



Memorandum

Date: December 17, 2020
To: CalMod Local Policy Maker Group (LPMG)
From: Sebastian Petty, Deputy Chief, Caltrain Planning
Re: Caltrain Business Plan

PROJECT UPDATE

At the June 2020 Board Meeting, Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (JPB) staff announced that activity on the Caltrain Business Plan would pause and pivot toward COVID Recovery Planning efforts. At the September 2020 Board Meeting the Board adopted the [Equity, Connectivity, Recovery & Growth Framework](#) (the Framework) – a significant policy document that outlines Caltrain’s approach to recovering from the COVID-19 Pandemic and growing the system in a manner consistent with the larger Business Plan process. The framework includes specific policies and actions that describe how Caltrain can recover in a way that emphasizes improving equity outcomes on the system and enhancing connectivity to the region’s transit network.

Following the adoption of the Framework, Caltrain staff has continued work on recovery planning. On December 14, Caltrain implemented a new schedule that is designed to improve service for essential workers and transit-dependent riders, and is consistent with key service components of the framework. The new schedule provides riders with more frequent off-peak and weekend train service. Caltrain’s current ridership has skewed toward essential workers who are more likely to travel during off-peak times. The railroad has observed that demand for midday and weekend trips remains comparatively more resilient, and the schedule reflects that. It also balances travel time and coverage goals while maintaining capacity for social distancing. This new schedule will also preserve limited resources as the agency continues to experience tremendous financial pressure.

Background

In 2017, the JPB secured full funding for the Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project and issued notices to proceed to its contractors for corridor electrification and purchase of Electric Multiple Unit railcars.

Now that construction on this long-awaited project is underway, the agency has the opportunity to articulate a long-term business strategy for the future of the system. The initial concept for a Caltrain “Business Plan” was brought to the Board in April of 2017. The Board reviewed a draft scope of work for the Business Plan in December of 2017 and adopted a final Business Strategy and Scope of Work in February of 2018. Technical work on the Plan commenced in the summer of 2018. The Business Plan has been scoped to include long-range demand modeling, and service and infrastructure planning, as well as organizational analysis and an assessment of Caltrain’s interface with the communities it traverses. In October of 2019, the JPB marked a major milestone in the Business Plan process with its adoption of a “2040 Service Vision” for the Caltrain system. This action set long-range policy guidance for the future of the Caltrain service and allowed staff to advance toward the completion of the overall plan by summer of 2020.

Starting in March of 2020, however, the emergence of the COVID-19 Pandemic resulted in a rapid and severe crisis for the railroad, with ridership plummeting by as much as 98% and the implementation of significant service cuts. Based on this unprecedented circumstance, staff informed the Board of their decision to temporarily pivot Business Plan efforts toward recovery planning in June of 2020.



Memorandum

Date: December 17, 2020
To: CalMod Local Policy Maker Group (LPMG)
From: John Funghi, CalMod Chief Officer; Casey Fromson, Gov. Affairs Director
Re: Caltrain Electrification Project E-Update

YEAR IN REVIEW

Caltrain Electrification made major progress in 2020, despite working in the midst of a global pandemic, moving us closer to increased service frequency and greater capacity for the Bay Area. Here are some highlights:



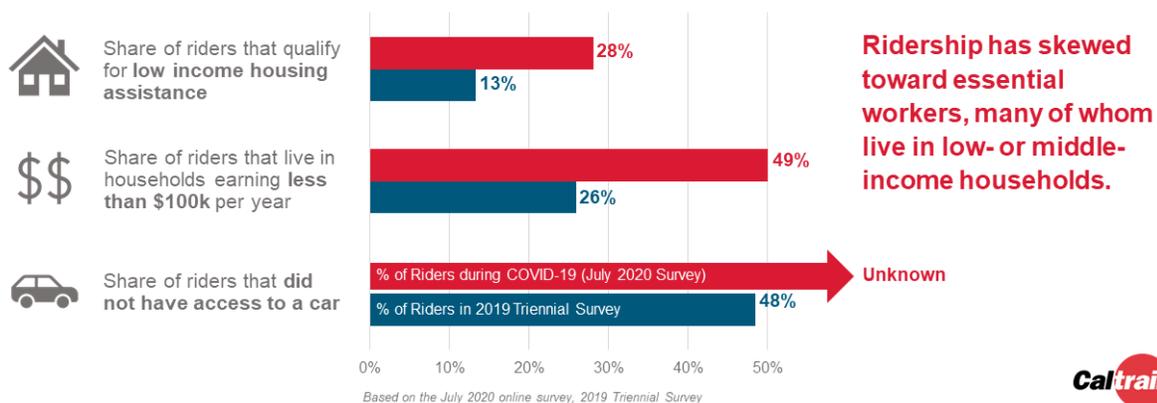
- **The first trainset was assembled** and rolled out to the Salt Lake City test track. Forty-six train cars are now in various stages of assembly in Salt Lake City.
- An immersive **electric train virtual reality experience launched**, offering riders a first-hand look at the new trains.
- **Over half the poles were installed, and every city along the 51-mile corridor** was touched by either preparations for or installation of infrastructure that will power the electric trains.
- We pivoted outreach efforts during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak to keep the momentum going, moving to **live social media events** and **featuring new videos**.
- We held **20 community meetings/presentations** and shared 30,000 mailers and flyers.

