Access Policy Update

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
APRIL 17, 2024
AGENDA ITEM 9
Agenda

1. Context: Caltrain’s 2010 Access Policy
2. Project Overview
3. Access Policy Draft Goals and Objectives
4. Access Policy Outline
5. Next Steps
• Caltrain currently has an Access Policy Statement that was developed in 2010 as a tool to improve station access and support ridership growth while prioritizing sustainable and cost-effective access modes.

• An update to the existing policy is necessary to:

  1) **Support decision making** on access-related projects

  2) **Align the Access Policy** with other Caltrain policies adopted since 2010 and current initiatives

  3) **Incorporate the latest industry best practices** in station access policies
A phased approach for the Access Policy:

- Phase 1: Developing the Access Policy update
  - JPB adoption of the updated Access Policy by Fall 2024
- Phase 2: Implementation

This effort is focused on Phase 1, while implementation will be addressed in Phase 2
## Project Schedule

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- **Public Review:** Draft Goals and Objectives
- **Public Review:** Draft Access Policy
- **Policy Adoption**
Purpose

1. Provide an overview of the Caltrain Access Policy Update process

2. Share Draft Goals and Objectives for feedback that will inform the Draft Access Policy
Draft Goals and Objectives

Informed by:
1. Findings from Caltrain staff interviews and case studies from other transit agencies
2. Review of current Caltrain policies relevant to access
3. Input from various Caltrain departments
Draft Goals

1. **Safe** station areas and access routes
2. World-class customer access **experience** for all users
3. **Ridership** growth with strategic access investments
4. **Equitable** access aligned with diverse community needs
5. Healthy and **sustainable** modes of access
6. Strategic **partnerships** to advance station access
Goal #1

Safe station areas and access routes

Draft Objectives

**Operations**: Promote rider and maintenance investments to ensure safe and reliable train operations at Caltrain facilities

**Connectivity**: Work with local jurisdictions to ensure safe and direct connections to and through Caltrain stations and facilities

**Universal Design**: Incorporate Universal Design principles to ensure safe access for all riders and respond to varying user needs

**Crime Prevention**: Embed crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) principles in design criteria to ensure safe and secure access
Goal #2

World-class customer access experience for all users

Draft Objectives

**Design Guidelines:** Develop multimodal station design guidelines reflecting industry best practices that align with the access hierarchy and are consistent throughout the Caltrain corridor.

**Project Delivery:** Ensure related Caltrain efforts such as transit-oriented development and the Corridor Crossings Strategy reflect access needs by enhancing customer experience.

**Customer Communications:** Consider long-term investments in access technologies and service solutions that meet the needs of all riders.

**Technology:** Leverage technology to help riders easily navigate the Caltrain system virtually (online) and physically at stations.

**Wayfinding:** Develop a unified, system-wide wayfinding system that reflects and reinforces the access hierarchy and aligns with regional initiatives.
Draft Objectives

**Transit-Oriented Development:** Promote transit-oriented development at Caltrain-owned facilities and in the surrounding station areas, connecting more communities to stations within walking distances.

**Multimodal Programs:** Promote first/last mile access options through collaborations to expand bike lockers, bikeshare, private shuttles, and other micromobility accommodations.

**Transfer Guidelines:** Establish guidelines for convenient travel paths when transferring between modes in line with regional standards to enhance access needs and improve first-last mile connections.

**Seamless Transit:** Partner with local transit operators to optimize transfer times and provide seamless connections.

**Maximize Value:** Explore creative solutions to identify opportunities for facilities to support both operations and maintenance and customer access needs.
Goal #4

Equitable access aligned with diverse community needs

Community Engagement: Engage with communities, including historically underserved low-income and minority communities, to define access priorities

Access Prioritization: Prioritize investments that improve access for low-income riders and riders with disabilities

Expanded Choices: Promote first-last mile connections to Caltrain that reflect varying user needs and local contexts

Adaptable Solutions: Establish multimodal design standards that are flexible and adaptable to different communities and local contexts

Partnerships: Engage in strategic partnerships to increase access to housing and jobs at Caltrain-owned facilities and in the surrounding station areas

Draft Objectives
Goal #5

Healthy and sustainable modes of access

Draft Objectives

**Mode Share:** Prioritize multimodal investments to encourage mode-shift from automobiles/parking to more sustainable options

**Land & Capital Management:** Effectively manage land & capital assets to encourage sustainable development around stations and minimize vehicle-miles traveled

**Parking Management:** Consider parking management strategies such as parking pricing to maximize parking assets and encourage mode shift that reduces single occupancy vehicle trips
Goal #6

Strategic partnerships to advance station access

Draft Objectives

**Collaboration:** Partner with local jurisdictions to incorporate multimodal, connected street networks aligned with transit-supportive land uses in first/last mile efforts, and urban/street design guidelines

**Coordination:** Define roles and responsibilities for Caltrain and its stakeholders to identify, plan, construct, and maintain access related projects

**Review Processes:** Establish protocol for involvement with local jurisdictions and private entities on development plans, leveraging the project planning and entitlement process to deliver access investments

**Partnerships:** Cultivate partnerships to explore cost-sharing, data-sharing, and grant funding opportunities

**Facility and Resource Use:** Define access needs and permitted uses of Caltrain facilities and resources to balance multimodal access with safety and maintenance needs at Caltrain facilities
The Access Policy will include the following proposed elements:

1) Purpose Statement
2) Intended Users of the Access Policy
3) Definition of “Access”
4) Goals and Objectives
5) Strategies
6) Implementation Plan
Next Steps

- Complete existing conditions data analysis and develop Draft Access Policy and Implementation Plan
- Present Draft Access Policy for feedback in July 2024
Questions

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Thank you.