



# Local Policy Maker Group (LPMG) Meeting

Meetings of the LPMG are conducted via teleconference only (no physical location).

Directors, staff and the public may participate remotely via Zoom at

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85925215034?pwd=L3pxeEVITTFrVjVIYW53OW5wekw2dz09>

for audio/visual capability or by calling 1-669-219-2599, Webinar ID: # 859 2521 5034 Passcode: 973354 for audio only.

**Public Comments:** The Chair shall have the discretion to manage the Public Comment process in a manner that achieves the purpose of public communication and assures the orderly conduct of the meeting. Members of the public are encouraged to provide public comments in the following ways:

- **Email:** Comments may be submitted by emailing [publiccomment@caltrain.com](mailto:publiccomment@caltrain.com) before each agenda item is presented. Please indicate in your email the agenda item to which your comment applies.
- **Auditory:** Oral comments will also be accepted during the meeting. Web users may use the 'Raise Hand' feature to request to speak. Callers may dial \*9 to request to speak. Each commenter will be notified when they are unmuted to speak.

**Thursday, September 25, 2025**

**5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

## Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Caltrain Staff Report (Oral Update and Memo)
4. State and Federal Legislative Update
5. Public Comments on items not on the agenda
6. LPMG Member Comments/Requests
7. Next Meeting –
  - a. Thursday, December 11, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.
8. Adjourn

*All items on this agenda are subject to action*



## Memorandum

**Date:** September 22, 2025  
**To:** Caltrain Local Policy Maker Group (LPMG)  
**From:** Bella Conferti, Government and Community Affairs Specialist  
**Re:** Caltrain E-Updates



### Caltrain Celebrates One-Year Anniversary of Electrification

Caltrain is celebrating its first year of electric service. Caltrain's historic Electrification Project was the first diesel to electric railroad transition undertaking in North America in a generation. The result has delivered more service that's faster to arrive at destinations, as well as a modern fleet that's quieter, more comfortable, and offering more amenities such as free Wi-Fi and accessible outlets.

Caltrain staff will be at stations this week to thank riders for supporting the first year of electrified service. We'll be handing out free swag and inviting riders to record a short video sharing their experience with the new trains and service.

**Wednesday, Sept. 24 from 4-7 pm: San Francisco 4th & King, Millbrae, Palo Alto, and Diridon Stations**

**Thursday, Sept. 25 from 9-11 am: Hillsdale, Redwood City, Mountain View, and Santa Clara Stations**

Riders can expect free swag and useful transit information, in addition to a friendly hello as a thank-you for choosing Caltrain. Additionally, a number of elected officials and key stakeholders who helped make

electrification possible will be sharing their perspectives through a series of videos on Caltrain's social channels.

[Learn more.](#)



### **August Marks the Third Consecutive Month of +1M Riders on Caltrain**

The summer is winding down, but Caltrain's ridership is still going strong, with August 2025 having more than a million passengers, a 67% increase over August 2024. Average weekday ridership stood at just under 40,000, a 61.5% increase from last August. Weekend ridership has been up since the launch of electrification thanks to Caltrain's half hourly weekend service, but reached an all-time record in August with Saturday and Sunday ridership more than doubling since last August.

[Learn more.](#)

### **Caltrain Celebrates Transit Month**

Caltrain is proud to join Bay Area transit agencies in celebrating Transit Month 2025 with events highlighting the vital role public transportation has in building sustainable, connected communities.

This year's Transit Month includes the Ride Like a Leader campaign, special rider appreciation activities, and interactive community events designed to inspire more people to discover and embrace transit.

Caltrain is participating in the Ride Like a Leader campaign, which encourages board members, elected officials, and community leaders to share their positive transit experiences with the public. This campaign allows Caltrain's leadership to shine a spotlight on their stories, showing that public transit is not only reliable and sustainable but also a lifeline that connects people to jobs, schools, healthcare and local businesses across the Peninsula.

[Learn more.](#)



### **Caltrain Hosts Camp Caltrain**

On August 6<sup>th</sup>, Caltrain hosted Camp Caltrain. Offering parents a fun, free rail-themed family event. The event featured the South Bay Historical Railroad Society's model railroad, free shaved ice from Kona Ice, arts, crafts, facepainting, and complimentary swag from Bay FC. The event was part of Caltrain's summer "Go Explore" campaign, a series of events at Caltrain Stations in order to attract more riders to the system.

