

Bicycle Advisory Committee

**Correspondence
as of**

May 15, 2020

Mccauley, Ryan

From: Alex Eisenhart <eisenharta@samtrans.com>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 3:35 PM
To: Caltrain, Bac (@caltrain.com)
Subject: NEWS: Hillsdale Station to Temporarily Close for Construction



NEWS

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Advisory: *While this announcement describes planned service adjustments, be advised that future rail operations and/or capital projects may continue to be impacted by COVID-19. For the latest Caltrain schedule updates, please visit www.caltrain.com or call Caltrain Customer Service at 1.800.660.4287. For the latest SamTrans schedule updates, please visit www.samtrans.com or call SamTrans Customer Service at 1.800.660.4287.*

May 11, 2020

Media Contact: Alex Eisenhart, 650.622.7850

Hillsdale Station to Temporarily Close for Construction

This Saturday, May 16, Caltrain's [Hillsdale Station](#) in San Mateo will temporarily close for up to six months as part of the [25th Avenue Grade Separation Project](#).

During the closure, trains will not serve the Hillsdale Station. Passengers are advised to utilize the [Belmont Station](#) instead. To accommodate San Mateo riders, Belmont Station parking will be free of charge for Caltrain customers until the newly constructed Hillsdale Station opens in the fall. For more information on station access alternatives, including free connecting SamTrans bus and shuttle service, visit www.caltrain.com/HillsdaleTempClosure.

Due to the shelter-in-place order and low ridership, Caltrain continues to operate reduced weekday service with all trains making local stops. Weekend Baby Bullet service will move from Hillsdale to the Belmont Station. Departure times at all other stations will remain the same. Updated weekday and weekend timetables effective May 16 will be available online at www.caltrain.com/Schedules.

Customers are advised to plan accordingly as the temporary station closure may add additional time to your commute.

Upon completion of construction, the Hillsdale Station will be relocated about one block north of its current location, between 28th and 31st Avenues. The [new station](#) will have an elevated center-boarding platform allowing for safer, more convenient pedestrian access.

For more information about Caltrain schedules and fares or for help planning your trip, call Caltrain Customer Service at 1.800.660.4287 (TTY 650.508.6448) or visit www.caltrain.com.

###

About Caltrain: Owned and operated by the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board, Caltrain provides commuter rail service from San Francisco to San Jose, with commute service to Gilroy. While the Joint Powers Board assumed operating responsibilities for the service in 1992, the railroad celebrated 150 years of continuous passenger service in 2014. Planning for the next 150 years of Peninsula rail service, Caltrain is on pace to electrify the corridor, reduce diesel emissions by 97 percent by 2040 and add more service to more stations.

Follow Caltrain on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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Mccauley, Ryan

From: Alex Eisenhart <eisenharta@samtrans.com>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 3:30 PM
To: Caltrain, Bac (@caltrain.com)
Subject: NEWS: Hillsdale Station to Temporarily Close for Construction



NEWS

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Advisory: *While this announcement describes planned service adjustments, be advised that future rail operations and/or capital projects may continue to be impacted by COVID-19. For the latest Caltrain schedule updates, please visit www.caltrain.com or call Caltrain Customer Service at 1.800.660.4287. For the latest SamTrans schedule updates, please visit www.samtrans.com or call SamTrans Customer Service at 1.800.660.4287.*

April 6, 2020

Media Contact: Alex Eisenhart, 650.622.7850

Hillsdale Station to Temporarily Close for Construction

Starting May 16, Caltrain's [Hillsdale Station](#) in San Mateo will temporarily close for up to six months as part of the [25th Ave Grade Separation Project](#).

During the closure, trains that currently stop at the Hillsdale Station will now serve the [Belmont Station](#) instead. A new weekday and weekend timetable, effective May 16, will be made available online as soon as possible, pending service updates related to COVID-19.

Upon completion of construction, the Hillsdale Station will be relocated about one block north of its current location, between 28th and 31st Avenues. The [new station](#) will have an elevated center-boarding platform allowing for safer, more convenient pedestrian access.

