

**Brettle, Jessica**

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**From:** Gail Price <gail.price3@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 23, 2020 10:06 AM  
**To:** Council, City  
**Cc:** Gail Price  
**Subject:** Caltrain Funding

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Dear Mayor Fine and Palo Alto City Council Members,

Great Op Ed on Caltrain funding by the way!  
<https://www.mercurynews.com/2020/07/21/7314251/>

Thanks  
Gail Price  
Sent from my iPhone

## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** Betty Howell <anderwell2@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 3, 2020 12:17 PM  
**To:** Council, City  
**Subject:** CALTRAIN - we need it

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Caltrain's vital to the Peninsula growing, thriving, attracting new residents. Please **support a 1/8-cent sales tax measure**. There will be life and needs for public transportation after Covid.  
Thank you,  
Betty Howell

## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** Gregory Brail <greg@brail.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 3, 2020 11:06 AM  
**To:** Council, City  
**Subject:** Please support CalTrain

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Council:

Things are looking bleak for CalTrain, but it doesn't have to be that way forever.

At some point, Silicon Valley workers will return to their offices, commuters will return the roads, and rail commuters will return to the trains. Silicon Valley will remain in demand as a place to live and work. Stanford will re-open. Stanford Hospital isn't going anywhere.

This will all be much more painful without CalTrain. Pre-COVID, nearly 9000 people used the two Palo Alto stations every day. A good number of them commute either to Stanford or to Stanford Hospital. Putting those people on the road, in their own cars or even in buses, would affect many parts of the City.

Please look past historical issues of inter-County jurisdiction and your current differences and do what you can to support this important regional transportation corridor for the good of us all. Thanks!

Greg Brail

## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** Ernie Tompkins <etompkins@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 3, 2020 11:03 AM  
**To:** Council, City  
**Subject:** Caltrain sales tax proposal

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Dear Councillors,

I am writing in favor of Palo Alto supporting the proposed eighth-percent sales tax. Yes, there is a great deal of bad blood, particularly between San Francisco and San Mateo County, which have put forward competing measures. Yes, it would take a great effort to get a two-thirds majority of voters to approve the measure. But given Caltrain's cratered ridership, we face a post-vaccine situation in which passengers are ready to take the train but the trains never arrive at the station because the commuter service will have run out of operating funds. San Mateo County objects to demands for restructuring Caltrain's governance, but something has to be done to keep catastrophe at bay—and frankly, the managerial performance of SamTrans and the currently constituted JPB have been less than stellar.

And now the SFMTA, at a special meeting on 31 July, has thrown a monkey wrench into the works.

It seems to me that political egos and turf battles need to be swept out of the way. If the day comes when Caltrain halts operation, it may spell the end of the service, ironically as it's on the verge of successful electrification and expansion of service. The virus and organizational intransigence will have succeeded where Southern Pacific failed decades ago in its attempt to shut down the line. Some compromise is needed to get San Francisco and San Mateo County on the same side. The more government entities that get on board, the more pressure they can exert to get a compromise measure ready for the November ballot. Time is flying, and options will disappear if no action is taken.

Sincerely,

Robert Tompkins  
Everett Avenue  
Palo Alto

## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** Pat Kinney <pkkinney48235@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 3, 2020 10:53 AM  
**To:** Council, City  
**Subject:** Please Support the 1/8-cent sales tax measure for CalTrain

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Without CalTrain, Palo Alto will not be able to meet our transportation and climate change goals. I appreciate that the governance of CalTrain is complicated, but it's an essential part of our economy,

Patricia Kinney  
Wildwood Lane  
Palo Alto

## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** Elizabeth Greenfield <elizabethg15@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 3, 2020 10:35 AM  
**To:** Council, City  
**Subject:** Support for Caltrain, Summer Streets

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Dear City Council,

I would like to urge you to support the 1/8-cent sales tax ballot measure to fund Caltrain and to extend the Summer Streets program.

