

Caltrain Sustainability Update: Strategic Sustainability Plan & Climate Change Vulnerability Study

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
W.D. 10994, 11291

MARCH 19, 2025
AGENDA ITEM 10



Meeting Agenda & Purpose

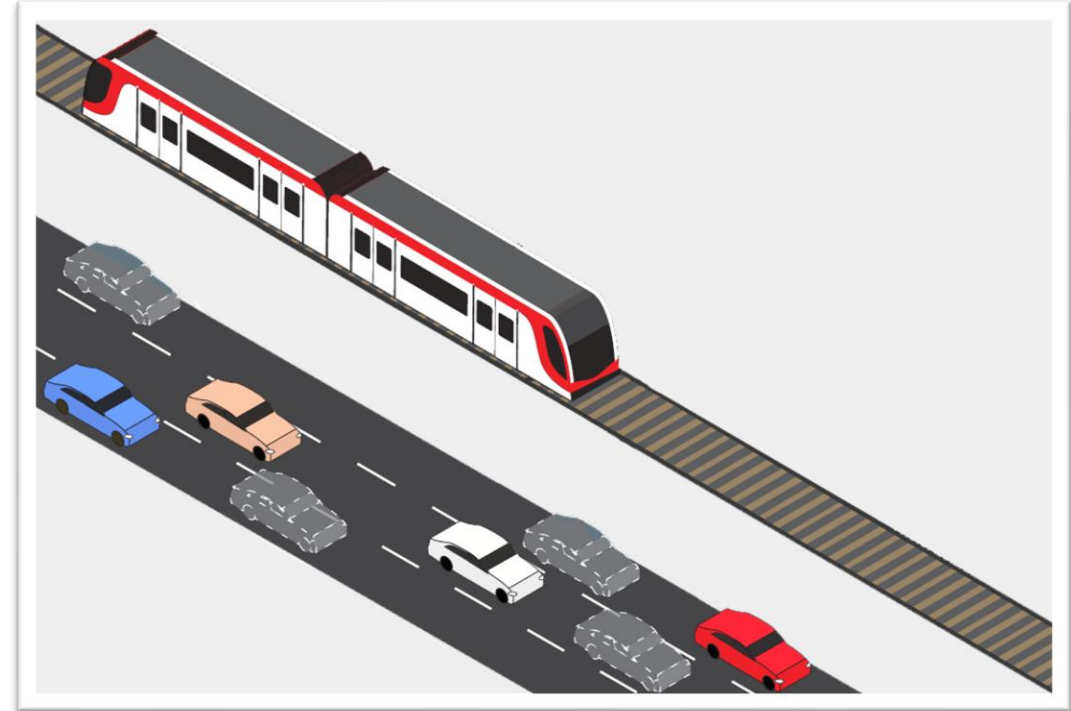
- 1) Context: Caltrain's Sustainability Program
- 2) Strategic Sustainability Plan Overview, Scope, Committee Feedback, & Schedule
- 3) Caltrain Climate Vulnerability Study Overview, Scope, & Schedule
- 4) Next Steps

Meeting Purpose:

- Provide an update on Caltrain's latest sustainability efforts
- Introduce Caltrain's Strategic Sustainability Plan and hear feedback on priorities and evaluation criteria
- Introduce Caltrain's Climate Vulnerability Study and hear input on areas of concern

Caltrain Sustainability Program

- Program focus: reducing impacts, engaging staff and community, improving efficiency
 - American Public Transportation Association Sustainability Commitment
- 2024 Electrification of Corridor
 - Massive reduction in carbon emissions – equivalent of removing 55,000 cars/year
 - Elimination of criteria air pollutants
 - Increased, faster service
- What do we focus on next?



Caltrain Core Values



SAFETY



EXCELLENCE



RESILIENCE



INTEGRITY



EQUITY AND INCLUSION



SUSTAINABILITY

Strategic Sustainability Plan

The Strategic Sustainability Plan will set the direction for our Sustainability Program for the next 10 years by:

- Defining the Program's **vision**;
- Developing the Program's overall **goals and objectives**; and
- Identifying list of priority **sustainability projects**.

Plan will be complete by June 2025.