Together, we are building smart infrastructure for the future. Watch the [video](#) and learn more about our work this year at CalMod.org/year-in-review.

ESSENTIAL WORKER FOCUSED SERVICE CHANGES:

This month, Caltrain began operating a new schedule that is designed to improve service for essential workers and transit-dependent riders, and is consistent with key service components of the [Framework for Equity, Connectivity Recovery & Growth](#).

Who's riding Caltrain during COVID-19?

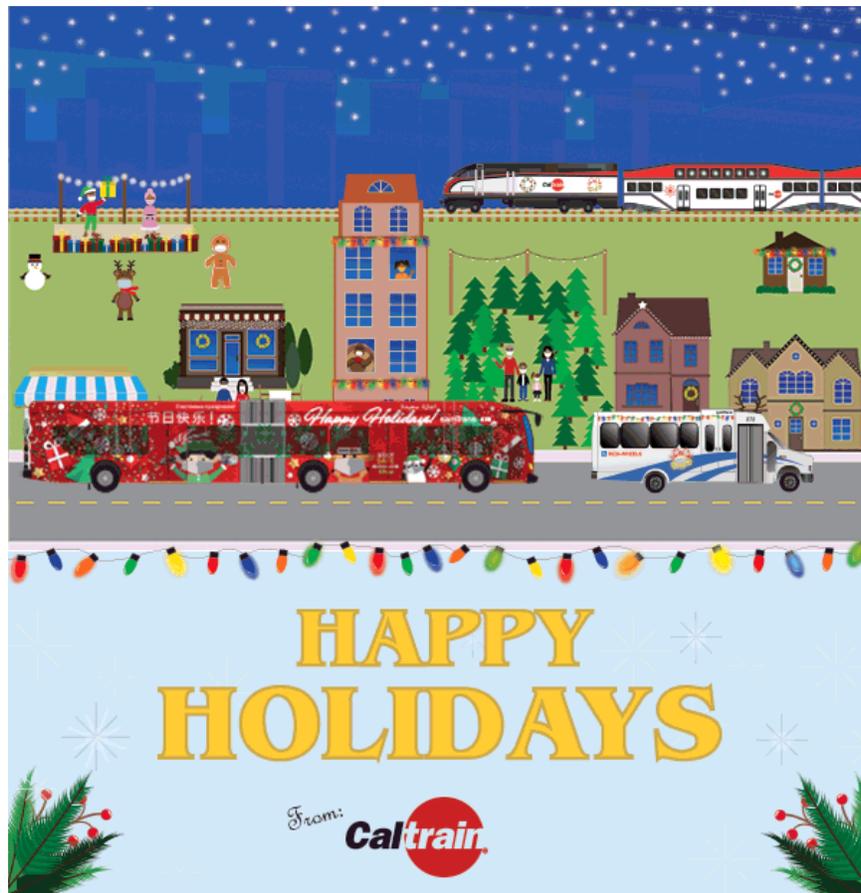


Caltrain's service adjustments are aimed at increasing ridership and better serving those that continue to depend on the system. The new schedule provides riders with more frequent off-peak and weekend train service. Caltrain's current ridership has skewed toward essential workers who are more likely to travel during off-peak times. Demand for midday and weekend trips remains comparatively more resilient, and the schedule reflects that. It also balances travel time and coverage goals while maintaining capacity for social distancing.

For more information, check out Director of Rail Policy Sebastian Petty's [presentation to the Board of Directors](#).

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Whether you're riding every day or counting the days until you can get back on board, Caltrain wishes you and your family a Happy Holidays.