In addition to the new station, the overall project will create three new grade separated east-west connections for vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists at 25th, 28th and 31st Avenues. Grade separations reduce horn noise while also improving safety and traffic flow.

Caltrain will conduct a [virtual town hall](#) on Thursday, April 9, from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. to inform customers about the closure and station access alternatives during construction.

What Hillsdale Station Passengers Need to Know:

Driving:

- If you drive to Caltrain, use the Belmont Station parking lot as it has sufficient capacity. Parking at the Belmont Station will be free of charge until the Hillsdale Station reopens for service.
- The Hillsdale Station parking lots will close during the station closure.

Free SamTrans Connection for Caltrain Riders:

- [SamTrans Route ECR](#) bus service is free between San Mateo and Belmont stations during the Hillsdale Station closure.
- [SamTrans Route 292](#) bus service is free between Hillsdale Shopping Center and San Mateo Station during the Hillsdale Station closure.
- SamTrans bus service is free on all routes (except [FCX](#)) for riders with the Caltrain Clipper Monthly Pass 2+ zones.
- All SamTrans buses are ADA accessible.

Free Caltrain Shuttle Service (if available): The existing free [Belmont/Hillsdale shuttle](#) will operate throughout the closure during weekday morning and afternoon peak commute hours. New shuttle timetable and route information will be available online.

Updated information on all shuttles serving Caltrain stations will be posted online at www.caltrain.com/shuttles.

Bikes:

- 18 bike racks at Belmont Station
- SamTrans bus bike racks can hold up to three bikes
- The free Belmont/Hillsdale shuttle can hold up to two bikes

Customers are advised to plan accordingly as the temporary station closure may add additional time to your commute.

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Mccauley, Ryan

From: Roland Lebrun <ccss@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 1:33 AM
To: Board (@caltrain.com)
Cc: Public Comment; Steve Stamos, Clerk of the Board; VTA Board Secretary; SFCTA CAC; cacsecretary [@caltrain.com]; Caltrain, Bac (@caltrain.com); MTC-ABAG; CHSRA Board
Subject: Roland Lebrun public comments

Dear Chair Pine and Board members,

Here are my comments for the April 2nd Board meeting.

I look forward to the opportunity to address the Board in person pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.3 https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=GOV§ionNum=54954.3.

Law section - California

54954.3. (a) Every agenda for regular meetings shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to directly address the legislative body on any item of interest to the public, before or during the legislative body's consideration of the item, that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body, provided that no action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the ...

leginfo.legislature.ca.gov

Item 3 General public comment

SB797 as currently written is inequitable. Specifically, Santa Clara County is expected to contribute approximately \$6M/year more than San Francisco and San Mateo counties combined but half of Santa Clara County does not get viable Caltrain service.

A more equitable solution could be to allocate a minimum percentage of tax revenues to the agency for Operations & Maintenance (O&M) and State Of Good Repair (SOGR) but each county's surplus would go back to the county for local capital projects such as the Downtown Extension (DTX) in San Francisco or Diridon and double-tracking to Gilroy in Santa Clara County.

This model follows AB1847 which proposes that 20% of revenues go the Regional Housing Agency and the remaining 80% go back to the originating counties.

Presentation: <https://mtc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=8195839&GUID=E62BC193-E3AA-4C1C-9754-2B73EA234EB6>

Video: http://baha.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=1&clip_id=6822&meta_id=158801

Please note that AB1847's legislative effort is driven by ABAG while Caltrain sales tax legislation should be driven by MTC whose Chair has indicated a preference for supporting transportation measures over housing measures.

Item 4 Consent

4.d Caltrain Business Plan

Slide 7 shows that 20 years and \$30B later an express train will take 5 minutes longer than a diesel baby bullet train did 10 years ago or more than twice as long as the 30-minute Prop1A mandate codified in Streets & Highways Code section 2704.09(b)(3)

https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=SHC§ionNum=2704.09.