I would like to express my support for adding a ballot measure for a 1/8-cent sales tax measure to preserve and expand Caltrain service. As someone living a climate-conscious "car-lite" lifestyle, Caltrain is an important pairing with bike commuting to get to work and other activities. Without Caltrain, I don't know how I would travel to San Jose and San Francisco as easily. Additionally, the two Caltrain stations in Palo Alto have historically attracted some of the highest ridership. Caltrain is an important traffic congestion alleviation strategy for Palo Alto commuters and helps us continue our progress to cut transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions.

Additionally, I want to express my support for adopting the staff-recommended resolution to extend the Summer Streets program to a "rest-of-2020 program" (and maybe a "forever program"?) I have passed by both University Ave and California Ave numerous times on bike rides and they look like a tremendous success. The street closures provide much needed public space for the community to stroll, shop, and hang out, gives restaurants a chance to stay in business, and doesn't seem to have created a huge traffic or parking problem. While unfortunate circumstances necessitated the rapid creation of this Summer Street program, I think the benefit to businesses and the community during non-covid times is becoming apparent as well. This is a terrific opportunity to create a stronger sense of place in Palo Alto's commercial centers by extending the street closures to at least the end of the year.

Thank you for your service to the community and your consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Greenfield  
3476 Waverley St.

## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** Margaret Tompkins <margaremtompkins@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 3, 2020 10:14 AM  
**To:** Council, City  
**Subject:** Please support Caltrain!

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Dear City Council members,

I encourage you to support putting a 1/8 cent sales tax measure on the November ballot in order to save CalTrain. Without it, cities like Palo Alto will not be able to achieve our transportation and climate change goals. Many people will desperately need Caltrain and other forms of public transportation going forward into the post-Covid-19 era, when they will have become even poorer and less able to afford housing and personal transportation. And large companies and institutions such as Stanford depend on Caltrain to get their employees to work. I urge you to pass this measure! Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Margaret Tompkins

Palo Alto, CA

## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** Geoff Browning <browninggeoff@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 3, 2020 9:53 AM  
**To:** Council, City  
**Subject:** We Must Support CalTrain

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Dear PA City Council Members,

I am writing to ask you to support the sales tax measure to ensure CalTrain is properly funded. Without this funding and without CalTrain, our transportation infrastructure will be severely compromised and we will not be able to achieve our climate change goals. This is critical for the sake of future generations.

Thank you,

Rev. Geoff Browning  
Parish Associate  
First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto

*Geoff*

(he/him/his)  
Peacemaking Advocate  
Presbytery of San Jose

*"We have no right to hope to harvest*

*what we have not sown."*

*Fr. Miguel d'Escoto*

## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** Jake Millan <biodieselmillan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 3, 2020 9:19 AM  
**To:** Council, City  
**Subject:** Please Save Caltrain!

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We absolutely need a vibrant and functioning Caltrain for once the pandemic is over. Please approve the small increase in taxes to support the Caltrain.

Thanks,  
Jake

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Jake Millan (206.409.5606 mobile) [biodieselmillan@gmail.com](mailto:biodieselmillan@gmail.com)

"Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm." - Ralph Waldo Emerson

## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** Shannon Rose <shannonrmcentee@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 2, 2020 11:10 PM  
**To:** Council, City

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Dear City Council Members:

Please support Caltrain and help make sure it receives the dedicated funding needed to ensure it continues to serve the Peninsula. Why? Because from a selfish point of view, Caltrain helps reduce traffic, parking issues, traffic noise, and air pollution. Thinking globally, reducing car traffic is one important part of our huge challenge to stop climate change. No doubt you read that the temperature reached 125 degrees in Baghdad last week -- the hottest temperature ever recorded. Fires have raged across California and Australia, Bangladesh is inundated with rising sea water. We can't keep putting our heads in the sand. We have to face reality. We must not only sustain our current public transportation, we must improve it.

Sincerely,

Shannon Rose McEntee  
410 Sheridan Avenue

## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** Marianne Mueller <mrm@sonic.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 2, 2020 8:45 PM  
**To:** Council, City  
**Subject:** caltrain

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I would like to add my voice to those supporting the eighth cent sales tax to help keep Caltrain afloat. thank you,

mRianne

## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** Megan Kanne <kanne.megan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 2, 2020 12:53 PM  
**To:** Council, City  
**Subject:** Support sustainable Caltrain funding

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Dear City Council Members,

I hope that you will support sustainable funding for Caltrain. I ask that you send a letter to the Santa Clara Board of Supervisors supporting a clean version of the 1/8th cent sales tax ballot measure. The people of Santa Clara county should be allowed to decide.

