



March 11, 2024

Media Contact: Dan Lieberman, 650.622.2492

Photos/video available at <https://smctd.canto.com/b/NN0B2>

Caltrain Successfully Tests Electric Trains from Redwood City to San Jose

Caltrain met another milestone in the electrification of its system, as it successfully tested electric trains and overhead wires between Redwood City and Mountain View for the first time. This will allow the agency to ramp up the testing of the new fleet as the launch of electrified service this fall grows closer.

Live run tests started at five miles per hour, to ensure the overhead wire and train are properly connected. Once the connection was successfully established, the train increased speed to the corridor's 79 mile per hour maximum limit. 25 such test runs were successfully completed over the course of last weekend.

Each of the 23 electric trainsets must complete 1000 miles of testing before it is allowed to carry passengers. Initial tests were conducted between Santa Clara and College Park Stations on the Santa Clara Drill Track, but Caltrain has steadily been expanding the available testing area from San Jose to Mountain View. With this live run, testing can now take place from San Jose to Redwood City, further accelerating the process and keeping the launch of service on schedule for fall 2024.

"Another test completed marks another step towards a reliable, fast and frequent service for our riders," said Caltrain Executive Director

Michelle Bouchard. "I cannot wait for everyone to get to experience the modernized, zero-emission fleet of Caltrain's future for themselves this fall."

Electric trains are quieter than Caltrain's current diesel fleet, so the public is advised to [pay close attention](#) when crossing the tracks and to always wait for the gate to fully rise before crossing.

Caltrain's historic Electrification Project is the first undertaking in North America in a generation in which diesel trains and their infrastructure components are transitioned to an electrified system. Electrification means [faster and more frequent service](#), including doubling the frequency on weekends. The passenger experience will be greatly improved as well with the [new trains](#) featuring Wi-Fi, power outlets at every seat, onboard displays with digital trip information, increased storage capacities.

Electrification will also help meet ambitious regional and state climate action goals by lowering greenhouse gas emissions, improving air quality, and relieving traffic congestion. Additionally, electrified service will advance equity along the corridor by reducing noise and air pollution while increasing access for priority equity communities. It will also set the framework for California's future High Speed Rail network that will run on the Caltrain corridor.

The proposed Electrification service plan includes 70 weekday peak hour trains, an increase from the current 66. Eleven stations would see four train arrivals hourly per direction, up from seven stations currently. Midday trains would cover 44 stations per hour, up from 34 today and weekend service will arrive every half hour, rather than hourly.

###

About Caltrain: Owned and operated by the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board, Caltrain provides rail service from San Francisco to San Jose, with commute service to Gilroy. Serving the region since 1863, Caltrain is the oldest continually operating rail system west of the Mississippi. Looking to the future, Caltrain is set to electrify the

corridor by 2024, which will reduce diesel emissions and add more service to more stations while advancing the agency's equity goals.

Like us on Facebook at www.caltrain.com and follow on X [@Caltrain](https://twitter.com/Caltrain).

Free translation assistance is available.

Para traducción llama al 1.800.660.4287; 如需翻譯, 請電 1.800.660.4287.