

connection

Oakland Coliseum Intercity Rail Station Celebrates Grand Opening

Capitol Corridor Trains Now Offer Easy Access To Games, Events at Oakland's McAfee Coliseum

On May 25, 2005, local officials, community members and the press joined the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority (CCJPA), the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Division of Rail, Oakland Redevelopment Agency and the City of Oakland to celebrate the grand opening of the new Oakland Coliseum Intercity Rail Station. Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown, Oakland City Councilmember Larry Reid (District 7 – East Oakland), CCJPA Vice Chair Forrest Williams, Caltrans Division of Rail Chief Bill Bronte and BART District Board of Directors Vice President Carole Ward Allen were among several speakers who addressed the community about the transportation benefits this improvement will provide.

“My mother lives in Ohio, and she won't fly on a plane,” Reid joked during his speech, “But she will take the train...I'll be expecting her to visit next month.”



Capitol Corridor train breaks through inaugural banner as it rolls into the new Oakland Coliseum station for the first time.



The Oakland Coliseum Intercity Rail Platform not only enhances regional and local community connections, but will also be used as a foundation for future land development in the area, creating a revitalized infill community. Located at 600 73rd Avenue, off of San Leandro Street, the new \$6.6 million facility is served by the Capitol Corridor with 14 trains daily.

Passengers using the platform can easily walk to the Coliseum BART station, McAfee Coliseum or the Oakland Arena via an accessible ramp that connects to a pedestrian bridge.

“The Capitol Corridor service, which runs from Sacramento to San Jose, will enable visitors to take a train to games and events at McAfee Coliseum and the Oakland Arena,” said City Councilmember Reid. “This additional transit option reduces the number of cars being driven to the Coliseum area, thereby

continued on inside

Message from the Managing Director

The Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority (CCJPA) is now in its seventh year of existence. Back in 1998, the administrative management of the Capitol Corridor trains was transferred from Caltrans to the CCJPA. It was unique then, and it is still the only regional entity responsible for managing an intercity passenger rail service anywhere in the country.

With more than 1.2 million annual passengers, the Capitol Corridor is the third busiest route in Amtrak's entire national system. That's nearly three times the riders that we had in 1998. Our on-time performance is 85%, still less than where it needs to be, but the best of all Amtrak services in the West. We recover about 45% of our cost-of-service from fares, significantly better than the barely 30% recovery in 1998, and well on the way towards meeting the state's 50% criteria. For the last 5 years we have managed the service within a flat allocation of state funds, yet we have been able to self-finance almost a 50% increase in the number of trains we can offer you to ride.

Next on our agenda? More service choices, particularly on the San Jose end of the line. Next Spring, when Union Pacific finishes the currently 'nearing-completion' double-track work between Oakland and San Jose, weekday service will increase from the eight current trains to at least fourteen, and possibly more. Plans are also being developed to expand train service between Oakland and Sacramento beyond the current 24 weekday trains increase to 32 trains. Unfortunately, due to freight congest-

tion in and around Roseville Yard, Union Pacific is unable to approve any added trains at this time east of Sacramento.

There are other improvements we are planning with Union Pacific along the route, all designed to improve your ride quality, travel time and reliability of service. In order to keep pace with cost changes for fuel, and to help finance the expanded services, we have had to implement regular fare increases, but we have tried to keep them in affordable bites of around 5%.

Our CCJPA office exists to serve you, the riders of this now very busy Northern California intercity passenger rail corridor. Effective October 1, we are opening a locally based call center to provide you with focused, regional customer service. The new toll-free phone number 1-877-9-RIDECC (or 1-877-974-3322) was established specifically for the Capitol Corridor and its riders.

We continually strive to offer you quality service and value with every trip you take on the Capitol Corridor. My personal thanks to each and every one of you for your loyalty and patronage.



