

# Caltrain Electrification + City Partnerships

**Palo Alto City Council  
September 16, 2024**



**COUNCIL MEETING**

9/16/2024

☒ Received Before Meeting

**2**

# Caltrain Context

- 77 miles of track from end to end
- 31 stations
- Bi-directional commute
- 41 at-grade crossings
- Financial Challenges
  - Pre-pandemic 73% farebox recovery (nation leading)
  - Today: 23% farebox recovery (facing upcoming average \$77M annual deficit)



# Ridership Growth / Cost Containment

- Board Adopted **Equity, Growth, and Recovery Policy**
- **Revised schedule:** Standardize, focused on more midday, evening and weekend service (diversify ridership)
- **Regional Coordination:** Coordinated transfers, better signage Millbrae, GM group, Bay Pass participation, Clipper Start, fare integration
- **City Partnerships and toolkit:** [www.caltrain.com/citypartnership](http://www.caltrain.com/citypartnership)
- **Pass Forward Program:** Bringing in new riders by providing free passes for low-income and equity priority community riders
- **Customer Experience/Fare Changes:** \$1 youth pass; 300 new bicycle eLockers, new ticket options, new visual display signs being installed, station work, positive brand recognition
- **Cost Containment:** Smaller trainsets, scheduling efficiencies, reduced overtime, internal efficiency programs
- **Electrification Planned September 21, 2024**

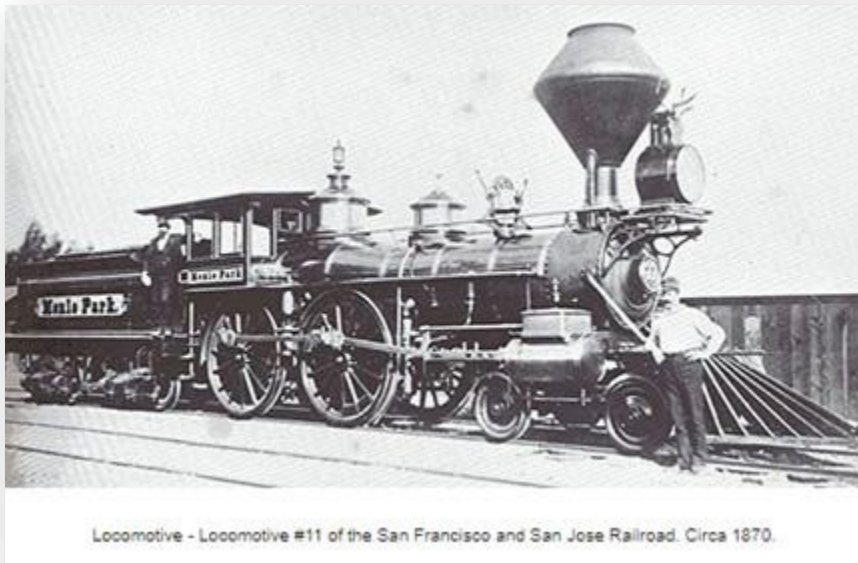




# Transformational Moment

Caltrain is the oldest continuously operating passenger railroad in the West (160 years)

First time in a generation any US system fully converted from diesel to electric system



Steam 1864



Diesel 1950s



Electric 2024



# Key Milestones

## Complete:

- Foundations (3,000+)
- Poles (2,500+)
- Traction Power Facilities (10)
- Overhead Wire (2.5 million feet)
- Upgraded the Signal System San Francisco to San Jose (31 at grade crossings)
- 12 trainsets delivered (more coming)
- Over 1,000 First Responders Trained
- Soft Launch (August 2024)



## Upcoming:

- Additional trainsets and testing (Throughout 2024)
- **Fully Electric Passenger Service: September 21, 2024**





# Public Train Tours – 12,000 People (San Jose, San Francisco; San Carlos)





# Electrified Service Plan Benefits

Improved service for all riders



## Get There Faster

Express from SF to SJ  
in under an hour

Quicker local service,  
77 minutes instead of  
100

Save more than 20  
minutes on trips from  
Southern Santa Clara  
County to SF



## Ride More, Wait Less

20% more train service

26% more train service at  
equity priority stations

Half-hourly service during  
weekends and off-peak



## First Class for Everyone

Free Wi-Fi

Smoother, quieter  
experience

Outlets at every seat

Digital trip information  
onboard

Spacious, accessible  
bathrooms



## Clean and Green

GHG emissions reduced  
by 250K MTCO2  
annually – equivalent to  
taking 55,000 cars off  
the road each year