4.e Revenues and expenses

Shows expenses increasing at the same rate as revenues in February (\$6M over FY19). The question is whether expenses will decrease at the same rate as revenues in March and April and, if not, how we will fund the shortfall.

6 Report of the Executive Director

6.b PCEP Monthly Progress Report

The first EMU trainset was exempt from Buy America. It was scheduled to arrive at the JPB on 07/29/2019.
Revised schedule is 02/26/2021

“TASI may not have sufficient number of signal maintainers for testing”

Each grade crossing needs 2 flaggers (one on each side) x 42 grade crossings X 3 shifts (total 252 flaggers).

Are we seriously considering increasing the TASI headcount by 50%?

The Caltrain CAC was supposed to have a robust discussion about grade crossing activation, including how the proposed so-called “two-speed check” (AKA “2SC”) “solution” will work at speeds in excess of 80 MPH. The question is why this meeting was canceled instead of being teleconferenced?

Why are we flying people to Salt Lake City for meetings instead of teleconferencing?

Why is the Salt Lake City 2/3rd of a mile “test track” being constructed after the first trainset?

Tunnel modifications are \$30M (300%) over budget

Anne Richman does not represent MTC (she retired from MTC 6 months ago)

7.A 25th Avenue Grade separation

Slide 7 in the Business Plan presentation shows passing tracks at Hillsdale and Hayward Park with a legend of “*Conceptual 4-track segment or station to be refined through further analysis and community engagement*” yet the additional two tracks are nowhere to be seen in the relocated Hillsdale station plan so the question is what is the Business “Plan”?

Are we seriously going to blow up the entire station after we are done blowing up \$200M on this project?

What about the new island (AKA “centerboard”) platform? How could a non-stopping train possibly go through a station at more than 100 MPH with this kind of design?

12 Closed Session

This item is on the agenda because the PCEP is at least two years late. My only question, through the chair, is whether this cost overrun will be funded through PCEP contingency or some other source?

Sincerely,

Roland Lebrun

CC
MTC Commissioners
SFCTA Commissioners
VTA Board members
CHSRA Board members
SFCTA CAC
Caltrain CAC
Caltrain BAC

Mccauley, Ryan

From: Firoozye, Newsha <newshaf@wharton.upenn.edu>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2020 3:26 PM
To: Caltrain, Bac (@caltrain.com)
Subject: Re: Clarification on bike rules for Caltrains for scooters

Thank you so much, Lori! It's great to have this information to reference and so glad the guidelines include scooters now. All the best, Newsha

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From: Caltrain, Bac (@caltrain.com) <BAC@caltrain.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 5:53:49 PM
To: Firoozye, Newsha <newshaf@wharton.upenn.edu>; Caltrain, Bac (@caltrain.com) <BAC@caltrain.com>
Subject: RE: Clarification on bike rules for Caltrains for scooters

Dear Newsha,

Thanks for reaching out, and for using a folding scooter! Caltrain believes scooters are an excellent first and last mile solution, and riders who use their scooters to access Caltrain reduce pollution, relieve congestion, and help promote healthy, active transportation. You are completely right that we should acknowledge scooters and also offer rules and guidelines for scooter users. We are currently working to update our website with a scooter specific section, which will incorporate the onboard scooter information [presented](#) to the BAC at the last meeting. It should be up in the next few weeks. Thank you again for taking the time to send us your thoughts.

Best,
Lori

From: Firoozye, Newsha [mailto:newshaf@wharton.upenn.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 8:36 AM
To: Caltrain, Bac (@caltrain.com)
Subject: Clarification on bike rules for Caltrains for scooters

Good morning,

I am a daily commuter from Palo Alto to SF and use a folding non electric scooter. I would appreciate if you would add an amendment to your pilot text and rules to include scooters in addition to bicycles. Nowhere do your rules acknowledge commuters with scooters. I board and sit with bikes in bike cars and a bicyclist confronted me on my commute today to get ahead of me (and as a paying customer I don't want to deal with these sorts of interactions) and feel your rules should acknowledge two wheeled customers.

