

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 Bridge, Highway and

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.



Caltrain Connection is produced by the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board. Comments, questions, contributions and suggestions should be directed to:

Dan Lieberman, Editor
communications@samtrans.com
Caltrain Connection
P.O. Box 3006
San Carlos, CA 94070-1306

Contributing Writers
Tasha Bartholomew
Alex Eisenhart

Caltrain Board of Directors
Gillian Gillett, chair
Dave Pine, vice chair
Cheryl Brinkman
Jeannie Bruins
Cindy Chavez
Ron Collins
Devora "Dev" Davis
Charles Stone
Shamann Walton

Jim Hartnett
Executive Director

www.caltrain.com 1.800.660.4287

Spring 2019

Caltrain Connection

Information for **Caltrain** Customers

TAKE CALTRAIN TO GIANTS HOME OPENER SERIES



Statue of Hall of Famer Willie Mays at 24 Willie Mays Plaza, Oracle Park

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 tunnel closures are behind us, and remaining weekends will be scheduled around Giants games, so there is nothing keeping fans from riding with us up to Oracle Park. Caltrain will run extra trains to all weekend and weekday afternoon games that can be identified on the schedule as any train 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.

Bikes Board First System-Wide

Following the success of Caltrain's pilot program to make boarding faster and smoother for all riders, Caltrain has instituted a Bikes Board First procedure at all stations.

The procedure allows riders with bicycles to board first onto the designated bike cars once exiting passengers have alighted. Riders without bikes are encouraged to board on non-bike cars to avoid having to wait.

The initial pilot program began in April 2018 on northbound platforms at three stations where boarding times often took well over one minute. During this first phase of the pilot some trains shaved more than a minute from their boarding times.

"We are grateful to Caltrain's staff, riders and partners who helped make our pilot a success," said Caltrain Chief Operating Officer Michelle Bouchard. "Implementation of Bikes Board First at all stations will reduce delays and improve boarding for everyone."

Memorial Day & Independence Day

Caltrain will operate a Sunday schedule on May 27 and July 4. The schedule is available at www.caltrain.com

CalMod CORNER

Spring has sprung, but work on the electrification of Caltrain continues even on beautiful, sunny days. The weekend San Francisco Tunnel Closures have been completed. This work expanded the tunnels to accommodate the larger electric train cars and prepped the ceiling for the catenary system to supply power to the trains, as well as improving the tunnel's drainage.

Sunnyvale Caltrain Station

Parking at the Sunnyvale Caltrain Station will get a little tighter, as construction for a paralleling station on site began in April. This station will help to provide power to the electrified system and keep it moving smoothly. The station will be losing some parking spaces, so if that's your home station, you might want to consider leaving earlier or taking advantage of a VTA connection.

Power Facilities

In addition to the Sunnyvale facility, five of the 10 traction power facilities needed for Caltrain Electrification are currently under construction. Work continues on the two at San Jose as well as facilities at San Mateo, South San Francisco, and Redwood City. These facilities will regulate the power supply used to power our trains when the electrified fleet launches in 2022.



Chew-Chew Train

DOG HAUS BIERGARTEN -They Got the Meats



Onion Rings and Vicki Balboa

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.

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.



Hi-Rail vehicle for tunnel work in San Francisco

Weekend Train Service

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!



Foundation potholing crew in San Francisco

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.

EVENTS CALENDAR

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

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
Diridon Caltrain Station
www.sapcenter.com