are homebound due to the pandemic? This is unethical and counter-productive. We need MORE public transportation, not less. Who among us does not recognize that fact? This move would negatively affect our community in so many ways.

In the midst of all the local efforts (both public and private) to create additional public transportation options, what is the reason you would consider shutting down a station that is in close proximity to some of the most underserved populations in the region? The Atherton station is walking distance from much of North Fair Oaks, which is home to a high-density population within unincorporated San Mateo County. It was a bad move when, instead of promoting ridership, Caltrain shut down the regularly scheduled stops. But closing the Atherton station permanently would be a terrible mistake. You may also consider the historic nature of the station.

I don't use it daily (obviously now) but have still counted on use of this station for 40 years! Please do NOT close this station but reinstate ability to use it more. I well remember the days I used the station to commute to work in San Francisco accompanied by all the men who still wore suits and hats to work. Times change. But it is clear that in the near future we will need stations like this more than ever. Care enough to use common sense and figure out now how this station can be used in future rather than destroyed.

Laura Caplan
resident of North Fair Oaks/ Menlo Park