

Caltrain Bicycle Master Plan
Technical Advisory Group

July 11, 2007 (Wednesday)
5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

2nd fl Auditorium (Caltrain Administrative Offices)
1250 San Carlos Avenue,
San Carlos CA

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. General Update*
3. Online Survey Results*
4. Station Evaluation Workshops*

* Attachments

Announcements:

San Francisco Attended Bicycle Parking Facility Opening on Sunday June 30, 2007.

Contact: Celia Chung (650) 508-6388 chungc@samtrans.com

The Caltrain Administrative Offices are located one block from the San Carlos Caltrain Station and El Camino Real.

Transit Access: Caltrain; Samtrans 260 295 390 391 397 PX KX.

Bike parking: There are 6 rack spaces in front of the building entrance, east of the statue.

Caltrain Bicycle Master Plan: General Update

Previous TAG meeting:

The last Technical Advisory Group meeting was held on March 13, 2007. Michelle Bouchard, Manager of Rail Planning and Analysis, gave a presentation on Project 2025, which identifies strategic expansion plans and needs for rolling stock and infrastructure improvements. The report and the presentation can be downloaded from <http://www.caltrain.com/project2025.html>

Online Bike Survey

Caltrain conducted an online bike survey May 21 – June 1. **We had over 1,400 respondents.** The survey was aimed at current, former and potential cyclists who ride Caltrain; including those who bring their bikes on board, or park their bikes at stations. Respondents answered 25-35 questions, depending on their circumstances. The survey and the results will be discussed in greater detail in the next agenda item.

Bike Rack Count

As part of the outreach for the survey, staff visited all Caltrain stations (except College Park, Atherton, Hayward Park and Broadway) to inventory racks; count bikes parked at bike racks; and to attach postcards publicizing the survey to the bikes.

In general, racks are not heavily subscribed except at a few key stations. San Francisco, 22nd St, San Mateo, California Ave and Palo Alto had significant number of bikes locked up to fixtures. There is also a need to remove bikes have been stripped by thieves or abandoned by owners that are still locked up to racks.

Bikes on Cars Subcommittee

Caltrain has ordered 8 new Bombardier cars (2 cabs and 6 trailers) for 2008, and will be placing orders for additional cars next year. Fifty-two gallery trailers and 21 gallery cabs will become obsolete in 2014; however 20 gallery cars will be retained for post-electrification for service between San Jose and Gilroy

Due to the interest in the bikes-on-board issue, a Bikes-on-Cars sub-committee of TAG members was established. A kickoff meeting was held on June 4, 2007, and an email discussion group called CaltrianBOC has been established.

The subcommittee's objective is to develop a list of recommendations of improvements for bikes on cars (operation and capacity) that will be incorporated in the Bicycle Master Plan. The subcommittee's first priority will be to develop recommended specs for the Bombardier-type cars, before Caltrain places the order for new rolling stock. Hence, there will be a field trip to check out a bombardier cab (bike) car on July 5th.

Consultant Support

Caltrain will be bringing a consultant team on board starting in August for the station evaluation workshops, conceptual design for recommended station improvements, and developing the bike access and parking guidelines. The Project Manager will manage and work with the consultant team

Caltrain Online Bike Survey

Caltrain conducted an online bike survey between May 21 – June 1, 2007. Over 1,400 respondents took the survey. Respondents answered about 30 questions on average. The survey differentiated between current, former and potential Bike+Caltrain users, and those who bring bikes on board vs. parking them at stations.

Survey Questions:

The first draft of the survey was circulated to the TAG for comment; and beta-tested by cyclists on Caltrain staff. It was pretty hard to narrow down the number of questions to minimize survey fatigue. We had a combination of quantitative and qualitative questions; reflecting the need for statistical data as well as an understanding of cyclists' behavior and rationale. We held a focus group with four participants to help us refine the survey questions before they were finalized.

