



JPB Board of Directors  
Meeting of August 7, 2025

Correspondence as of August 6, 2025

<u>#</u>	<u>Subject</u>
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| 1. | Public Comment: public comment on agenda Item # 11 on August 7 Board agenda                  |
| 2. | Caltrain Noisy Environment Issue   |
| 3. | Idea for how to implement quiet car at zero cost   |
| 4. | Please Join Us! SJ Chamber Annual BBQ – August 21  |
| 5. | Re: Caltrain Noisy Environment Issue – <i>Staff Response</i>                                 |
| 6. | FW: Front carriage as silent car – <i>Corresponder's Reply to Staff's Response</i>           |
| 7. | Public Comment: August 7 Board Meeting Item 7. Closed Session: Conference with Legal Counsel |

**From:** [Bill Hough](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** public comment on agenda Item # 11 on August 7 Board agenda  
**Date:** Saturday, August 2, 2025 8:54:34 AM

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I oppose Senate Bill 30 and urge its rejection. Not every transit agency has the resources to electrify all or part of its system.

In those cases, agencies should have the option of purchasing used equipment.

Even with used equipment, there are environmental benefits of establishing a new commuter rail service. Senate Bill 30 would preclude such benefits, which is why it deserves to fail.

These environmental benefits should not be an all or nothing proposition. Reject Senate Bill 30.

Bill Hough

**From:** [Hugh and Yvonne LaMaster](#)  
**To:** [Board \(@caltrain.com\)](#)  
**Subject:** Caltrain Noisy Environment Issue  
**Date:** Sunday, August 3, 2025 3:41:56 PM

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Hello,

I have been riding Caltrain more frequently lately and I have noticed that a number of people sit down beside me or near me and start a conference call or a personal call. This is very disruptive to everyone around them. It's hard to focus, read or write emails. Many public transportation systems have "quiet" cars or buses. I frequently take a commuter bus from Boston to Concord, NH and the bus line forbids calls. The patrons respect that policy.

Caltrain is a great alternative to driving and I think it would be a popular option to have quiet cars.

A Caltrain Patron

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Helene Grossman](#)  
**To:** [Board \(@caltrain.com\)](#)  
**Subject:** Idea for how to implement quiet car at zero cost  
**Date:** Monday, August 4, 2025 8:43:32 AM  
**Attachments:** [ChatGPT Image Aug 3, 2025, 11 31 19 AM.png](#)

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Dear Caltrain Board of Directors,

I had reached out in the past, encouraging Caltrain to consider a quiet car. I realize there could be operational logistics involved, but I had an idea for how Caltrain could implement a quiet car with no logistics implications and, in fact, for no cost at all!

Each car has a screen that shows different Caltrain messages—upcoming stops, reminders, etc. Caltrain could use this screen to announce and remind about the quiet car. For example:



Therefore, no physical signs are needed, and the cars remain fully interchangeable.

Further, no enforcement is needed beyond what is done today. Passengers could politely remind each other, and it would be easy enough for someone desiring to make a call to just move to the next car.

I hope you will consider this. It would make such a difference for those of us who desire a quiet commute and find ourselves having to move around from car to car in an attempt to avoid intrusive phone conversations. By the end of the week, I am so exhausted from this that I generally just drive instead.

Quiet cars are extremely popular on other train systems and would be an incredible gift that Caltrain could offer to its riders – at no cost.

Thanks so much for considering and for all your service to the community!

Sincerely,  
Helene Grossman

**From:** [Lina Guzman](#)  
**To:** [Board \(@caltrain.com\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please Join Us! SJ Chamber Annual BBQ – August 21  
**Date:** Monday, August 4, 2025 3:40:18 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)

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**ATTENTION:** This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders.

Dear Monique,

On behalf of Leah Toeniskoetter, President & CEO of the San Jose Chamber of Commerce, we hope you will join us for the **Annual SJ Chamber BBQ** – a summer tradition that brings our business community together for an evening of great food, connection, and celebration of the community that makes San Jose truly remarkable.

**Thursday, August 21**

**5:30 – 8:30 PM**

**History Park San Jose**

Tickets may be purchased at [Annual Chamber BBQ, 2025 - Event Registration](#)

Attire is business casual as this is an outdoor event. Tables are located on a grassy lawn and the weather will likely be warm.

We look forward to seeing you there!



[info@sjchamber.com](mailto:info@sjchamber.com)

[www.sjchamber.com](http://www.sjchamber.com)

101 W. Santa Clara Street

San Jose, CA 95113



**From:** [Caltrain BOD Public Support](#)  
**To:** [amaster@msn.com](mailto:amaster@msn.com)  
**Cc:** [Board \(@caltrain.com\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Caltrain Noisy Environment Issue  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 5, 2025 2:55:18 PM

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Dear Hugh and Yvonne LaMaster,

Your message to the Caltrain Board of Directors has been directed to me for a response, and a copy of our correspondence will be shared with the Board members as well.

Thank you for reaching out with your suggestion regarding a quiet car. We truly appreciate your interest in helping make the train experience more comfortable for all passengers.

We understand how disruptive loud phone calls can be, especially for those trying to focus, read, or unwind during their commute.

I'd like to share that we are actively working toward implementing a designated quiet space onboard. While it may not be branded specifically as a "Quiet Car," the intention and guidelines will be the same—limiting noise and creating a more peaceful environment for riders.

