

Adopt Proposed Changes to Long- Range Service Vision

JPB AMP COMMITTEE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 24, 2025



Recommendation

- Staff recommends that the Board take action to **adopt** the proposed Long-Range Service Vision Policy.
- After adoption of the policy, staff intends to commence the Plan for Caltrain's Next Decade and return to the Board with informational updates, including to support the FY27 Budget process (anticipated in winter 2025/2026 with operating budget scenarios). Staff also will commence efforts to update the Rail Corridor Use Policy and Transit-Oriented Development Policy.

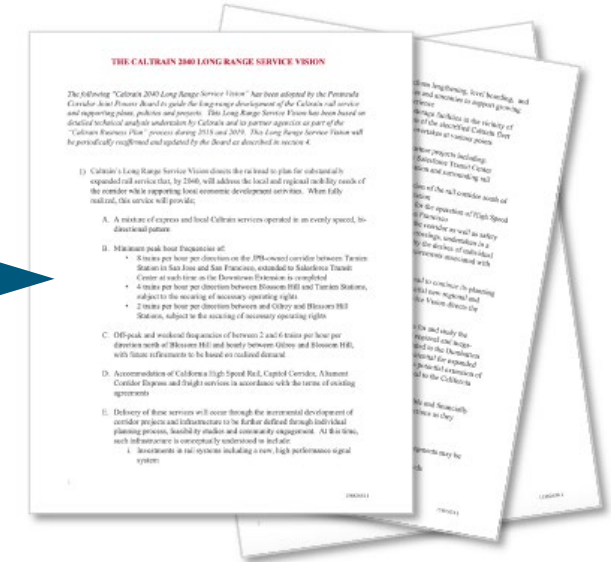
Caltrain's "2040 Long-Range Service Vision" is a key JPB Policy Document.

It was developed through the Caltrain Business Plan's rigorous technical process and first adopted unanimously by the JPB in October 2019.

It is used by Caltrain and its partners to guide long-term decision-making for service and infrastructure on the Caltrain corridor.



Caltrain Business Plan, 2017-2020 (report published 2022)



Caltrain Service Vision, adopted by JPB in 2019

This is a proposed update and refinement of the Service Vision Policy only – *not the full Business Plan process*. Additional, nearer-term technical planning work is expected to follow adoption of the updated Long-Range Service Vision.



The Long-Range Service Vision has Four Sections

Caltrain's current electrified service provides a baseline of four trains per peak hour per direction.



1

The “Core” Service Vision

Service goal (trains per peak hour per direction);
“Moderate Growth” Scenario in Caltrain Business Plan



2

Expanded Growth Beyond Core Service Vision



Example expanded service (trains per peak hour per direction);
“High Growth” Scenario in Caltrain Business Plan



3

Implementation Steps

4

Vision Reaffirmation



Updating the Long-Range Service Vision

The adopted Service Vision calls for periodic reaffirmation and revision.
For the 2025 update, staff propose adjustments as categorized below.



1) Adjust Policy Direction

- **Confirm Core Service Vision** as JPB's maximum future rail service level on corridor.
- **Eliminate** language directing staff to plan for Expanded Growth.



2) Improve Functionality of Policy

- **Add high level goals** to direct the railroad's corridor management and provision of service
- **Clarify policy requirements** regarding potential future regional and State rail connections on corridor
- **Remove "2040"** date from policy
- **Remove** implementation focus on the Caltrain Business Plan processes
- **Direct implementation focus** towards:
 - **Nearer-term planning** for financial sustainability
 - Developing **interpretative guidance** on how to apply the Long-Range Service Vision in planning and capital project contexts



Why is making this policy change now important to Caltrain and its partners?

Reminder of recommended policy change:

- Confirm Policy's "Core Service Vision" as long-term maximum future rail service level on Caltrain corridor.
- Substantially modify the Policy to largely remove the "Expanded Growth" language.

Updating this policy now would benefit Caltrain and its partners by **reducing costs and increasing feasibility of plans and projects**, including:

- A. Reduced costs and complexity for planning and design efforts;
- A. Benefits for Caltrain, including:
 - Reduced potential infrastructure impacts on JPB property, and
 - New potential opportunities for revenue-generating and/or community uses on JPB property in the nearer-term;
- B. Benefits for Caltrain's partners and corridor communities;
- C. Improved potential viability for SF Railyards Development Project; and,
- D. Significant cost savings on capital project investments.



Additional Strategic Planning to Come

Spring 2025

2025 Long-Range Service Vision Update

Updates to the Long-Range Service Vision

Service Vision Update is adopted

Fall 2025



2026

Plan for Caltrain's Next Decade

Development of a **Plan for Caltrain's Next Decade** will help guide nearer-term service and financial decision-making. This technical planning process will include:

- Market analysis of demand and capacity for Caltrain
- Service planning, for both the mainline and the corridor south of San José
- Infrastructure requirements and timelines
- Costing and funding
- Gate-downtime analysis and projections
- Development of thresholds for changing service in the future

It will be consistent with Caltrain's 10-Year Strategic Financial Plan, Capital Improvement Plan, and the Updated Long-Range Service Vision.

Updates to **Rail Corridor Use Policy** and **Transit-Oriented Development Policy** to follow Service Vision adoption as well



Plan for Caltrain's Next Decade – Key Questions

FY27 Budget Questions:

- **Operating Costs:** Building on previous analyses, what service change scenarios could be considered to save operating costs in FY27? How much could they cost and how much money could be saved? How could ridership change as a result?

FY28+ Questions:

- **Demand:** How could demand for Caltrain service change over the next decade? Under what scenarios could Caltrain experience crowding or demand for service changes?
- **Service:** What service levels and patterns could Caltrain consider operating over the next decade? What benefits could different services provide, and when could service changes be needed? What other factors or issues could influence Caltrain's plans for service over the coming ten years?
- **Capital Investments:** What minimum capital investments, if any, could be needed to support the service changes, and when would Caltrain need to start planning for them?
- **Costs and Funding:** What will it cost to operate those service plans over the next decade? What funding and revenue sources could be available, and what additional sources could be needed?
- **At-Grade Crossing Impacts:** To what extent could grade crossing downtimes be influenced by service changes contemplated over the coming decade and infrastructure improvements?



Service Vision Update Process

Stakeholder Engagement

Key Stakeholders

- JPB
- CAC
- Partner Agencies
- LPMG
- CSCG

Spring 2025

Meetings with JPB AMP Committee, JPB, CAC, Advocacy Groups, Partner Agencies, CSCG, LPMG

Summer 2025

Check-ins with Board Members, Advocacy Groups, Partner Agencies

Oct JPB Meeting

Propose the Updated Service Vision for JPB Adoption ★ *Recommendation Today*

Fall 2025+

Commence Plan for Caltrain's Next Decade, Rail Corridor Use Policy Update, and TOD Policy Update

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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