*Eugene Skoropowski
Managing Director
Capitol Corridor Joint
Powers Authority*

AJR-18: Strong Bi-Partisan "ProRail" Support by State Legislature

Capitol Corridor Chair Roger Dickinson, on behalf of all the state's intercity rail corridor organizations, offered his thanks to the California Legislature for adoption of Assembly Joint Resolution 18 (AR-18). AJR-18 was adopted by both the Assembly and Senate of California, putting the elected legislators of both parties of our state firmly on record as supporting adequate funding for Amtrak's national network of trains, as well as strong support for our state-funded intercity passenger rail network, operated by Amtrak. These state-supported trains include the Capitol Corridor, the San Joaquin route and the Pacific Surfliner route.

This joint resolution was introduced by Assemblymember **David Jones** (D-Sacramento) with co-authorship by Assemblymember **Tim Leslie** (R-Tahoe City). Senate sponsors were Senator **Christine Kehoe** (D-San Diego), Senator **Abel Maldonado** (R-Santa Maria), and Senator **Denise**

Ducheny (D-San Diego). "The adoption of this bi-partisan resolution is most timely, as the United States Congress is addressing Amtrak's budget for next year, its reauthorization and a proposal to provide a program of federal matching capital funds for states like California, which so far, have had to fund these rail services ourselves, with 100% voter-approved state dollars," said Dickinson. "We will be taking this message back to Washington as evidence of support for adequate funding for Amtrak by the highest legislative body of the most populated state in our country."

Dickinson added, "We all owe a debt of gratitude to our California legislators for having the vision and leadership to enact this consensus resolution in support of our state's, and our nation's, passenger rail service. I urge all our riders to send them a personal 'thank you'. We will also be publicly recognizing their leadership on this issue."

Your Safety, Our Priority

Capitol Corridor Continues Investing in Passenger Safety & Security

As the managing agency, Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority (CCJPA) wants your trip to be on time, relaxing and, most importantly, safe. Your safety and security are top priorities for Capitol Corridor, which is why we are continually improving existing security features and taking additional steps to keep you, our passengers, safe.

The CCJPA has invested its own funds to improve security for our passengers, employees and facilities. Below are the latest in a series of improvements to raise the level of passenger safety and security at our stations:

- Solar-powered emergency call boxes installed at several unstaffed stations and parking lots
- Uniformed security guards posted at the Oakland maintenance facility and selected stations
- Designated security desk with a uniformed guard at the Sacramento station
- Installation of additional lighting and security cameras at stations and parking lots
- Working with local law enforcement to increase police presence at stations, parking lots and on board trains

This security program extends beyond just physical station improvements. We also want to educate our passengers to be aware of potential security threats. Signs posted at all stations and on board all trains encourage passengers to be aware of their surroundings and report any suspicious packages or activities to station agents or train crew.

The CCJPA wants you to know that your safety and security are always of the utmost importance to us. Ultimately, it takes everyone's cooperation in working together to make these measures effective.



Be aware. Be involved. Be safe.

If you notice a suspicious-looking package or bag, report it to the Conductor or Station Agent. Or, call Amtrak Police at 1.800.331.0008 or 911. Keep an eye out. Keep the trains and stations safe for everyone.



Oakland Coliseum, continued from cover

reducing traffic congestion and improving air quality.”

Three passenger shelters along the 450 foot-long platform protect patrons from the elements, and an adjacent surface lot has 35 parking spaces. The facility has a sustainable storm water bio-filtration design.

A public art installation entitled “Bottom of the Ninth” enlivens the ramp that connects the platform with the pedestrian bridge. The artwork, created by Horace Washington, is comprised of 13 different sculptural figures playing baseball.

This station's design criteria established a priority for compatibility with local and regional transportation providers:

- BART transit trains
- Oakland International Airport AirBART shuttle bus service
- Sporting and entertainment events at the Coliseum
- AC Transit buses to East Bay and San Francisco destinations

The Coliseum Intercity Rail Platform is a result of a collaborative effort involving a large group of agencies with both local and regional objectives in mind. The project was funded by the City of Oakland's Redevelopment Agency, California Department of Transportation, CCJPA and Alameda County Congestion Management Agency.

