

**SAMTRANS**  
**CORRESPONDENCE**  
**as of 11-01-2024**

**From:** [Dan Lieberman](#)  
**To:** [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](#)  
**Subject:** Caltrain e-News - October 2024  
**Date:** Thursday, October 31, 2024 4:50:10 PM

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• October 2024 | [View online](#) •

## Numbers in for Launch Weekend - Biggest Weekend of 2024

The first weekend of electrified service brought out huge crowds, with over 60,000 riders, three times as many as an average weekend.



[Learn More about Caltrain's New Electric Service](#)



## Caltrain Delivers Fans to SAP for the Sharks

Caltrain is running its best service to the SAP Center ever, making it the premier destination for Sharks fans trying to see the action on the ice.

[Learn More about Caltrain's Sharks Service](#)

## Warriors Season Kicks Off

Chase Center is the place to catch the Warriors all season long, and Caltrain stands ready to get fans from all over the Peninsula courtside.



[Learn More about Caltrain's Warriors Service](#)



## The Elite Meet for Fleet Week

Caltrain carried thousands to Fleet Week in early October, offering everyone the chance to enjoy the festivities for themselves.

[Learn More about Fleet Week](#)

## Caltrain Participates in the Great ShakeOut

Caltrain took part in the Great ShakeOut on Oct. 17, and encouraged all its riders to make sure they're prepared for the next earthquake.



[Learn More about Earthquake Safety](#)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 7 - [Caltrain Board Meeting](#) - San Carlos Station
- November 17 - [49ers vs. Seahawks](#) - Mountain View Station
- November 26 - [Cyndi Lauper](#) - San Francisco Station



### Join our team!

- [Engineer III](#)
- [Rail Vehicle Engineering Manager](#)
- [Senior Engineer, Traction Power OCS](#)

**Learn More about Job Opportunities at Caltrain**



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**Editor: Dan Lieberman**

LiebermanD@Samtrans.com

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**From:** [Mass Transit Board \(@samtrans.com\)](#)  
**To:** [10/31 Transit Bid Tracker](#)  
**Subject:** [10/31 Transit Bid Tracker](#)  
**Date:** Thursday, October 31, 2024 11:04:10 AM

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### **RABA Public Notice**

From Redding Area Bus Authority (RABA)

Notice is hereby given that sealed Proposals are requested by Redding Area Bus Authority, (RABA), a Joint Powers Authority, for the Operations and Maintenance of RABA's Transit System. All Proposals shall be submitted in response to the...

### **RFP S24202 Fault Monitoring System Upgrade on Light Rail Vehicles ("LRVs")**

From Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA)

VTA is looking for a qualified firm to upgrade its Fault Monitoring System (FMS) network equipment. The proposer will furnish parts and labor to redesign, furnish, install, successfully integrate, and test the proposed FMS system on three...

### **Notice to Bidders**

From Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation (IndyGo)

The Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation d/b/a IndyGo ("IPTC") will be releasing an Invitation for Bid and related Bid and Contract Documents ("Solicitation Documents") for the Julia Carson Transit Camera Replacement...

### **IFB 24-10-529 Julia Carson Center Camera Replacement**

From Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation (IndyGo)

Project Summary: Indianapolis Public Transportation Corp. dba IndyGo, is seeking bids from qualified contractors. This project includes the upgrade of existing mounted cameras at the Julia Carson Transit Center both inside the facility and ...

### **IFB 24-09-528 1501 Trench Drain Replacement Project**

From Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation (IndyGo)

Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation (IPTC) IFB 24-09-528 1501 Trench Drain Replacement Project Summary: Indianapolis Public Transportation Corp. dba IndyGo, is seeking bids from qualified contractors. This project includes the complete...

### **St. Clair County Transit District ATS - VIDEO FILE STORAGE SOLUTION**

From St. Clair County Transit District

Sealed proposals will be received at the St. Clair County Transit District, 27 N Illinois St., Belleville, Illinois, on or before 3:00 pm on Thursday December 5, 2024 for the 2024 ATS – Video File Storage Solution. Visit [www.scctd.org](http://www.scctd.org)...

### **The Wave Transit System Maintenance Shop Gutter Repairs and Roof Coating Project**

From Wave Transit

Project Number: WTS-01GRRC-2024 Transit Management of Mobile d/b/a The Wave Transit System (The Wave) is seeking bids from qualified contractors for maintenance shop gutter repairs and roof coating at The WAVE's Maintenance and Operation Building...

### **Buy America Compliant Components**

From North County Transit District (NCTD)

NCTD operates the SPRINTER hybrid rail service using Siemens Desiro VT642 diesel multiple unit (DMU) rail vehicles. NCTD is seeking vendors capable of supplying Buy America-compliant replacement parts for the Siemens DMU rail vehicles. Please...

### **RFP 2024-14 Maintenance Building CNG Renovation**

From Lextran

Lextran is issuing this Request for Proposals (RFP) to award a competitive contract to a firm for general contractor services to provide a partial renovation to Lextran's existing maintenance facility. (CNG Safety Airflow) The RFP for the project...

**To post a RFP, please contact Amy Stauffer**

This email is being sent to [board@samtrans.com](mailto:board@samtrans.com).