Many thanks and hope you a good start to your day. All the best, Newsha

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From: Alex Eisenhart <eisenharta@samtrans.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 10:08 AM
To: Caltrain, Bac (@caltrain.com)
Subject: NEWS: Caltrain to Implement Additional Weekday Service Reductions



NEWS

March 26, 2020

Media Contact: Alex Eisenhart, 650.622.7850

Caltrain to Implement Additional Weekday Service Reductions

Due to significant reductions in ridership resulting from the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Caltrain will further reduce weekday train service indefinitely starting Monday, March 30.

The modified weekday schedule will operate 42 trains per day, rather than the usual 92. Trains will make all local weekday stops between San Jose and San Francisco every 30-60 minutes, depending on time of day. Caltrain will continue operating two Gilroy service trains during the morning and afternoon peak commute. Limited and Baby Bullet service will be suspended until further notice.

The updated weekday schedule will be available at www.caltrain.com.

Weekend service will continue to operate normally.

These additional schedule reductions are necessary to mitigate severe fare revenue losses while still providing essential transit services to all stations along Caltrain's corridor. Caltrain is monitoring ridership during this time and may implement additional service changes as needed while ensuring that riders can maintain social distancing in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [recommendations](#). Caltrain continues to maintain daily onboard cleaning and sanitation protocols in compliance with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines.

Caltrain is assessing the impact that reduced ridership is having on the agency's ability to maintain operations in the coming months. One-way and Day Pass ticket sales have declined by approximately 86% from levels prior to the current health crisis. On the first day of the Bay Area-wide Public Health Order, Caltrain recorded a 95% decrease in average daily ticket sales. With no other dedicated source of funding, Caltrain relies on fares to cover 70% of the system's operating costs.

Due to severe ridership declines as a result of the public health order, transit agencies, like Caltrain, are now experiencing serious financial challenges. Federal legislation has been approved that could provide transit agencies throughout the country with funding to maintain operations. Caltrain is working with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to determine how those funds will be allocated throughout the Bay Area.

For more information about Caltrain schedules and fares or for help planning your trip, call Caltrain Customer Service at 1.800.660.4287 (TTY 650.508.6448) or visit www.caltrain.com.

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Mccauley, Ryan

From: Alex Eisenhart <eisenharta@samtrans.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 22, 2020 9:50 PM
To: Caltrain, Bac (@caltrain.com)
Subject: NEWS: Monday Morning Commute Service to Resume Following Weekend Closure for Electrification Work



March 22, 2020
Media Contact: Tasha Bartholomew, 650.508.7927

Monday Morning Commute Service to Resume Following Weekend Closure for Electrification Work

Caltrain's tunnel work for the weekend is expected to be completed by 4 a.m., Monday, March 23. Weekday service will proceed as normal for the morning commute.

From February 22 through March 29, Caltrain will perform weekend work on the four train tunnels in San Francisco 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 will install the overhead catenary system that will power the new electric trains. During work weekends, SamTrans will be providing [free bus service](#) to connect Caltrain riders traveling between the San Francisco Station, 22nd Street Station, and Bayshore Station.

The Caltrain Electrification project is a key component of the [Caltrain Modernization Program](#) that will electrify the corridor from the San Francisco Caltrain Station at 4th and King streets to approximately the Tamien Station in San Jose, and replace diesel-hauled trains with electric trains. Electrification will improve Caltrain's system performance, enable more frequent and/or faster train service, and reduce long-term environmental impact by reducing noise, improving regional air quality and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Caltrain Electrification is scheduled to be operational by 2022.

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Mccauley, Ryan

From: Alex Eisenhart <eisenharta@samtrans.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 2:59 PM
To: Caltrain, Bac (@caltrain.com)
Subject: NEWS: Caltrain Suspends Planned Clipper Fare Changes



March 19, 2020

Media Contact: Alex Eisenhart, 650.622.7850

Caltrain Suspends Planned Clipper Fare Changes

In light of economic challenges facing the Bay Area as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19), Caltrain is suspending [planned changes](#) to Clipper fare products.