Outreach:

The survey was publicized via Take One car cards, station bulletin boards and conductor announcements. Postcards were mailed to bike locker renters and Mountain View Bikeshed users. However the most powerful medium was email, sent to the TAG, local bike coalitions and Palo Alto Bikestation users. We also visited every station (except College Park, Hayward Park, Atherton, and Broadway) to attach postcards to bikes parked at racks and fixtures.

Preliminary Results

With over 1,400 respondents, over 100 questions, there is a lot of data. The processing and analysis of the data is taking longer than expected. Some of the initial results are presented below. More details will be presented at the meeting; but the final report will not be available until early fall.

There is also data from a smaller Caltrain bike survey conducted in 2004 that needs to be analyzed for comparison with the current survey.

Post-survey focus group

We will most likely conduct another focus-group to explore questions that were omitted from the survey. After the survey results are analyzed in detail, there may be results that we are curious about, and will want to explore as well. This post-survey focus group will probably consist of a larger group, with different people.

2007 Caltrain Online Bicycle Survey: Selected Preliminary results

Not all respondents answered all the questions they were asked.

Percentages for each question are based on the total number of people who answered the question.

The results presented here are based on basic tabulation counts

Results presented here may change upon further analysis of the comments within the survey data.

#1 Number of Respondent Bike+Caltrain Users:

| | | |
|-----------|-----|------------|
| Current | 75% | 1,180 |
| Former | 11% | 169 |
| Potential | 14% | <u>222</u> |
| | | 1,571 |

#1B Frequency of Caltrain usage amongst Current Users

| | | |
|------------|-----|-----------|
| 1 - 3 days | 36% | 426 |
| 4 - 5 days | 59% | 700 |
| 6 - 7 days | 5% | <u>54</u> |
| | | 1,180 |

#4/ #7/ #11 Why do/did/will you bike to/from Caltrain? (Check up to 2.)

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| | Exercise/health | Environmentally-friendly |
| Current | 62% | 63% |
| Former | 58% | 57% |
| Potential | 66% | 68% |

8/ #13 How do/did you make the trip when you don't/didn't use Bike+Caltrain?

| | | | |
|---------|-------------|----------|-------------------------|
| | Drive alone | Caltrain | No longer make the trip |
| Current | 63% | 30% | N/A |
| Former | 31% | 12% | 36% |

#9 Why did you stop making trips by Caltrain? (Check up to 2) [Former Users]

| | |
|--|-----|
| Changed home/work/school location | 45% |
| Got tired of being bumped | 25% |
| Train stops/schedule were inconvenient | 19% |

#12 How many months per year do you bike? [Current Users]

| | | |
|----------------|-----|-------------------------|
| 0 - 3 months | 1% | 13 |
| 4 - 6 months | 5% | 61 |
| 7 - 9 months | 14% | 157 |
| 10 - 12 months | 80% | <u>928</u> |
| | | 1,159 answered question |

#6/ #10/ #14 Do you bring your bike on board, or park it at the station?

| | | | | |
|-----------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| | Bring on Board | Park at a station | Bring on Board | Park at a station |
| Current | 87% | 13% | 1,005 | 156 |
| Former | 87% | 13% | 132 | 20 |
| Potential | 85% | 15% | <u>170</u> | <u>29</u> |
| | | | 1,307 | 205 |