### **PUBLIC MEETINGS:**

**Caltrain Board Meeting - October 9, 2025, at 9:00 am**

**JPB Technology, Operations, Planning, and Safety Committee - October 29, 2025, at 1:30 pm**

**JPB Advocacy and Major Projects Committee - October 29, 2025, at 3:30 pm**

For more details, and a full list of upcoming meetings, please visit [Caltrain.com/Meetings](https://caltrain.com/Meetings).

# Legislative Session Recap

LPMG  
September 2025



# Federal Issues

## Appropriations

- Federal funding expires Sept 30 and Congress must pass a CR to avoid a shutdown
- Historically during a shutdown, FTA operations financed by Highway Trust Fund or advanced IIJA appropriations would continue, but **FTA unlikely to approve new grants**
- Caltrain is awaiting approval for its federal formula grant agreement for new electric trains replacement vehicles
- FRA: 40% of employees furloughed, but safety inspection staff and other critical safety personnel working
- Agencies and the Administration have yet to issue guidance if no deal by Sept 30



# Federal Issues

## Administration Update

- On August 7, President Trump signed EO: "[Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking](#)."
- Order requires a Trump Administration appointee to review funding opportunity announcements and grant awards.
- Association with high-speed rail has led to reported reductions in grant funding for certain agencies.



# Federal Issues

## Surface Transportation Reauthorization

- Caltrain submitted comments to DOT on upcoming surface transportation bill.
- Major issues:
  - Securing/preserving stable funding for passenger rail, especially safety enhancements
  - Strengthening passenger rail liability protections, risk management, modernization and strategic expansion
  - Enhancing coordination and streamlining regulatory processes, including for crossing improvements
- Current Surface Transportation bill expires Sept 30, 2026
- Chairman Graves trying to pass reauthorization before the end of the year





## 2025 Legislative Session Recap

- **Final votes of the Legislature – Sept 13, 2025**
- **Governor has until Oct 12, 2025 to sign or veto bills**



# Loan for Bay Area Transit Agencies

## State Bridge Loan for Bay Area Transit Agencies

- \$750M loan for Bay Area transit agencies: AC Transit, BART, Caltrain, MUNI
- SB 105 (Wiener) and AB 105 (Gabriel) include language regarding full repayment of the loan principal, applicable interest rate, repayment schedule, and guaranteed repayment mechanism
- DOF and CalSTA to work with agencies to design short-term financing tools such as loans that align with operational needs, protect service, and support fiscal reforms, with clear and reliable repayment plans.
- Terms process completed by Jan 10, 2026



## SB 30 (Cortese) - Passed

Diesel-powered on-track equipment: decommissioning: resale and transfer restrictions.

- Prohibits public agencies from selling, donating, or transferring locomotives, even when an assessment shows potential environmental benefits.
- Caltrain continues to have 9 diesel locomotives much of which run on the Gilroy segment
- Creates a loss of asset value for Caltrain of ~\$20-\$25M
- Ignores benefits of passenger rail in reducing VMT and GHGs through ridership.
- Incentivizes retaining older equipment, decreases available rolling stock, hinders fleet upgrades, and reduces revenue for public rail agencies.
- Does not impact the private sector.



## SB 79 (Wiener) - Passed

Housing development: transit-oriented development

- If signed, SB 79 will make it legal to build more multi-family housing near rail stations and rapid bus lines, including in areas where such homes are currently illegal.
- The bill is intended to help lower housing costs by increasing the supply of homes in transit-adjacent areas, while also bolstering transit use and funding
- Caltrain is still analyzing all of the implications of the bill in its final form but expects there to be upzoning near many stations. How much will depend on factors including the zoning in place in the individual jurisdiction.



## Updates on Supported Bills

- **SB 71 (Wiener) CEQA Exemptions for Transit Projects – Passed**
  - *Jumpstart public transportation and bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects by streamlining the permitting process.*
- **AB 394 (Wilson) Transit Safety – Passed**
  - *Expands existing legal protections by strengthening penalties for assaults against transit employees, broadening enforcement against trespassing on transit systems, and empowering courts to issue prohibition orders restricting access to individuals convicted of violent offenses against transit workers.*
- **AB 476 (M. González) Metal Theft – Passed**
  - *Aimed at curbing organized metal theft, strengthening enforcement tools for law enforcement and protecting vital public infrastructure from damage.*



