POSITIVE TRAIN CONTROL (PTC)

FACTSHEET
DECEMBER 2018

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Positive Train Control (PTC) is a complex signaling and communications technology that is designed to make commuter rail even safer. It is a federal mandate for railroads across the country to adopt PTC. Caltrain's PTC system will be fully operational by 2020. PTC serves as a redundancy that overlays with existing safety and signaling systems.

KEY BENEFITS: IMPROVING SAFETY

- **Eliminates risk of train-to-train collisions**
- **Reduces risk of over-speed derailments**
- **Provides additional safety for railroad workers**

HOW PTC WORKS

Communication Network

GPS verifies train location, 220 MHZ radio system transmits data between the train, control center, and Wayside Signal System.

Back Office Center Control

The Back Office Center Control Facility (BCCF), which resides in the Central Control Facility, stores and transmits information to trains, such as speed restrictions and work zone locations.

Wayside Signal System

The train communicates with the control center and Wayside Signal Systems to maintain constant information about the train movement and location, and stops the train in the event of human error.

Onboard System

The Onboard System receives and transmits information about train movements and potential railway impediments; the system controls train movement in the event of human error.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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