

**Report of the Chair
TA CAC Meeting of June 4, 2024**

by Barbara Arietta, CAC Chair

On Saturday, May 11, “National Train Day”, Caltrain, celebrated its 160th Anniversary as a commuter rail train by hosting an Open House at the Caltrain Station in San Carlos.

The Caltrain rail system, which opened during the 19th century, remains the oldest continually operating railroad west of the Mississippi River.

The celebration, not only paid homage to the agency’s past, but, it also offered attendees the chance to tour the new electric train cars of its future.

More than 5,000 RSVPs were received by Caltrain for this third public tour of the agency’s new electric train cars, which are planed to go into operation later this year.

The 2024 San Carlos Tour event attracted even larger crowds than the first two events held in San Jose in July 2023 and San Francisco in September 2023, which drew more than 4,000 participants.

To help celebrate the Caltrain Electrification Project, Caltrain invited several elected political leaders from federal, state, county and city governments, as well as leaders from local businesses and agencies. A number of those representatives spoke at the Opening Ceremony.

Attendees enjoyed food trucks, and a live DJ, as well as the opportunity to play multiple games for prizes, as they awaited their chance to see the new high-performance electric rail cars that will be the future of Caltrain.

Operation of the new electrified Caltrain is planned to start in September 2024.

It is anticipated that any challenges presented by this new electrified Regional Commuter Rail will be met by the leadership at Caltrain, SamTrans, the San Mateo County Transportation Authority, the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, and the San Francisco Transportation Authority.