## SB 63 (Wiener and Arreguin)

### Connect Bay Area Act

- Would authorize a 5-county regional transit funding ballot measure with expenditure plan that would cover Caltrain's projected annual operations deficit
- Establishes ad hoc committees of MTC commissioners from funding counties to review complaints and adjudicate operator performance with binding decisions
- Allows committees to recommend withholding up to 7% of funds for persistent noncompliance in areas such as service levels, cleanliness, and safety
- Urgency Clause was removed, so legislation does not go into effect until January 1, 2026



## SB 63: Next Steps

- Passed California Legislature
- **Governor has until October 12, 2025 to sign the bill**
- The bill would take effect Jan 1, 2026
- A measure, if created, would be on the November 2026 ballot



# Cap-and-Invest Agreement

## Cap and Invest Agreement Reached

- AB 1207 – how funds are collected; SB840 – how funds will be spent
- Three tiers; higher tiers funded first. No specific local projects called out.
  - Tier 1: \$233M/yr total: Green manufacturing and other programs
  - Tier 2: \$2B/yr total: \$1B/yr to HSR and \$1B/yr for legislative discretion (including \$125M in FY 26–27 for a transit pass program)
  - Tier 3: \$2B/yr total in continuous appropriations:  
\$400M for TIRCP, \$200M for LCTOP (Caltrain currently receives \$2.5M/yr)  
and \$1.4B for other programs such as CAL FIRE
- Note: Tier 3 continuous appropriations will now be fixed amounts rather than percentage of program revenues. Will not adjust with inflation.





# Cap-and-Invest Agreement

**C&I Program Meets Expected \$4.2B**

Tier 1	Green Manufacturing	\$140
	Other	\$93
Tier 2	HSR	\$1,000
	Leg Discretionary	\$1,000
Tier 3	TIRCP	\$400
	LCTOP	\$200
	AHSC	\$800
	AB 617	\$250
	CALFIRE	\$200
	Safe Drinking Water	\$130
		<b>\$4,213</b>

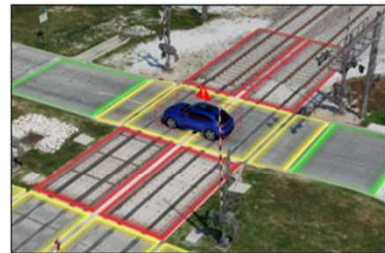
**Example: C&I Program ~\$1B lower than \$4.2B**

Tier 1	Green Manufacturing	\$140
	Other	\$93
Tier 2	HSR	\$1,000
	Leg Discretionary	\$1,000
Tier 3	TIRCP	<b>\$205</b>
	LCTOP	<b>\$103</b>
	AHSC	<b>\$411</b>
	AB 617	<b>\$128</b>
	CALFIRE	<b>\$103</b>
	Safe Drinking Water	<b>\$67</b>
		<b>\$3,250</b>

# Safety

- Safety Installation and AI Technology

Location (date installed)	# vehicles on the track, per week before installation	After Installation	Notes
Broadway, Burlingame (Jan 2025)	3 per week average	0	Worked with city on adjustment signals / traffic control
Churchill, Palo Alto (April 2025)	4 observed	0	Continue signal / traffic control analysis
16th Street, San Francisco (evaluating first month data)			



- Completed Caltrain Safety Roadshows, promoting safety culture and knowledge (CEMOF 5/28, Menlo Park 6/25, SFK 4<sup>th</sup> & King 7/30, CEMOF 8/26)
- Full-scale emergency exercise Redwood City (8/16)
- September is Rail Safety Month – Proclamation Today
  - Blitz planned at crossings

