Receive Update on Caltrain Strategic Sustainability Plan & Climate Change Vulnerability Study

JPB TOPS COMMITTEE APRIL 23, 2025





Meeting Agenda

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



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 –
 55,000 cars/year compared to diesel
 - Elimination of criteria air pollutants
 - Increased, faster service

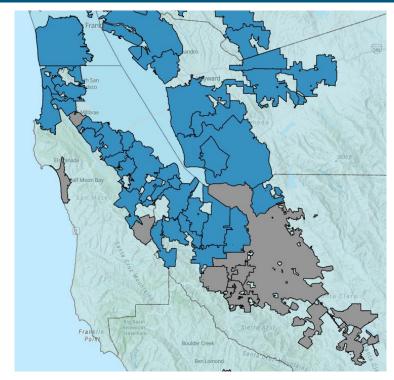






Caltrain Cities' Sustainability Goals

- Forty percent (40%) of Bay Area greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) stem from transportation
- Caltrain is vital in supporting Climate Action Plans (CAPs), reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled
- Frequent, uninterrupted service supports compliance with new parking restrictions
 - Transit Oriented Development
 - Jobs closer to housing
 - Lowers barriers to mode shift adoption
- What do we focus on next?



Map of jurisdictions with CAPs (in blue) [Source: <u>CARB CAPMAP</u>]



Caltrain Core Values







RESILIENCE







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 for which staff will seek funding.

Plan will be complete by June 2025.



Work to Date

Staff Survey Feedback

Captured staff sentiment

Internal Working Group Meetings

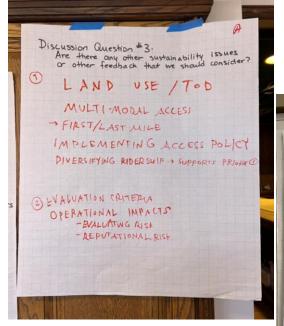
- Input on individual department's priorities
- Feedback on project elements

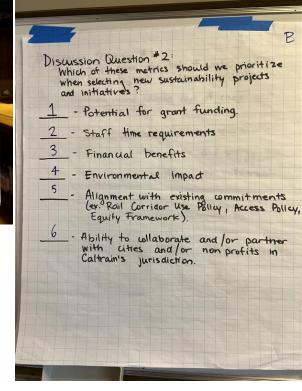
Executive Team

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

Peer Review

Research and analysis of nine agencies' sustainability plans







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 availability of funding



Sustainability Priorities Staff Recommended 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.*

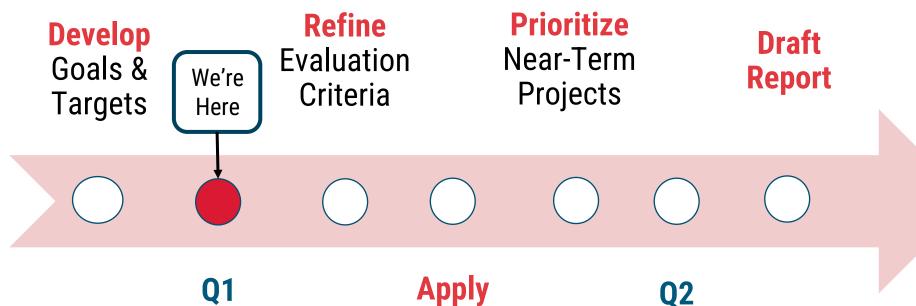
*Addressed in parallel in the Climate Change Vulnerability Study



Evaluation Criteria Staff Recommended

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

Strategic Sustainability Plan Next Steps



June 2025 Final Report

Summer/Fall 2025 Board Presentation

Apply
Evaluation
Criteria to
Projects

Committee

Update

Committee Update

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

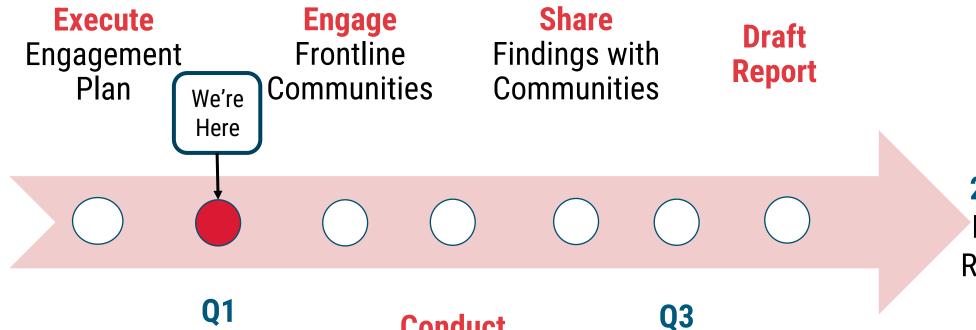


Wind

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



CCVS Project Schedule



Fall 2025 Final Report

Fall 2025
Board
Presentation

Q1Committee
Update

Conduct Technical Analysis

Committee Presentation

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 your constituents?

Are there any relevant studies from your respective jurisdictions that may inform our efforts?

Share your feedback and stay informed:

- Complete the <u>survey</u>
- Share your <u>photos or videos</u>

Stay Informed

Websites:

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

https://www.caltrain.com/CCVS

Project Team:

Bo Baney, Sustainability Planner

baneyb@caltrain.com

Hannah Greenberg, Systemwide Planner

greenbergh@caltrain.com



Thank you!

Comments? Questions?



FOR MORE INFORMATION

WWW.CALTRAIN.COM