Improves local air quality

Quieter trains, both  
onboard and off



# Electrified Service Plan

## Palo Alto


### FINAL ELECTRIFIED CALTRAIN SERVICE FOR PALO ALTO


STATIONS	STATION STOPS	CURRENT SERVICE	ELECTRIFIED SERVICE
PALO ALTO	Stops per Weekday	104	104
	Weekday Stops per Peak Hour*	4	4
	Weekday Stops per Off Peak Hour	2	2
	Weekend Stops per Hour	1	2
CALIFORNIA AVENUE	Stops per Weekday	60	90
	Weekday Stops per Peak Hour*	2	3
	Weekday Stops per Off Peak Hour	1	2
	Weekend Stops per Hour	1	2

Weekday Schedule: [www.caltrain.com/media/33909](http://www.caltrain.com/media/33909)  
Weekend Schedule: [www.caltrain.com/media/33908](http://www.caltrain.com/media/33908)


#### PALO ALTO STATION EXPRESS


38 min  6 MINUTES SAVED  
To / from San Francisco

6 min  0 MINUTES SAVED  
To / from Mountain View

21 min  1 MINUTE SAVED  
To / from San Jose Diridon

#### CALIFORNIA AVE STATION EXPRESS

43 min  8 MINUTES SAVED  
To / from San Francisco

6 min  1 MINUTE SAVED  
To / from Mountain View

24 min  4 MINUTES SAVED  
To / from San Jose Diridon





# City Fact Sheets

[www.caltrain.com/servicebenefits](http://www.caltrain.com/servicebenefits)

## FASTER, MORE FREQUENT CALTRAIN SERVICE COMING IN FALL 2024

### ELECTRIFIED SERVICE PLAN: CITY OF PALO ALTO

Electric trains enable Caltrain to run faster, more frequent service with the same number of weekday trains we run today. This handout shows the final plans for electric service in fall 2024. The schedule will be finalized in spring 2024, after the new electric trains are tested.



#### GET THERE FASTER

**SAN FRANCISCO TO SAN JOSE IN UNDER AN HOUR**  
Compared to 65+ minutes today

**75 MINUTES FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO TO SAN JOSE LOCAL TRAIN**  
Compared to 100 minutes today

**21 MINUTES SAVED FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO TO GILROY TRIP**  
Compared to a 2+ hour trip today

#### CLEAN AND GREEN

**ALL-ELECTRIC TRAIN SERVICE FROM SAN FRANCISCO TO SAN JOSE**  
Annual emissions reduced by 250K MTCO<sub>2</sub>, equivalent to taking 55,000 cars off the road

#### RIDE MORE, WAIT LESS

**TRAINS EVERY 30 MINUTES ON WEEKENDS**  
Compared to hourly service today

**TRAINS EVERY 30 MINUTES DURING MID-DAY AND EVENINGS**  
Compared to hourly service at most stations today

**TRAINS EVERY 15 TO 20 MINUTES DURING PEAK HOURS\* AT 16 STATIONS**  
Compared to 7 stations today

#### FIRST CLASS SERVICE

**STATE-OF-THE-ART VEHICLES FOR SMOOTHER RIDES**  
Free Wi-Fi, outlets at every seat, spacious accessible bathrooms, and digital displays with trip information

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\*PEAK HOURS VARY BY STATION, GENERALLY COVERING 6:30AM-9:30AM AND 3PM-7PM ON WEEKDAYS. NOTE: TRAVEL TIMES MAY CHANGE PENDING FURTHER ELECTRIC TRAIN TESTING.

FOR MORE INFORMATION



[caltrain.com/electrification](http://caltrain.com/electrification)