Work to Date

Staff Survey Feedback

- Captured staff sentiment

Internal Working Group Meetings

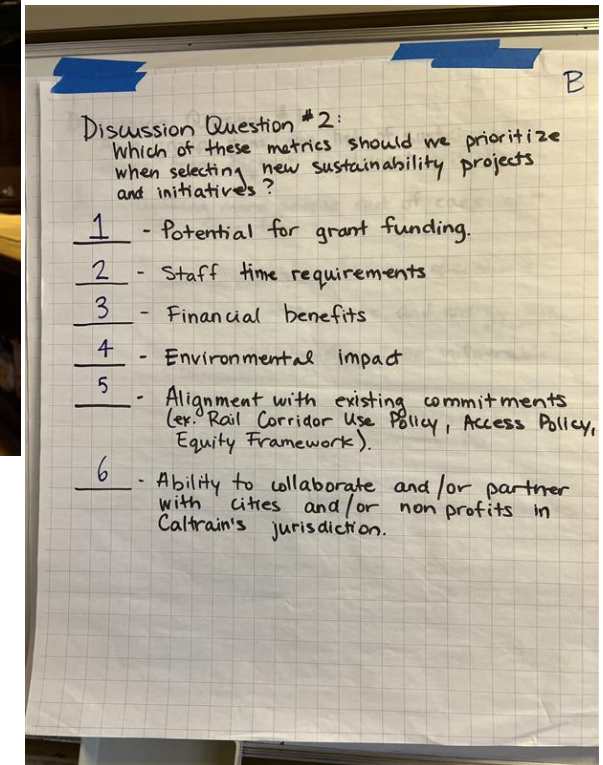
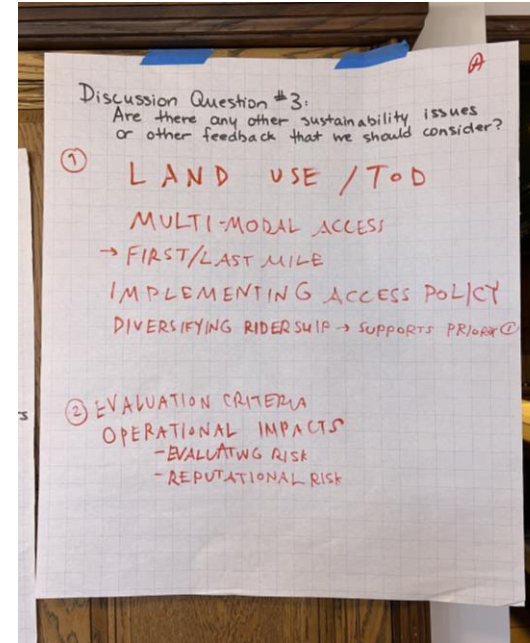
- Input on individual department's priorities
- Feedback on project elements

Executive Team

- Ranked priorities and evaluation criteria
- Ideas on integrating with existing Caltrain plans

Peer Review

- Research and analysis of nine agencies' sustainability plans



Staff Engagement Feedback

Sentiment

- Sustainability is a top priority for agency staff

Priorities

- Encouraging transit use among employees and the public
- Reducing Caltrain's environmental impact
- Protecting the system against extreme weather conditions

Actions

- Offering employees incentives for using sustainable commute modes
- Providing best practices for living and working more sustainably
- Implementing EV charging stations for staff, public, and operational use

76% of respondents ranked sustainability as **very to extremely important**

Today's Committee Discussion

Today, we will discuss and are seeking your input on the **Sustainability Priorities** and **Evaluation Criteria** for the Sustainability Plan.

- Agency staff provided feedback on both items.
- The final sustainability priorities and evaluation criteria will be used to determine which sustainability projects and initiatives Caltrain pursues* over the next 10 years.

**Dependent on ease and availability of funding*

Sustainability Priorities

Internal Top Priorities

- ✓ Getting more people out of cars and onto our trains.
- ✓ Reducing pollution from our operations.
- ✓ Serving disadvantaged or vulnerable communities.
- ✓ Reducing water, waste, and energy use from our operations.
- ✓ Reducing our climate vulnerability and increasing our resilience to extreme weather.*

**Addressed in parallel in the Climate Change Vulnerability Study*

Evaluation Criteria

Internal Preferred Criteria

- ✓ Environmental impact.
- ✓ Financial benefits.
- ✓ Staff time requirements.
- ✓ Potential for grant funding.

Strategic Sustainability Plan Next Steps



Caltrain Climate Vulnerability Study (CCVS)

Problem: Climate change threatens achievements and future goals

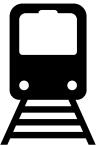
Goal: The CCVS will analyze the vulnerability of Caltrain service, infrastructure, right-of-way, operations, riders, and employees to climate impacts.