Currently, we're going through the necessary internal processes and approvals to launch this pilot program, and we're aiming to roll it out in the coming months.

The good news is that this initiative is already underway, and we're excited about it too. We'll be sure to keep riders updated as we move closer to launch.

Thank you again for your thoughtful input and your patience as we continue working to enhance the rider experience.

Best regards,

Sarah Nabong  
Your Caltrain BOD Public Support Team

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From: Hugh and Yvonne LaMaster <[lamaster@msn.com](mailto:lamaster@msn.com)>  
Sent: Sunday, August 3, 2025 3:42 PM  
To: Board (@caltrain.com) <[Board@caltrain.com](mailto:Board@caltrain.com)>  
Subject: Caltrain Noisy Environment Issue

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Hello,

I have been riding Caltrain more frequently lately and I have noticed that a number of people sit down beside me or near me and start a conference call or a personal call. This is very disruptive to everyone around them. It's hard to focus, read or write emails. Many public transportation systems have "quiet" cars or buses. I frequently take a commuter bus from Boston to Concord, NH and the bus line forbids calls. The patrons respect that policy.

Caltrain is a great alternative to driving and I think it would be a popular option to have quiet cars.

A Caltrain Patron

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Sarah Nabong](#)  
**To:** [Board \(@caltrain.com\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Front carriage as silent car  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 5, 2025 3:30:08 PM

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**From:** Stephen Inoue <stephen.inoue@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 05, 2025 3:28 PM  
**To:** Sarah Nabong <nabongs@samtrans.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Front carriage as silent car

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Thank you Sarah for your response and the good news that CalTrain continues to pioneer innovation in mass transit. A no phone call or played audio carriage will make the folks who like peace and quiet happy, while being allowed to take phone calls and play music in the other carriages will make others happy!

thanks,

Stephen Inoue

On Thu, Jul 31, 2025 at 5:34 PM Sarah Nabong <[nabongs@samtrans.com](mailto:nabongs@samtrans.com)> wrote:

Dear Stephen Inoue,

Your message to the Caltrain Board of Directors has been directed to me for a response, and a copy of our correspondence will be shared with the Board members as well.

Thank you for reaching out with your suggestion regarding a quiet car. We truly appreciate your interest in helping make the train experience more comfortable for all passengers.

We're actively working toward implementing a designated quiet space onboard. While it may not be branded specifically as a "Quiet Car," the intention and guidelines-such as no phone calls or audio played out loud-will be the same. At the moment, we're working through internal approvals and logistics to launch the pilot program, which we aim to roll out in the coming months. The good news is that this initiative is already underway, and we're excited about it too. We'll be sure to keep riders updated as we move closer to launch.

Thank you again for your input and your patience as we continue working to enhance the rider experience.

Best regards,  
Sarah Nabong,  
Customer Service Representative 2  
1250 San Carlos Ave San Carlos, CA 94070  
Websites: Caltrain | SamTrans | TA

-----Original Message-----

From: Stephen Inoue <[stephen.inoue@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.inoue@gmail.com)>  
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2025 8:46 PM  
To: Board (@[caltrain.com](https://caltrain.com)) <[BoardCaltrain@samtrans.com](mailto:BoardCaltrain@samtrans.com)>  
Subject: Front carriage as silent car

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Caltrain,

Please do a test where doing busy commute hours the front carriage is a quiet carriage with conductors enforcing no phone calls, playing music/videos with sound out loud. It would help those that want minimal distractions avoid the more socially sharing folks.

Thanks! - Stephen Inoue  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Roland Lebrun](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Cc:** [Board \(@caltrain.com\)](#); [cacsecretary \[@caltrain.com\]](#)  
**Subject:** August 7 Board Meeting Item 7. Closed Session: Conference with Legal Counsel  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 6, 2025 1:44:30 PM

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**ATTENTION:** This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from email senders.

Dear Chair Heminger and Board Members,

The intent of this email is to substantiate and elaborate on the comment I made at the August 4 Finance meeting by attracting the Board's attention to the contents of the February 27, 2024 NTSB Railroad Investigation Report (<https://www.nts.gov/investigations/AccidentReports/Reports/RIR2401.pdf>) which implicitly exonerates Caltrain from responsibility for the March 10, 2022 incident, specifically:

- Page 6 **"The RWIC was hired by the contracting firm that performs Caltrain's operations and maintenance in 2000 and has been a RWIC for about 17 years. The NTSB reviewed the RWIC's work history and records show he worked 7 days without a day off leading up to the accident. In the 5 days before the accident, each work shift was between 11 and 14 hours long."**
- Page 14  
**"The National Transportation Safety Board determines that the probable cause of this accident is the Roadway Worker-In-Charge releasing exclusive track occupancy protection leaving workers and construction equipment unprotected on the main track due to his degraded performance from excessive workload."**
- Page 15  
**"Statutory language prohibits the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report (Title 49 United States Code section 1154(b))."**

## Conclusion

While responsibility for what happened on March 10, 2022 cannot be disputed, the NTSB report cannot be entered as evidence in court, but the Board should review the evidence contained within the report to evaluate proposals when the Railroad Operations and Maintenance contract comes up for renewal.

Respectfully presented for your consideration

Roland Lebrun