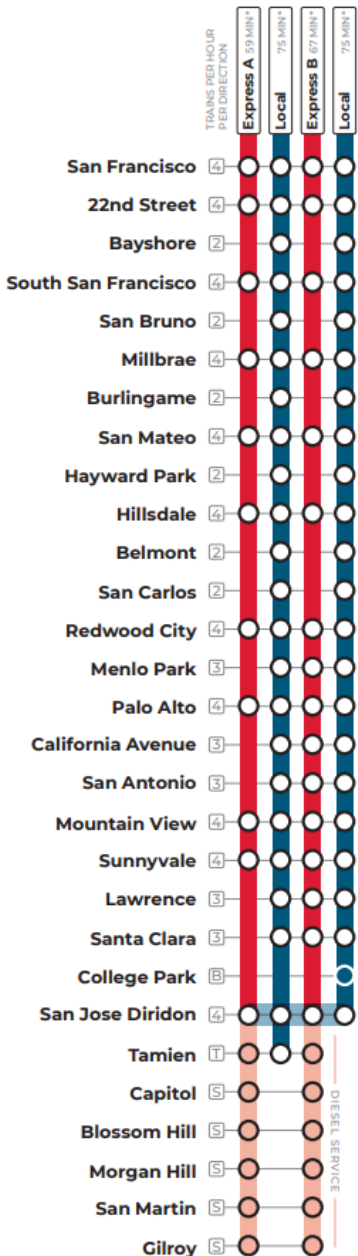


[calmod@caltrain.com](mailto:calmod@caltrain.com)

SPRING 2024



## FALL 2024 ELECTRIFIED SERVICE WEEKDAY PEAK 1-HOUR SNAPSHOT



### GET THERE FASTER

Most people will have quicker rides compared to service today.

Trip travel times below compare the fastest diesel trip today to the fastest trip with electrified service.

#### PALO ALTO STATION EXPRESS

**38 min** — 6 MINUTES SAVED

To / from San Francisco

**6 min** — 0 MINUTES SAVED

To / from Mountain View

**21 min** — 1 MINUTE SAVED

To / from San Jose Diridon

#### CALIFORNIA AVE STATION EXPRESS

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**6 min** — 1 MINUTE SAVED

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**24 min** — 4 MINUTES SAVED

To / from San Jose Diridon

**Bellarmine Service**  
2 STOPS PER DAY IN EACH DIRECTION

**Tamien Service**  
2-3 STOPS PER HOUR IN THE PEAK DIRECTION\*, AND 1 STOP PER HOUR IN THE REVERSE-PEAK DIRECTION

**South County Connector Service**  
4 DAILY ROUNDTIPS WITH 1-2 DIESEL TRAINS PER HOUR IN THE PEAK DIRECTION\*, WITH TIMED 3-MINUTE CROSS-PLATFORM TRANSFER AT DIRIDON

\*TRAIN TIMES SHOWN ARE FOR TRAVEL BETWEEN SAN FRANCISCO 4TH AND KING TO SAN JOSE DIRIDON STATION.

\*\*PEAK DIRECTION IS NORTHBOUND IN THE MORNING AND SOUTHBOUND IN THE AFTERNOON. NOTE: BROADWAY STATION PROVIDES WEEKEND SERVICE ONLY. TRAVEL TIMES MAY CHANGE PENDING FURTHER TESTING AS NEW ELECTRIC TRAINS ARRIVE AND ARE PREPARED FOR SERVICE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION



[caltrain.com/electrification](http://caltrain.com/electrification)