THOSE WHO BRING THEIR BIKES ON BOARD

**#15 Where people get on and off for morning and return trips
[Current users, not all stations shown]**

| | AM Start Station | AM End Station | Return Start Station | Return End Station |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| N/A | 3.6% (35) | 4.0% (39) | 2.6% (25) | 2.9% (27) |
| SF 4th/King | 28.5% (275) | 18.5% (179) | 18.3% (173) | 24.5% (230) |
| 22nd Street | 8.0% (77) | 0.8% (8) | 3.6% (34) | 11% (103) |
| Millbrae | 2.5% (24) | 1.7% (16) | 2.2% (21) | 1.9% (18) |
| San Mateo | 3.8% (37) | 3.2% (31) | 3.4% (32) | 3.7% (35) |
| Hillsdale | 4.5% (43) | 3.1% (30) | 4.3% (41) | 3.1% (29) |
| San Carlos | 2.4% (23) | 4.0% (39) | 3.7% (35) | 2.4% (23) |
| Redwood City | 5.4% (52) | 5.2% (50) | 4.9% (46) | 5.4% (51) |
| Menlo Park | 3.0% (29) | 6.5% (63) | 5.9% (56) | 2.9% (27) |
| Palo Alto | 4.3% (42) | 14.5% (140) | 12.4% (117) | 7.1% (67) |
| Mountain View | 7.0% (68) | 13.1% (127) | 12.3% (116) | 8.8% (83) |
| Sunnyvale | 5.5% (53) | 2.3% (22) | 2.5% (24) | 5.0% (47) |
| San Jose | 4.1% (40) | 4.2% (41) | 4.8% (45) | 3.7% (35) |
| Response Count | 966 | 966 | 945 | 939 |

- N/A covers people who bike all the way, instead of taking Bike+Caltrain for that trip.

- Data needs further analysis, especially since not everyone who listed the morning start and end station also listed the return start and end station.

- However, the general trend does show that many people get on and off different stations for their return trip than from their morning trip.

#18 Do you get on or off at any other stations for your morning trips? (Select 'N/A' if you do not use other stations for morning trips) [Current Users]

33% sometimes start at a different station 67% selected N/A
37% sometimes end at a different station 63% selected N/A

#32 Do you get on or off at any other stations for your return trips? (Select 'N/A' if you do not use other stations for return trips) [Current Users]

39% sometimes start at a different station 61% selected N/A
44% sometimes end at a different station 56% selected N/A

#19 Do any of your morning trips ever vary from your REGULAR morning trips? (Check all that apply.) [Current users]

| | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| No, my morning trip never varies | 45% | 422 |
| Sometimes . . . | | |
| I don't bike from home to START station | 20% | 191 |
| I bike all the way between home and work (school, etc.) | 19% | 180 |
| I don't bike from END station to work (school, etc.) | 14% | 136 |
| I bike from home to START station | 11% | 101 |
| I bike from END station to work (school, etc.) | 10% | 90 |
| Other (please specify) | 14% | 134 |

answered question 945

55% of the users vary their morning trip logistically

#33 Do any of your return trips ever vary from your REGULAR return trips? (Check all that apply.) [Current users]

| | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| No, my return trip never varies | 41% | 361 |
| Sometimes . . . | | |
| I bike all the way from work (school, etc.) to home (or other after-work de | 19% | 171 |
| I don't bike from work (school, etc.) to END station | 15% | 137 |
| I don't bike from START station to home (or other after-work destination) | 14% | 127 |
| I bike from work to END station | 13% | 117 |
| I bike from START station to home (or other after-work destination) | 11% | 95 |
| Other (please specify) | 17% | 152 |
| answered question | | 890 |

59% of the users vary their return trip logistically

#20 How often do you make morning trips that are different from your regular morning trip pattern? [Current users]

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|
| 0% - 10% of the time | 66% | 630 |
| 11% - 20% of the time | 19% | 177 |
| 21% - 30% of the time | 8% | 78 |
| 31% - 40% of the time | 3% | 26 |
| 41% - 50% of the time | 4% | 40 |
| answered question | | 951 |

85% of the users vary their morning trip 20% (or less) of the time

15% of the users vary their morning trip more than 20% of the time.

#34 How often do you make return trips that are different from your REGULAR return trip patterns? [Current users]

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|
| 0% - 10% of the time | 62% | 564 |
| 11% - 20% of the time | 19% | 177 |
| 21% - 30% of the time | 9% | 86 |
| 31% - 40% of the time | 4% | 33 |
| 41% - 50% of the time | 6% | 55 |
| answered question | | 915 |

81% of the users vary their morning trip 20% (or less) of the time

19% of the users vary their morning trip more than 20% of the time.