Caltrain is essential to Palo Alto's economy and to the city's sustainability goals. Keeping the train running for essential workers who need it should not be optional. I agree that Caltrain governance should be reformed, but not at the expense of maintaining its service.

As a former daily Caltrain rider, I know firsthand that the train is the only efficient transit option for thousands of residents on the Peninsula. To shut down Caltrain now would seriously harm the perception that it is a reliable public service and would negate years of work to build transit oriented housing along the corridor.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Megan Kanne

## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** David Coale <david@evcl.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 1, 2020 8:39 PM  
**To:** Council, City  
**Cc:** Kamhi, Philip; Shikada, Ed; Star-Lack, Sylvia  
**Subject:** Support Caltrain tax - no strings attached!

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Dear Mayor and Council Members,

I am writing you to support a 1/8<sup>th</sup> cent sales tax to support CalTrain with *no* strings attached – a straight up funding of Caltrain. Anna Eshoo recently wrote a great opinion piece in the San Jose Mercury outlining the case for this, see: <https://www.mercurynews.com/2020/07/29/opinion-caltrains-future-is-at-stake-peninsula-must-unify-to-win/>

While Rep Anna Eshoo points out many good reasons to support this “clean” tax with no strings attached, I would like to add a few more:

- 1) CalTrain is one of the best-managed transit systems in the country. While VTA is one of the worst as determined by a Grand Jury investigation just last year, the second such investigation. See: <https://www.paloaltoonline.com/news/2019/07/04/grand-jury-report-blasts-vta-for-inefficiencies-poor-oversight> for the full article on this. Santa Clara County board of supervisors wants more say in the running of Caltrain but they really don't have a leg to stand on given the poor performance of VTA.
- 2) The north county cities have been paying various sales tax measures for years and will be paying more in the decades to come for BART to San Jose, which will not serve the north county cities. The north county cities have been milked for San Jose transit project and it is time for the north county and the Peninsula to get its fair share with a transit system that actually works and is proven.
- 3) Santa Clara County is just making a power grab for money and influence at our expense and jeopardizing the funding that Caltrain needs in doing so. They would take money from Caltrain to prop up failing VTA and would mess with an already best-in-the-country management of Caltrain. It is also questionable if this would be even legal under the state law that allows for this tax to be levied.

Please support a resolution for a clean 1/8 cent sales tax to fund CalTrain with no strings attached. This is the best option for Palo Alto, which by the way has the second most boardings than any other station other than San Francisco.

Sincerely,

David Coale

**Baumb, Nelly**

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**From:** Annette Isaacson <annetteisaacson@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 1, 2020 4:06 PM  
**To:** Council, City  
**Subject:** I support the new tax to Save CalTrain

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Dear Council Members,

I can't imagine having to deal with the auto traffic on 101 and 280 if CalTrain has to cut services. We can't afford the extra CO2.

I support putting a new tax to support CalTrain.

Sincerely,

Annette Isaacson  
Midtown

## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** Palo Alto Forward <palo.alto.fwd@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 1, 2020 2:48 PM  
**To:** Council, City; Fine, Adrian; DuBois, Tom; Filseth, Eric (Internal); Kou, Lydia; Cormack, Alison; Tanaka, Greg; Kniss, Liz (internal)  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 12 : Caltrain 1/8-cent Sales Tax Measure  
**Attachments:** Caltrain 1\_8 tax letter.pdf

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Dear Mayor Fine and the Palo Alto City Council Members,

We strongly support the staff recommendation that the City Council send a letter requesting that the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors support placing a Caltrain 1/8-cent sales tax measure on the November 2020 ballot. We agree with the core elements of Mayor Fine's letter to the Board of Supervisors. Further, the issues of governance and oversight of the tax measure need to be addressed to ensure appropriate and equitable outcomes. All counties, transit agencies and communities have a vested interest in a strong economy with viable and sustainable transit that incorporates strong public health measures to protect workers and transit users.