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Mass Transit  
Endeavor Business Media  
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Nashville, TN 37215

**From:** [Mike Swire](#)  
**To:** [cacsecretary \[@smcta.com\]](mailto:cacsecretary [@smcta.com]); [Board \(@smcta.com\)](mailto:Board (@smcta.com)); [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](mailto:Board (@samtrans.com)); [Audrey Shiramizu](#); [Mima Crume](#); [jlap@smcgov.org](mailto:jlap@smcgov.org)  
**Subject:** NBC News coverage of Express Lane cheating  
**Date:** Monday, October 28, 2024 11:41:37 AM

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Dear SMCTA, C/CAG, Samtrans, and JPA Boards and Advisory Committees,

[Here is a link to NBC News' coverage](#) last night on cheating in the Express Lanes. The report covers the volume of violators, the increase in crashes, and the cost of CHP overtime to enforce the lanes.

As the SMCTA Community Advisory Committee has asked several times, I hope that we are able to get data on how many of the 40% of drivers choosing "3/free" are actually in carpools. Anecdotally, I see less than half of these drivers with three occupants in their vehicles.

Thanks for your work for transportation in SM County,

Mike Swire  
Appointee, SMCTA Community Advisory Committee  
Chair, C/CAG Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee  
(writing as an individual)

**From:** [Martin J Sommer](#)  
**To:** [Caltrain BOD Public Support](#)  
**Cc:** [Board \(@caltrain.com\)](#); [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Caltrain Horns  
**Date:** Sunday, October 27, 2024 4:32:56 PM

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Dear Caltrain Support Team,

Thank you for acknowledging that sounding the bell/horn each time a train enters or exists the Palo Alto University Ave. Station, is NOT an FRA requirement, and is simply a Caltrain "policy".

Before taking this issue into legal action regarding a public agency generating unneeded noise pollution, would you be willing to only sound the bell/horn, whenever there is "imminent danger"? For example, if someone has jumped or fallen onto the tracks, or is too close to the platform edge?

If so, this would provide a workable solution, and reduce the bell/horn noise by at least 90%. I believe this would also educate people of real emergencies, vs routine noise.

Thanks, and please let me know.

Sincerely,  
Martin

On 10/25/24 1:27 PM, Caltrain BOD Public Support wrote:

Dear Martin Sommer,

Your message to the Caltrain Board of Directors was referred to me for response. The Board members will receive a copy of our correspondence. Thank you for your feedback regarding the sounding of the bell at the Palo Alto Caltrain Station. We appreciate your concerns and understand the importance of minimizing noise pollution, especially in areas where efforts have been made to create a quieter environment.

We would like to clarify that, according to company policy, it is required to sound the bell when approaching and traveling through every station platform. This rule is in place to ensure the safety of all individuals in the vicinity, as it serves as a warning to make them aware of an incoming train. While we recognize that University Ave. Station is grade-separated, the safety of the general public remains our top priority.

We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused and



appreciate your understanding of the safety measures we have implemented. Your feedback is invaluable, and we will continue to evaluate our practices to balance safety and community concerns.

Thank you for your understanding.

Best regards,

Your Caltrain BOD Public Support Team

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**From:** Martin J Sommer <[martin@sommer.net](mailto:martin@sommer.net)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 15, 2024 3:34:18 AM (UTC+00:00) Monrovia, Reykjavik  
**To:** Todd Douglas <[DouglasT@samtrans.com](mailto:DouglasT@samtrans.com)>  
**Cc:** Board (@caltrain.com) <[board@caltrain.com](mailto:board@caltrain.com)>; Board (@samtrans.com) <[board@samtrans.com](mailto:board@samtrans.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Caltrain Horns

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Hi Todd,

Thanks for your response. According to FRA document 222.21 When must a locomotive horn be used?, " ... the locomotive horn on the lead locomotive of a train ... shall be sounded when such locomotive or lead cab car is approaching a public highway-rail grade crossing".

The significant part here, is "grade crossing". When it comes to sounding a horn or bell at stations, it boils down to two issues: a) is the station "at grade" with the tracks, and/or b) is there an imminent hazard of death or injury to a person or persons.

University Ave. Station in Palo Alto, is grade-separated, and thus the only validation for ringing a bell or blowing the horn, is if someone has jumped or fallen onto the tracks, and is in "imminent danger".

The idea of the new electric trains ringing their bell on every entry and exit of the University Ave. Station, is not required, and is creating public noise pollution ... something we worked so hard to eliminate, in electrifying Caltrain.

Please stop sounding the bell and/or horn, every time a train enters or exists University Ave. Station in Palo Alto!!

Ref: <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-49/section-222.21>

Martin

On 10/14/24 3:24 PM, Todd Douglas wrote:

**Hello Martin Sommer,**

**Thank you for taking the time in contacting Caltrain with your comments concerning horn noise in your area. Your comments were sent to Rail Operations for further handling.**

**The application of a train's horn/bells is governed by Federal and State law. One of the locations where they must sound their horn is when the tracks cross a street and also pull into the station.**

**I can tell you we frequently inspect the volume of these systems to ensure they fall within the mandated decibel range for this type of equipment.**

**We are sorry the sound has been disturbing you, and will maintain our programmed monitoring of these systems to ensure they are only as loud as necessary.**

**Again, thank you for your comments.**

**Regards,**

**Todd Douglas**

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