#3/ #43/ #50 Are your arrival times at your destination (i.e. work, home, school) flexible when making trips by Caltrain? [Current, Former and Potential Users]

| | Yes | Yes | No | No |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Current | 66% | 624 | 34% | 320 |
| Former | 69% | 79 | 31% | 35 |
| Potential | 60% | 118 | 40% | 80 |
| answered question | | 821 | | 435 |

#45/ #52 Why do/did you bring your bike on board? (Check up to 2) [Current and Former users combined]

| | |
|--|-------|
| Having my bike with me gives me flexibility | 58% |
| I need to have my bike with me | 37% |
| I bike the other way for exercise | 32% |
| Transit/shuttle connections don't work for me | 31% |
| Bike parking options are unsatisfactory | 18% |
| Saves money over connecting transit or renting a bike locker | 15% |
| I don't know where to find bike parking | 2% |
| Other (please specify) | 16% |
| answered question | 1,061 |

**#47/ #54 In the last 12 months of Bike+Caltrain use, how often have you been "bumped" ?
 (Bumped = unable to board the train with your bike because the bike car was full)
 [Current and Former users combined]**

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------|-------|
| 0 times | 36% | |
| 1- 2 times | 22% | |
| 3-5 times | 15% | |
| 5-10 times | 12% | |
| 10 or more times | 15% | |
| | answered question | 1,059 |

**#46/53 How often do/did you ride Caltrain WITHOUT bringing your bike on board?
 [Current and Former users combined]**

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------|
| 0% - 10% of the time | 80% | |
| 11% - 20% of the time | 10% | |
| 21% - 30% of the time | 5% | |
| 31% - 40% of the time | 1% | |
| 41% - 50% of the time | 5% | |
| | answered question | 1,060 |

THOSE WHO PARK THEIR BIKES AT A STATION

**#58/ #61 Where do/did you start and end your regular morning trip? (Selected stations)
 [Current & Former users]**

| | Start | End | Start | End |
|----------------------|-------|-----|-------|-----|
| SF 4th/King | 46 | 32 | 26% | 18% |
| 22nd Street | 24 | 0 | 14% | 0% |
| Millbrae | 9 | 3 | 5% | 2% |
| Hillsdale | 5 | 3 | 3% | 2% |
| San Carlos | 5 | 5 | 3% | 3% |
| Redwood City | 3 | 10 | 2% | 6% |
| Menlo Park | 9 | 10 | 5% | 6% |
| Palo Alto | 12 | 32 | 7% | 18% |
| California Ave | 5 | 6 | 3% | 3% |
| Mountain View | 18 | 40 | 10% | 23% |
| Sunnyvale | 10 | 3 | 6% | 2% |
| Santa Clara | 2 | 2 | 1% | 1% |
| San Jose | 2 | 10 | 1% | 6% |
| Total Response Count | 175 | 175 | | |

**#66/ #70 / #74/ #78 Where do/ did you park your bike at the Caltrain station?
 (For people who only park their bike at one end) [Current & Former users]**

| | | |
|----------------------|------------|-----|
| Locker | 100 | 62% |
| Rack | 34 | 21% |
| Fixture | 7 | 4% |
| Bikeshed/Bikestation | 21 | 13% |
| | <u>162</u> | |

**#81/ #82 Where do you park your bike(s) when you park at both ends?
 [Current & Former users]**

| | Start station | Percentage | End Station | Percentage |
|----------------------|---------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| Locker | 11 | 85% | 6 | 46% |
| Rack | 1 | 8% | 3 | 23% |
| Fixture | 1 | 8% | 0 | 0% |
| Bikeshed/Bikestation | 0 | 0% | 4 | 31% |
| | <u>13</u> | | <u>13</u> | |

#107 The San Francisco Bicycle Parking Facility (Facility) will be opening later this year. It will provide free attended parking. At a minimum, there will be three hours of access in the morning and three hours of access in the evening on weekdays. How will this impact you? (Check all that apply.)