As noted, Caltrain has no dedicated funding source and relies on receiving 70% of its operating funding from farebox revenues. Both the pandemic and volatile economic conditions underscore the urgency of structuring a dedicated source to help address Caltrain's forecasted \$71 million deficit over the next fiscal year; without enough funding Caltrain could shut down for years.

The vitality and importance of Caltrain is clear both now and in the future. Caltrain service provides a significant alternative to single-occupancy travel to the City of Palo Alto; these outcomes are supported by our Comprehensive Plan policies and programs, including our S/CAP Climate Action Plan. Transit operations with related public health requirements will have environmental, transportation and public health benefits related to improved air quality.

Supporting the existence and needed improvements to Caltrain operations and service is clear for our community and the region. In fact, the entire benefit of the Caltrain modernization and electrification project, costing \$1.98 billion, will not be realized if Caltrain does not exist.

Transportation and land use policies and actions taken now will impact current and future generations. The design and evolution of the Caltrain corridor and its service, operations, capacity and performance and accompanying funding plan will constitute the most critical and significant capital project for the region.

Sincerely,

Gail A. Price  
President, Palo Alto Forward Board



Re: Agenda Item 12 : Potential Placement of a Caltrain 1/8-cent Sales Tax Measure on the November 3, 2020 Ballot

Dear Mayor Fine and the Palo Alto City Council Members,

We strongly support the staff recommendation that the City Council send a letter requesting that the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors support placing a Caltrain 1/8-cent sales tax measure on the November 2020 ballot. We agree with the core elements of Mayor Fine's letter to the Board of Supervisors. Further, the issues of governance and oversight of the tax measure need to be addressed to ensure appropriate and equitable outcomes. All counties, transit agencies and communities have a vested interest in a strong economy with viable and sustainable transit that incorporates strong public health measures to protect workers and transit users.

As noted, Caltrain has no dedicated funding source and relies on receiving 70% of its operating funding from farebox revenues. Both the pandemic and volatile economic conditions underscore the urgency of structuring a dedicated source to help address Caltrain's forecasted \$71 million deficit over the next fiscal year; without enough funding Caltrain could shut down for years.

The vitality and importance of Caltrain is clear both now and in the future. Caltrain service provides a significant alternative to single-occupancy travel to the City of Palo Alto; these outcomes are supported by our Comprehensive Plan policies and programs, including our S/CAP Climate Action Plan. Transit operations with related public health requirements will have environmental, transportation and public health benefits related to improved air quality.

Supporting the existence and needed improvements to Caltrain operations and service is clear for our community and the region. In fact, the entire benefit of the Caltrain modernization and electrification project, costing \$1.98 billion, will not be realized if Caltrain does not exist.

Transportation and land use policies and actions taken now will impact current and future generations. The design and evolution of the Caltrain corridor and its service, operations, capacity and performance and accompanying funding plan will constitute the most critical and significant capital project for the region.

Sincerely,

Gail A. Price  
President, Palo Alto Forward Board

## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** slevy@ccsce.com  
**Sent:** Friday, July 31, 2020 3:18 PM  
**To:** Council, City  
**Subject:** Support CalTrain

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Dear Mayor Fine and Council members,

CalTrain is important for Palo Alto and the region.

Thousands of workers come here (last time I looked we were the second largest destination behind SF) and without CalTrain our local roads would be more crowded.

But Caltrain also helps people who drive by reducing freeway and road traffic around the peninsula.

Please be a voice for sustained independent funding so Caltrain is here when the pandemic ends.

Stephen Levy

## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** Blake Putney <putneyb@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 1, 2020 7:17 AM  
**To:** Council, City  
**Subject:** Cal Train tax

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Hi,

I would like Palo Alto to demand that funding for Palo Alto grade separation be included in the scope of funding for the proposed sales tax to support Cal Train...otherwise I will vote against it and support the opposition....

Blake Putney  
263 Whitclem Dr  
Palo Alto  
650-533-6852