Evaluate and prioritize climate risks



Provide data to plan solutions



Support the development of **physical projects and operational changes**



Incorporate diverse perspectives of riders, community members, and others

Potential Impacts to Caltrain

The CCVS will help prepare Caltrain for adverse climate impacts such as:



Extreme Heat

- Delays due to speed restrictions
- Heat stress/discomfort on platforms or when traveling to and from stations



Flooding

- Delays due to flooding and/or precautionary speed restrictions
- Difficulty traveling to and from stations



Wildfire

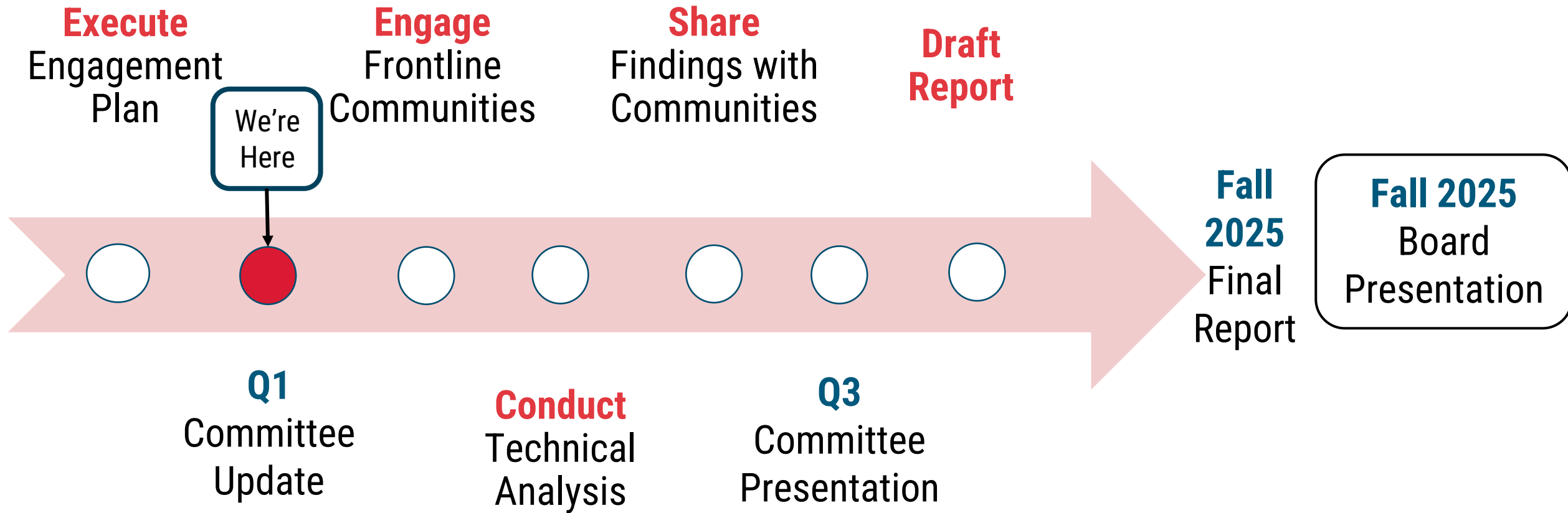
- Delays due to power supply disruption (public safety power shutoff)
- Respiratory distress from smoke



Wind

- Damage to critical infrastructure
- Delays from downed trees
- Unpleasant conditions on platforms or when traveling to and from stations

CCVS Project Schedule



CCVS Engagement Approach

Caltrain

- Internal Staff Meetings
- Citizens Advisory Committee, Bicycle and Active Transportation Advisory Committee, Local Policy Maker Committee
- Joint Powers Board

External Advisory Committee

- Caltrans, CA High Speed Rail
- Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Bay Conservation and Development Commission
- Valley Transportation Authority
- SF County Transportation Authority, SF Municipal Transportation Authority
- Other agencies as-needed

Public Outreach



Community Survey



Community Presentations (10)



Photo/Video Submission Tool



Public Community Meeting (1)



Community Leadership Meetings



Project Summary Open House (1)

We Want to Hear From You!

Have you experienced climate change/extreme weather impacts while getting to and from a station or riding on Caltrain?

How concerned are you about climate change/extreme weather impacting the needs of current and potential Caltrain riders?

Share your feedback and stay informed:

- Complete the [survey](#)
- Share your [photos or videos](#)



Share your input and enter for a chance to win a \$100 gift card!

Caltrain

IS CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTING YOUR CALTRAIN RIDE?

Help Caltrain understand how extreme weather impacts your trip. Take the survey and share if you've experienced service disruptions or changed your travel plans because of climate change impacts.

SCAN CODE TO TAKE THE CALTRAIN CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS SURVEY:

QUESTIONS OR ISSUES? Email us at caltrainclimate@TheCivicEdge.com

Have a photo of extreme weather you've experienced while riding Caltrain or on your way to and from a station? We'd love to see it! Submit your photos here bit.ly/CCVSMedia

For more information, visit caltrain.com/about-caltrain/sustainability/climate-resilience

surveymonkey.com/r/CaltrainClimate

The flyer features a woman cheering, a Caltrain train, and a QR code for the survey.

Stay Informed

Websites:

<https://www.caltrain.com/about-caltrain/sustainability>

<https://www.caltrain.com/CCVS>

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Thank you!

Questions?

FOR MORE INFORMATION
WWW.CALTRAIN.COM

