



San Francisco Bicycle Advisory Committee  
City Hall, Room 408  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

## **RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ELECTRIFIED CALTRAIN TO PROVIDE BIKE CAPACITY TO PERMIT 20% OF PASSENGERS TO BRING THEIR BIKES ONBOARD**

**WHEREAS**, Caltrain, the San Francisco Peninsula rail transit service, provides a vital public transportation link serving the City and County of San Francisco and has provided onboard carriage of bicycles since 1992, and

**WHEREAS**, Caltrain's onboard bicycle service allows passengers to reach their origin stations and their final destinations without using motorized transportation on both ends of their commutes, taking the burden off heavily subsidized feeder buses and shuttles, and

**WHEREAS**, Caltrain's onboard bicycle service is socially and economically beneficial in eliminating reliance on the automobile, thereby effecting reductions in petroleum use, traffic congestion, pollution; and the impact of global warming, and

**WHEREAS**, Caltrain's onboard bicycle service reduces demand for expensive new parking lots or parking structures, and Caltrain predicts that a number of its parking lots will be unable to handle demand after Caltrain has been electrified, and

**WHEREAS**, Caltrain's onboard bicycle service encourages bicycling, which provides health benefits to communities by reducing both air pollution and noise pollution, and bicycling provides health benefits to riders through exercise to help curb the steep rise in maladies such as hypertension, diabetes, and obesity in America today; and

**WHEREAS**, Caltrain's onboard bicycle service is so popular today that customers with bicycles routinely get left behind on the platform or 'bumped' due to insufficient onboard bike capacity, and

**WHEREAS**, bicycle bumps force bicyclists back into their cars, costing Caltrain ridership and ticket revenue, and

**WHEREAS**, despite bicyclists being routinely bumped while all walk-on passengers are allowed to board, bikes-on-board passengers are Caltrain's fastest growing passenger segment: since 2008, bike boardings have increased 160% while walk-on boardings have increased only 50%, and

**WHEREAS**, 13% of Caltrain passengers currently bring their bicycles onboard while 1% park their bikes at the stations, according to Caltrain's Environmental Impact Assessment for Electrification, and

**WHEREAS**, bike parking using existing technology at Caltrain stations is underutilized as shown by Caltrain's survey of bike parking in 2012: the bike cage at Menlo Park was 61.9% in use, bike lockers in Palo Alto were 45.7% in use, and bike lockers in Mountain View were 60.3% in use, and

**WHEREAS**, even though alternatives to bringing a bike onboard exist, over 90% of bicycling customers bring their bikes onboard Caltrain today, and

**WHEREAS**, Caltrain plans to electrify its line by 2021 and is in the midst of designing new rail cars for electrification, but the allocation of floor space to store bicycles onboard has not yet been determined, and

**WHEREAS**, Caltrain's February annual passenger counts from 2008 to 2014 extrapolated to 2021 show that over 20% of Caltrain passengers are expected to bring their bikes onboard in 2021, and

**WHEREAS**, the estimate of 20% of passengers bringing their bikes onboard in 2021 is considered conservative, because this estimate is based on extrapolating historical bike boardings suppressed due to both bicycle bumps and counts collected in February, a time of low bike ridership, and

**WHEREAS**, bike boardings in October are over 42% higher than bike boardings in February, according to a comparison of Caltrain's annual passenger counts conducted in February and October, 2004, the only year Caltrain counted passengers twice, and

**WHEREAS**, wayside improvements such as electronic lockers, staffed bike parking, and bike share may offset the underestimate in projected bike boardings in 2021,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the San Francisco Bicycle Advisory Committee recommends that Caltrain provides sufficient space onboard electrified trains to allow 20% of passengers to bring their bikes onboard, and


**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the San Francisco Bicycle Advisory Committee encourages Caltrain to improve and expand wayside amenities to enable those who do not need to bring their bikes onboard to leave their bikes at the stations.

Submitted and adopted on May 18, 2015

**Approved by unanimous consent in attendance:**

District 1: Kevin Dole (Absent)  
District 2: Winston Parsons (Absent)  
District 3: Marc Brandt  
District 4: Edward Nicholson  
District 5: Morgan Fitzgibbons  
District 6: Richard May  
District 7: Bert Hill  
District 8: Diane Serafini (Recused)  
District 9: Ilyse Magy  
District 10: (Open)  
District 11: Casey Allen (Absent)

Signed



Bert Hill, Chair

Date