Caltrain's original Board [decision](#) to raise the price of certain Clipper fare products was made in September 2019, long before the current public health crisis. Given recent developments, the agency has decided to halt these fare increases for the time being.

As a result, Caltrain fares, including the existing Clipper Adult fare discounts and Adult Monthly Pass pricing, will not change.

Caltrain will continue to assess the situation to inform future decisions about any fare or service changes. Caltrain is dedicated to providing safe, accessible, convenient transportation service during this difficult time.

For more information about how Caltrain has responded to COVID-19, or for more information about Caltrain schedules and fares, call 1.800.660.4287 (TTY 650.508.6448) or visit www.caltrain.com.

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Mccauley, Ryan

From: Alex Eisenhart <eisenharta@samtrans.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 5:27 PM
To: Caltrain, Bac (@caltrain.com)
Subject: NEWS: Caltrain Implements Clipper Fare Changes



March 18, 2020

Media Contact: Alex Eisenhart, 650.622.7850

Caltrain Implements Clipper Fare Changes

Starting Wednesday, April 1, the cost of Caltrain's single-ride Adult fare will increase by 30 cents for Clipper customers. The Adult Monthly Pass, available only on Clipper, will also increase by \$9. New Clipper fares go into effect with the April Monthly Pass sales starting on March 21.

Fares paid with Clipper will continue to provide customers with a savings advantage compared to purchasing tickets through machines at stations or the [Caltrain Mobile](#) app. Customers who use Clipper instead of a paper ticket or the mobile app will save 25 cents on an Adult One-way ticket.

The cost of an Eligible Discount One-Way ticket and Monthly Pass will not change. Updated Clipper fares can be found on Caltrain's [website](#).

Caltrain's increased ticket price is part of the agency's 2020 [fare changes](#) that were approved by the Board in September 2019. The fare change will help fund Caltrain's participation in [Clipper START](#), the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's Means-Based Fare Discount Program Pilot. The fare changes will also help support Caltrain's operating and maintenance needs over the next few years.

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Mccauley, Ryan

From: Dan Lieberman <liebermand@samtrans.com>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 5:25 PM
To: Caltrain, Bac (@caltrain.com)
Subject: NEWS: Caltrain to Adjust Service in Response to Significantly Lower Ridership



NEWS

March 13, 2020

Media Contact: Dan Lieberman, 650.508.6385

Caltrain to Adjust Service in Response to Significantly Lower Ridership

In response to a significant decline in ridership stemming from efforts to contain the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), Caltrain will be adjusting its weekday service, effective Tuesday, March 17.

Morning and afternoon peak hour service will no longer feature Baby Bullet Service. The updated weekday schedule is available at www.caltrain.com.

Local and limited service will continue to operate as scheduled, as will off-peak service, including midday and weekend service. Caltrain will be constantly monitoring ridership during this time and may implement additional service changes, as needed.

Caltrain is assessing the overall impact that reduced ridership will have on its ability to maintain operations in the coming months. One-way and Day Pass ticket sales have declined by approximately 75% from their levels two weeks ago. With no other dedicated source of funding, Caltrain relies primarily on fares to cover the system's operating costs.

Caltrain continues to maintain daily onboard cleaning and sanitation protocols in compliance with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines.

Safety is Caltrain's top priority and we urge everyone to take preventative measures to reduce the spread of illnesses:

- Wash your hands with soap and water before and after riding public transit. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Avoid eating while onboard.

- Do not cough into your hands. Cover your cough or sneeze with your elbow.
- Stay home if you are sick.

For the latest information about Coronavirus, please refer to information and guidance provided by the following public health agencies:

- [San Francisco Department of Public Health](#)
- [San Mateo County Health Department](#)
- [Santa Clara County Public Health Department](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control](#)

Caltrain stands ready to respond as necessary in partnership with public health officials.

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