Shows & Expos –

The perfect way to spend a Saturday

Whether it's for business meetings and tradeshow, or just an afternoon outing to check out some of your favorite hobby conventions, the Capitol Corridor can take you to some of the Bay Area's largest convention centers to be part of the fun. Arrive at the Convention on time without the hassle of traffic or parking.

Take the train to your next convention! Check out some of the local Convention Centers and the upcoming events you can take the train to, then plan your trip at www.capitolcorridor.org.

SANTA CLARA CONVENTION CENTER

www.santaclara.org * 408.748.7000
5001 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara

Closest Capitol Corridor Station: Santa Clara/Great America
Getting There: Exit the station and walk West down Tasman Drive. The Convention Center is attached to the Westin Hotel. The Santa Clara Convention Center is located at 5101 Great American Parkway on the northeast corner of Tasman and Great America Parkway. It is about a 10 minute walk from the train station.

Upcoming Events:

October 13th to October 16th 2005

Pacific International Quilt Festival

10am – 5pm

Over 700 quilts and garments will be on display throughout the Festival's four days. The Vendor Mall features over 150 booths offering everything from quilts and garments to all the supplies and equipments used in making them including sewing machines, fabric, threads, accessories, notions and much more. This year's Festival also features over 60 workshops and lectures presented by our international teaching staff.

General Admission – \$12
www.quiltfest.com

November 17th to November 20th 2005

Santa Clara Coin, Stamp and Collections Expo

11am – 7pm

The Santa Clara expo, with 5,000-8,000 public attendees, provides a venue for dealers, mints, collectors, and numismatic and philatelic organizations to gather, do business, market new products, present educational exhibits. Representatives of the American Numismatic Association and the Professional Numismatists Guild along with many other prominent authorities in their collectibles fields are featured speakers at educational forums and club meetings.

General Admission – \$8.00
Children 7 and Under – Free
Seniors 65 and Up – \$4.00
www.santaclaraexpo.com

MOSCONE CENTER

www.moscone.com * 415.974.4000
747 Howard St., San Francisco

Closest Capitol Corridor Station: San Francisco – Moscone Ctr
Getting There: Take the train to Emeryville, where you will be transferred to a Motorcoach connection and taken directly to the Moscone Center.

Upcoming Events:

November 19th to November 27th, 2005

San Francisco International Auto Show

10am – 10pm

Featuring over 40 of the world's major manufacturers displaying their 2005 model cars, SUV's, trucks and vans...almost 800 vehicles in all. You will see everything from concept cars to classic cars, from street rods to Hybrid/Alternative Fuel Vehicles!

General Admission – \$8
Children 12 and under – Free
www.sfautoshow.com

OAKLAND CONVENTION CENTER

www.marriott.com/OAKDT * 510.451.4000
1001 Broadway, Oakland

Closest Capitol Corridor Station: Richmond
Getting There: Take the Capitol Corridor to the Richmond Station. From the platform, take the stairs leading down to the BART station. Take a BART train bound for San Francisco/Daly City or Fremont. Exit at the Oakland City Center/12th Street Station. The Convention Center is located in the Marriott at 1001 Broadway, where 10th and Broadway intersect. Don't forget you can purchase discount BART tickets ahead of time at the Café Car onboard the Capitol Corridor.

Upcoming Events:

November 5th to November 6th, 2005

Bay Area Bead Extravaganza 2005

10:00 am – 5:00 pm

The largest two-day bead show on the West Coast with over 140 vendors, including over 80 studio artists.

General Admission – \$7
www.beadextravaganza.com

Stitch 'n Ride Takes Train By Storm

Amidst the clicking of laptop keyboards and the faint strains of music escaping from headphones, you should start listening for a new sound aboard the trains – the gentle click of knitting needles.

