



Proposed Closure of the Atherton Station

Virtual Community Meeting
July 29, 2020

Background

- Weekend only service provided since 2005
- Average of 114 passengers per weekend day (prior to COVID-19)
- Caltrain Electrification documented policy commitment to restore regular weekday service after electrification
- Atherton Station is one of few remaining “hold out” rule stations, due to older center platform configuration
- Jan. 8, 2020 letter to Town of Atherton proposing closure
- Jan. 15, 2020 Town Council tentative endorsement of closure subject to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Station Closure Benefits

- Service can be re-allocated to adjacent stations where denser land uses and improved travel times can generate more ridership (est. 300-500 daily riders)
- Financial savings due to reduced operating/maintenance costs and elimination of need for station upgrades
- Town benefits from noise reduction and improved safety
- Potential for Town to integrate station property (outside of operating ROW) into Civic Center redevelopment



Potential Elements of MOU

- Subject to agreement and identification of funding, Caltrain would fund and implement actions supporting the station closure, including:
 - Installation of a new right-of-way fence along current station area
 - Removal of center boarding platform and other station facilities
 - Installation of quad gates at Watkins Avenue to improve crossing safety
- Caltrain and the Town would enter into a Maintenance and Use Agreement for the Town to use and maintain station property
- Caltrain and the Town could cooperatively pursue funding to study and potentially implement additional improvements proposed by the Town

Public Outreach & Feedback

- Public Outreach
 - Press releases, newspaper ads, onboard flyers and station announcements, social media, targeted community outreach
 - Direct outreach to North Fair Oaks community leadership – July 15, 2020
 - Virtual Community Meeting – July 29, 2020
 - Public Hearing – August 6, 2020
 - Public comment available via email, mail, website, and phone
- Information made available in Spanish and Chinese

Title VI Service Equity Analysis

- Title VI Equity Analysis is required by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) when a Caltrain Station Closure occurs as per the Caltrain Major Service Change Policy.
 - Determines whether a disparate impact (DI) or disproportionate burden (DB) exists
 - Identifies proposal purposes and potential adverse affects
- DI/DB exists when the communities of color/low income communities affected by the service change is 10% more than the average communities of color/low income communities of the Caltrain Service area
- Analyzed Census Data (2018 ACS) within a 1 mile radius of Atherton Station

Next Steps

- Hold Public Hearing at Caltrain Board Meeting on Aug. 6
- Complete Title VI analysis
- Prepare and approve CEQA addendum and NEPA re-evaluation
- Agree to MOU terms and identify funding sources
- Execute Maintenance and Use agreement
- Final Approval by Caltrain Board
- Set date for station closure

Public Hearing Information

- Caltrain Board will hold a Public Hearing to receive additional public comments:
 - Thursday, August 6, 2020, 9 a.m.
 - Zoom Info: zoom.us/j/95032112562
 - Access via Telephone: 1.669.900.9128 Meeting ID: 950 3211 2562
- Comment period will be closed after Public Hearing is complete

Additional Options for Public Comment

- Prior to the public hearing on August 6, comments may be sent via the following options:
- Online Form
 - www.caltrain.com/AthertonClosure
- Mail
 - Board Secretary
 - Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board
 - P.O. Box 3006, San Carlos, CA 94070-1306
- Email
 - Changes@caltrain.com
- Phone
 - 1.800.660.4287 (TTY 650.508.6448)

Questions

Comments/Feedback

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