| | | |
|---|-----|-------|
| I never go to the San Francisco station | 27% | 299 |
| I will still bring my bike on board as usual | 41% | 448 |
| I will bring my bike on board less frequently | 4% | 42 |
| I will stop bringing my bike on board | 1% | 9 |
| I will keep my San Francisco locker | 2% | 27 |
| I will give up my San Francisco locker | 1% | 6 |
| I will park at the Facility occasionally | 14% | 158 |
| I will park exclusively at the Facility | 2% | 17 |
| I will not park at the Facility | 10% | 114 |
| No impact | 38% | 415 |
| Minor Impact | 11% | 116 |
| Major Impact | 2% | 18 |
| Other (please specify) | 12% | 127 |
| answered question | | 1,093 |

#108 If there were an extra fee for bringing bikes on board:

| | | |
|---|-----|-------|
| I would bring my bike on board less frequently | 13% | 144 |
| I would pay and bring my bike on board just as frequently as I do now | 20% | 217 |
| I would stop bringing my bike on board | 14% | 153 |
| I would switch to a folding bike | 4% | 48 |
| No impact: I don't bring my bike on board | 8% | 83 |
| Other (please specify) | 41% | 454 |
| answered question | | 1,099 |

#109/ #116 Has your bike or any bike accessory ever been stolen while on Caltrain property? (Check all that apply.)

| | | |
|--|-----|-------|
| No | 84% | 1,039 |
| Yes, while locked up to a Caltrain rack | 9% | 109 |
| Yes, while locked up in a Caltrain locker | 1% | 7 |
| Yes, while locked up in a bikeshed/Bikestation at Caltrain | 1% | 15 |
| Yes, while locked up to a fixture at Caltrain | 2% | 25 |
| Yes, while on board the train | 4% | 45 |
| answered question | | 1,240 |

Station Evaluation Workshops

Caltrain will be conducting ten station evaluation workshops starting this summer to solicit input on improvements to parking and bicycle access to the stations.

The ten stations will be selected from the following twelve:

| | |
|--|------------------|
| San Francisco (4 th & King) | Palo Alto |
| 22 nd St | Mountain View |
| Millbrae | San Jose Diridon |
| Hillsdale | San Mateo |
| Redwood City | Sunnyvale |
| Menlo Park | Santa Clara |

Format:

Participants will meet at the station. Consultant staff and the Caltrain Project Manager will briefly explain the purpose of the workshop – to generate suggestions for improvements to bicycle access to the stations and within the stations; and provide background information on the station. We will coordinate with local jurisdictions/agencies to ensure that at least one of their staff will be there to answer questions about local plans and policies which would be relevant to the workshop discussions.

Then participants will then split off into groups of about 5 people. Each group will be lead by the project manager or consultant staff to walk around the station and immediate neighborhood around the station to determine issues and potential improvements for bicycle access to the platforms, bicycle access to the station from the immediate neighborhood, and bicycle parking at the station. Map and station plan handouts will be provided for marking up and notes.

Schedule

The workshops will take about an hour, on weekday evenings during daylight. This will also allow participants to observe some of the commute hour patterns. Tentatively:

August and September workshops will be held 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

October workshops (if any) will be held 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

The schedule for station workshops is being developed. We will probably announce the dates as we schedule them, since we might not be able to finalize dates for all of them at once.

Participants

The workshops are open to anyone who is interested. Participants will be asked to pre-register, so that we can have a head count. The dates will be announced through email to the TAG distribution list (which includes local agencies), the local bike coalitions' distributions lists, and posted on the Caltrain website. There is also a list of

people who expressed interest in attending station workshops during the recent online survey.

Conclusion

After all the station workshops have been held, the consultant team will develop draft conceptual design plans and recommendations for each station.

Recommendations for improvements not on Caltrain property will be coordinated with the cities in which the stations are located and in accordance with existing adopted local plans.

The consultant will present draft recommendations/conceptual design plans at TAG and other public meetings, as well as make them available in electronic format for review and comment. The final version of the recommendations and design plans will be included as part of the Caltrain Bicycle Master Plan.