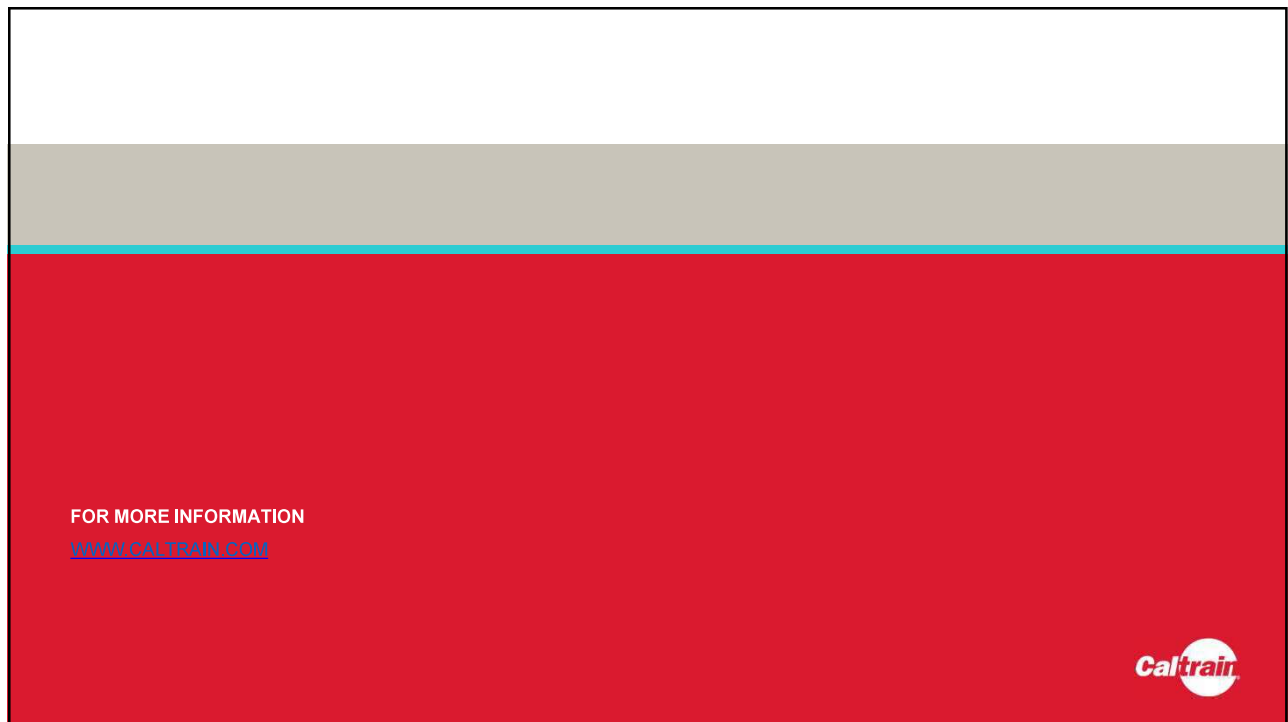


## Contacts

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# CALIFORNIA High-Speed Rail Authority

## Memorandum

**Date:** September 19, 2025

**To:** Local Policy Maker Group (LPMG)

**From:** Paul Rosenthal, Assistant Deputy Director for Public Affairs & Critical Initiatives

**Re:** California High-Speed Rail Program Update

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### STATEWIDE UPDATE

#### **Supplemental Project Update Report released**

On August 22, the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) issued the [Supplemental 2025 Project Update Report](#). This report to the Legislature outlines a clear path to achieve commercial success at the earliest possible stage, ensuring the system begins generating compelling economic return. It proposes several potential scenarios to advance the program, including completing the work now underway in the Central Valley by 2032, and connecting Northern and Southern California by 2039.

#### **Steady Funding Agreement for High-Speed Rail:**

State legislators reauthorized the Cap-and-Invest Program on September 10, securing an historic \$1 billion for the high-speed rail project annually through 2045. Authority CEO Ian Choudri thanked state leaders and stated the agreement resolves all identified funding gaps for the Central Valley segment and further opens the door for meaningful public-private engagement. This is the largest guaranteed infusion of funding for the program to date.

#### **Accelerated Timeline for 2026 Rail Installation**

On August 28, the Authority's Board approved proceeding with procurements to purchase high-speed rail materials, a major milestone to accelerate track and systems construction, slated to begin in 2026.

#### **18<sup>th</sup> Cohort Graduates from the Central Valley Training Center**

The Authority celebrated 16 new graduates of the Central Valley Training Center in Selma on September 8. With this graduating class, the Center has surpassed a major milestone – delivering more than 100,000 hours of training to students pursuing careers in the construction trades.



## **RECENT & UPCOMING OUTREACH ACTIVITIES IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**

- Viva CalleSJ, San Jose, September 7, 2025
- “We love LA” Party, San Jose Diridon Station, September 20, 2025
- Pop-up Bay Area Transit Art Fair & Showcase as part of Transit Month 2025, Salesforce Transit Center, September 24, 2025
- Small Business Diversity & Resources Fair, Burlingame, October 22, 2025
- Manny’s, San Francisco, October 22, 2025
- Self-Help Counties Coalition Focus on the Future Conference, San Francisco Marriott Marquis, November 8, 2025