View the fill animation [here](#).

PUBLIC MEETINGS:

JPB Board Meeting – January 7 at 9:00 a.m – Please note, this will be remote only

For more details, and a full list of upcoming meetings, please visit [CalMod.org/Events](https://www.calmod.org/Events).

DETAILED PROGRESS REPORT:

- [October Monthly Progress Report](#) presented to Caltrain Board on December 3, 2020

Memorandum

Date: December 17, 2020
To: Local Policy Maker Group (LPMG)
From: Boris Lipkin, Northern California Regional Director
Re: California High-Speed Rail Program Update

STATEWIDE UPDATE

2020 Business Plan

The Newsom Administration and the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) have worked with legislative leadership to extend the adoption of the Business Plan. A new draft of the plan will be issued in February with the final submission to the Legislature expected in April.

A Message from the CEO

[Listen to a message](#) from CEO Brian Kelly discussing COVID-19 pandemic impacts, construction progress in the Central Valley, environmental clearance progress, sustainability, and collaboration with the incoming administration.

California High-Speed Rail Receives National Award for Sustainability



The Authority received the Envision platinum rating for its sustainability efforts, the highest-level award from the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure. The award is the first time a program the size and complexity of the state's high-speed rail project has earned such an honor.

To earn the Envision Platinum award, projects must demonstrate performance across 64 sustainability criteria addressing a wide range of indicators including community quality of life, economic prosperity, and greenhouse gas emissions and resilience. The high-speed rail program's key sustainability achievements include:

- Stimulating economic prosperity and development throughout the state by providing nearly 3,000 full time jobs, with an emphasis on job creation for people living in historically disadvantaged communities
- More than 100 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions reduced by transitioning travel away from automobiles and planes

Earlier this year, the Authority highlighted its significant commitments to designing, building and operating a sustainable and environmentally responsible high-speed rail system in its [2020 Sustainability Report](#).

Top Moments of 2020 Video

The [Top Moments of 2020 Video](#) highlights how California High-Speed Rail has continued to move forward this year throughout the state, despite COVID-19 challenges. From major environmental actions in Northern and Southern California to a ramp up in construction that included new milestones in worker numbers and five structures opening in a span of about three months, the Authority is moving ahead full speed into 2021.

Representatives Moulton, Boyle and DelBene Introduce the American High-Speed Rail Act

On Wednesday, December 9, Massachusetts State Representative Seth Moulton introduced the **American High-Speed Rail Act**, a blueprint for national commitment to high-speed rail, which would invest \$205 billion federal dollars into high-speed rail and create at least 2.6 million direct American jobs after five years. The introduction of the bill follows a 30-page [white paper](#) Moulton released in May 2020 in which he outlined a vision for building a U.S. high-speed rail and the benefits of doing so. The bill received the endorsements of national transportation advocates and leaders.

“High-speed rail is faster, cleaner, safer and better for our economy. It will connect people to more jobs in new places, give Americans freedom and choice in how they travel, and put us on par with the rest of the world. This bill is the plan that will get us there... We spend vast amounts of money subsidizing planes, which are delayed by weather, and roads, which are crumbling nationwide. We have the chance coming out of this pandemic to think big and think differently. Let’s not waste the opportunity.”

– Representative Seth Moulton

“I Will Ride” Relaunch

I Will Ride is an initiative that first began as a student-led group with chapters at college campuses including UC Merced, Fresno State, Fresno City College and UC Berkeley. The relaunch of the program highlights the Authority’s commitment to offer students and educational institutions links to career pathways in new transportation technology by hosting construction tours and networking sessions with staff at the Authority. Learn more about I Will Ride through this [newly released video](#).

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA UPDATE

Question & Answer Video Series

The Authority has developed several new videos to spotlight project features described by California High-Speed Rail experts. Please check them out and share with your constituents:

- [Blended System and Passing Tracks](#) featuring Boris Lipkin, Northern California Regional Director
- [Tunnels](#) featuring Gary Kennerley, Northern California Director of Projects
- [Wildlife Crossings](#) describes the steps the Authority is taking to ensure that animals have pathways to navigate the rail corridor
- [Wildlife Impacts](#) describes the collaboration with wildlife experts to analyze the geography of the Central Valley and evaluate concepts to help protect habitats adjacent to the alignment

RECENT AND UPCOMING OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

- November 17: San Francisco to San Jose Community Working Groups Webinar
- November 18: San Jose to Merced Community Working Groups Webinar