

@ Caltrain • San Francisco to Gilroy, California

Project in Brief

Project:

Cycle-Safe Helps Caltrain Handle Ridership Renaissance to Silicon Valley

Location:	Caltrain Commuter Rail Stations from San Francisco to Gilroy (Silicon Valley)
Installation:	176 Cycle-Safe [®] bicycle lockers in Mountain View Palo Alto
First Cycle-Safe Purchase:	1983
Percent Still in Service:	100%
No. of Damaged Lockers Caltrain has:	30
No. of Damaged Lockers that are Cycle-Safe:	0

Since the early 1980's Cycle-Safe, Inc. has been working with Caltrain, one of California's main commuter railroad systems, to enhance their transit operation with secure bike parking. Caltrain, which has 35 stations from San Francisco to Gilroy, has become the main alternative to commuting by highway to Silicon Valley. As the area has continued to flourish, so has the need for a broad-based transportation system. Today Caltrain averages 32,556 passenger trips per weekday, this is a 39 percent increase since 1995, and the highest ridership the system has seen in 40 years.

In fact, Caltrain Spokeswoman, Janet McGovern, noted "We have been saying (that ridership) is approaching the heyday of the Southern Pacific (the rail's former namesake) in the 1940's and '50's. It's really a renaissance."

Caltrain first purchased Cycle-Safe bike station furniture in 1983. There are now a total of 176 Cycle-Safe storage systems installed at stations on the Caltrain line. Initially, the system purchased 100 lockers and distributed them among the following stations at Atherton, San Bruno, Lawrence, and Mountainview for installation. The City of Palo Alto, opted to purchase and install



12 Double access cycle-safe[®] two-tiered bike storage units (24 bikes) provide the ability to double bicycle parking availability without taking up more property

Cycle-Safe bike parking systems during the early 80's. Since that time additional lockers have been put in at stations in San Antonio, Belmont, and San Carlos.

The need for secure bike parking along Caltrain's line continues to grow. As acknowledged leader in bike access among commuter railroads, the system has worked hard to develop a diverse program, allowing cyclists the choice of securing their bikes in a locker or bringing them on the train. However, its success has become its biggest problem. The system has nearly 800 bike lockers, yet they have a waiting list for lockers at six of their stations and they carry almost 2,000 bike-toting cyclists each week-day. With only 21 cab cars (train cars that are specifically designed to carry bikes) available and a maximum of 24 bikes per cab, the system isn't able to serve bike-toting cyclists as well as they would like. And those riders who are not carrying a bike on may "bump" bike-toting cyclists, forcing them to wait half an hour or more until the next train comes along.



Caltrain, is however, striving to enhance their service. McGovern commented that Caltrain has, "a broad-based program. We've got bikes on the trains. We're encouraging people to use the lockers."

Part of their plan to improve the system includes the Ponderosa Project, which aims to improve facilities along its 50-mile main line. This includes increasing their capacity to better serve cyclists. The system is planning on adding six more bike passenger cars to its fleet, as well as 228 more bike lockers within the next two years. The increased availability of secure bike parking is also good news for those who elect to drive to the station, Tom Davids, of Caltrain noted, "by offering 772 bike lockers we are able to potentially free up 772 parking spaces."



In the Silicon Valley of California, 40% of those using bicycle lockers at rail stations leave bicycles in them overnight and use them to get from the station each morning to their nearby schools and employment

In order to further encourage cyclists to use the bike parking systems, the station is also offering a Two-for-one bike locker offer at some of its stations, allowing riders to rent two lockers for the normal price of one (\$30 for six months, plus a key deposit for each locker). Cyclists can store a bike at both ends of their trip and avoid the need to bring their bikes on board. Executives hope that this special offer will continue to

further encourage bicyclists to ride bikes to and from Caltrain stations, rather than board the trains with their bikes. So far, the Cycle-Safe bike parking systems have been very well received. According to Davids, the response to the Cycle-Safe lockers has been, "very good. We haven't had any damage or break-ins into the Cycle-Safe lockers," however, he noted, "the other types of lockers we have, have not held up as well." The system currently has 30 lockers that are damaged, none of which are manufactured by Cycle-Safe."

The lockers we installed at Caltrain stations in the early 80's, are part of our first production run, if that gives you any indication about the quality and durability of our systems," said Richard Hartger, President, Cycle-Safe, Inc.

"Caltrain executives can expect the set of lockers they most recently purchased, and installed, to hold up just as well, if not better. "

RESOURCE INFORMATION	WEB SITE ADDRESSES
<i>Caltrain Information</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.caltrain.com • www.caltrain.com/caltrain_locker.html
<i>Other Transit Systems using Cycle-Safe Lockers</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metrolink www.metrolinktrains.com • SEPTA www.septa.org • WMATA www.wmata.com • C-Tran www.c-tran.com/bike.html • New Jersey Transit www.njtransit.com • King County Metro http://transit.metrokc.gov • Tri-met www.tri-met.org/bikes.html • Strathclyde http://www.spt.co.uk

Visit these Bicycle Advocacy Sites on the World Wide Web

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| Assoc. of Pedestrian & Bike Professionals www.apbp.org | National Bicycling and Walking Clearinghouse . . . www.bicyclinginfo.org |
| Bikes Belong Coalition www.bikesbelong.org | Bike Alliance of Washington www.bicyclealliance.org |
| League of American Bicyclists www.bikeleague.org | Millennium Trails www.dot.gov/mtp |
| Bicycling Life www.bicyclinglife.com | National Trans. Enhancements Clearinghouse . . . www.enhancements.org |
| Bike Map www.bikemap.com | |

For more bicycle planning links visit <http://www.cyclesafe.com/Links>



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