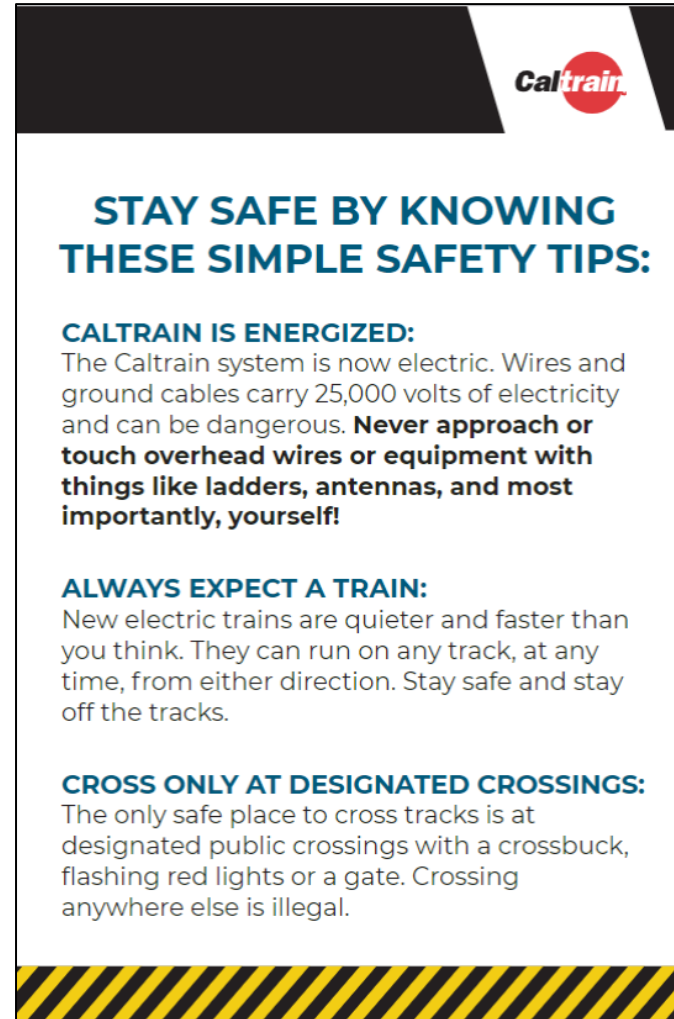
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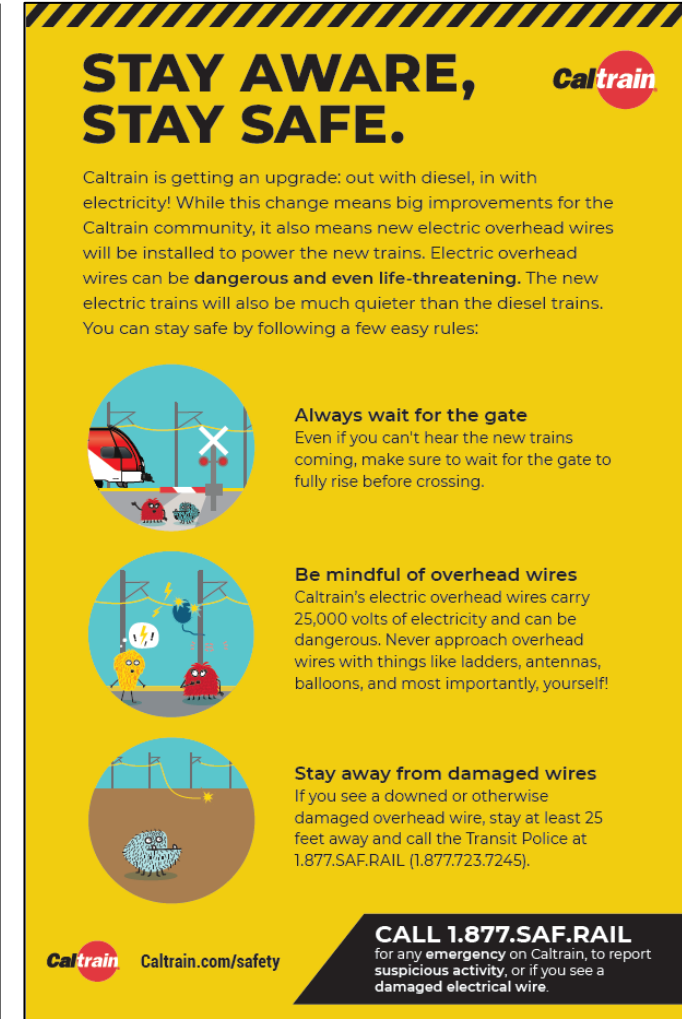
# Public Outreach Safety Campaign

- Community Meetings
- Residential Mailers
- Onboard Outreach
- School Campaign
- Public Service Announcements
- Right-of-way outreach

**Safety Video at**  
**[caltrain.com/safety](https://caltrain.com/safety)**



Right-of-Way Flyer



Residential Mailer





# September Launch Parties - September 21 & 22

- Main Events:
  - Palo Alto Station Sept 21 2pm - 6pm
  - Eshoo Train Ride Sept 21
  - San Mateo Station Sept 22 2pm - 6pm
- Additional events at every city along the corridor
- 100% Electric fleet from San Francisco to San Jose
- Faster, More Frequent Schedule
- Free Caltrain Rides



[www.caltrain.com/launchparty](http://www.caltrain.com/launchparty)

# Connect with Caltrain Electrification

- Learn more at [caltrain.com/electrification](https://caltrain.com/electrification)
- Sign-up for Project Updates: [caltrain.com/get-involved](https://caltrain.com/get-involved)
- Share Caltrain Electrification Benefits and News



# City Partnership/Toolkit

# Vital Role of Caltrain-City Partnerships

The ability of Caltrain to sustain and expand service will depend in large part on cities actively supporting expansion of ridership to groups beyond Caltrain's traditional core riders.





# Caltrain-City Partnership Toolkit

Creating vibrant, diverse, people-centered communities where people gather, work and connect

In partnership we can increase transit ridership and:

- Reduce traffic and parking demand
- Support downtown recovery (vibrancy and tax revenues)
- Improve employee recruitment and retention
- Incentivize workers to return to the office
- Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- **More Info at: [caltrain.com/citypartnership](https://caltrain.com/citypartnership)**

# Partnership Models

- City Worker Go Passes
- Transportation Demand Management
- Development Agreements
- Local Ordinances
- Transportation Management Association
- Station Access
- Parking Management
- Transit Oriented Development



# Request: Palo Alto Support Caltrain-City Principles

Palo Alto has been a leader on the corridor

Caltrain staff offer to present to the Rail Committee to provide more information and feedback on Caltrain/City partnership principles



# CALTRAIN STATION ACCESS POLICY

2024 UPDATE  
Adopted DATE



## Draft Policy Overview



# Policy Purpose Statement

Caltrain is a customer-focused rail system. Our mission is to offer safe, reliable, accessible, and sustainable transportation service that enhances quality of life for all.

The Caltrain Station Access Policy supports Caltrain's vision of being a vital link in the regional and statewide rail network by:

- Improving **connectivity** to communities and other transit systems.
- Contributing to the region's **economic vitality**.
- **Partnering** with local communities to ensure that diverse constituencies receive a **world-class travel experience**.









# Goals and Objectives

## Goals

### Caltrain Access Policy Update

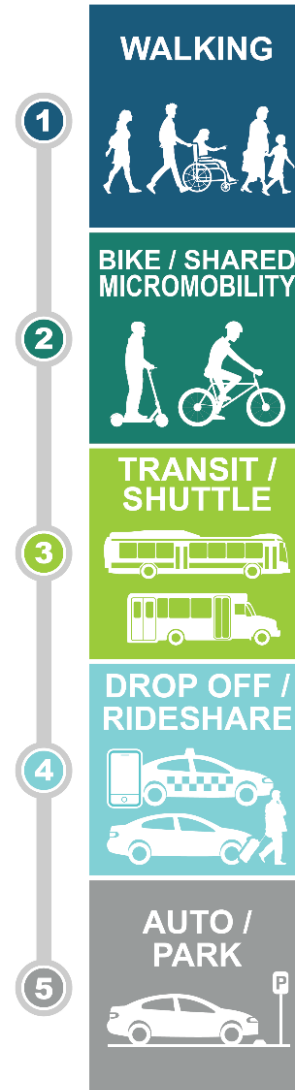


-  **1 Safe** Routes To, From, and Through Stations
-  **2 World-Class Customer Access Experience** for All Users
-  **3 Ridership** Growth through Strategic Access Investments
-  **4 Equitable** Access Aligned with Diverse Community Needs
-  **5 Healthy** and **Sustainable** Modes of Access
-  **6 Strategic Partnerships** to Advance Station Access

# Access Hierarchy

The Access Hierarchy is the systemwide aspirational framework to:

- 1) Guide station area planning and investment decisions.
- 2) Be used as a tool for decision making and weighing the tradeoffs of access investments to ensure sustainable modes are the highest priority.
- 3) Ensure proposed access improvements prioritize pedestrians, biking/ shared micromobility, and transit facilities as the highest priority.



All Caltrain riders are pedestrians at some point in their journey. This includes people walking on foot, using wheelchairs and other mobility devices, and children in strollers.

All forms of shared micromobility such as bike share and scooter share, and private bicycles and scooters.

All connecting transit and shuttle services to Caltrain stations including bus, paratransit, private shuttles, light-rail, and other heavy-rail operators.

Taxis, all forms of ride-hailing services, and private drop-off.

Private and shared vehicle parking facilities.

# Implementation Plan

The following **eight next steps** support the application of the Station Access Policy and are organized in short, medium, and long-term time periods.

## Short term (0-2 years)

- Dissemination of the Station Access Policy
- Update the Caltrain Design Guidelines and Criteria
- Develop a Parking and Curbside Management Strategy
- Develop a Station Access Database

## Mid-term (2-5 years)

- Document the Process for Access Improvements
- Conduct Station Needs Assessments
- Complete Project Identification, Evaluation, and Prioritization

## Long-term (5+ years)

- Project Delivery and Policy Review



# Station Access Toolkit

The Station Access Toolkit provides examples of actions to inform decision making that users of the Station Access Policy may select from when identifying possible access improvements.

The Access Toolkit is comprised of actions organized into five categories:

- 1) Customer Experience
- 2) Active Transportation
- 3) Transit and Shuttles
- 4) Private Vehicles and Parking
- 5) Partnerships



# Questions