Why knitting, you ask? Actually, you shouldn't be surprised. You can see knitting needles poking out of everyone's purses these days, from the young twenty-something hipsters to high-powered business women, and you can even find them occasionally in the hands of the brave male. It's been unofficially declared that knitting is not just for doilies anymore, and the knitting revival has taken bars, cafes, movie theaters, and now even Capitol Corridor trains by storm.

This past spring, Capitol Corridor sponsored a weekly Stitch 'n Ride program designed to bring knitters of all skills and ages together to sit and knit while riding the train. This was a chance for riders to learn new techniques from experienced knitters, get free knitting patterns and meet fellow riders who share their interest.

To kick off the three-month Stitch 'n Ride program, Debbie Stoller, author of the popular *Stitch 'n Bitch* knitting books, rode the Capitol Corridor for the inaugural trip. Every Tuesday thereafter, the Camellia City Stockin'ettes Knitting Guild graciously donated their time and talents by teaching passengers a variety of how-to projects.



Stitch 'n Ride proved to be a successful program, providing passengers with a fun way to pass the time on the train. We've got more craft and knitting events coming, so visit our website at www.capitolcorridor.org for details.

Loyal CC Rider Deployed to Iraq

by Robert Conheim
"Lord Mayor", CC Riders

Rob Canfield is a loyal member of the CC Riders, a group of business professionals who enjoy each other's company during their daily trips aboard the Capitol Corridor. CC Riders aren't surprised by Rob's loyalty—it has been proven many times over by his years of service in the U.S. Naval Reserve.

By July 18, his 40th birthday, Rob was back on active duty in Baghdad, Iraq repairing and maintaining robots used to destroy bombs and explosives planted by insurgents and terrorists. You can get a first-hand glimpse of



CC Riders (L to R) Toni Tidman, Chuck Robuck, Marilyn Sommerdorf and Rob Canfield party it up during Canfield's on-board sendoff bash.

the war in Iraq by following Rob's tour of duty at his blog, where Rob shares non-classified comments and pictures of life and action in Iraq.

Engineman First Class, Surface Warfare Qualified Canfield is also special member of the CC Rider "Family." He provides, free of charge, the CC Rider email list service and website through the web-hosting company he owns, Combie Lake Internet Service (www.combie.net).

Before his deployment to Iraq, the CC Riders gave Rob a heartfelt sendoff at one of their (in)famous on-board parties aboard Train 538 on June 23, 2005. Along with members of his family, hordes of inveterate CC Rider party-goers wished Rob "fair winds and following seas." Fellow Capitol Corridor riders are already planning his coming-home party for a year from now.

For four years Rob has ridden the Capitol Corridor train between Auburn and Davis, where he works as a technology professional for the University of California. He holds several professional certifications from international standard-setting organizations, such as Microsoft and CompTIA.

Visit www.ccriders.us to learn more about the CC Riders, a passenger network set up and managed by a group of regular Capitol Corridor riders. You can also email Rob at racanfield@yahoo.com during his tour of duty or visit his blog at <http://spaces.msn.com/members/racanfield>.

Capitol Corridor on the Fast Track to Change



CAL Football 2005 Season

All aboard for another winning season! This year, avoid the traffic and take Capitol Corridor to CAL football games. Enjoy great college football, awesome views of the Bay Area, and the spirit and tradition of Memorial Stadium. Home games include Sacramento State, Illinois, Arizona, Oregon State, Washington State, and USC.

Getting to the stadium from Capitol Corridor is easy. Take Capitol Corridor to the Richmond station and transfer to BART by walking, or taking the elevator, downstairs. You can purchase discounted BART tickets aboard Capitol Corridor trains in the Cafe Car. BART will drop you off at the Downtown Berkeley station.

The stadium is an easy 10-minute walk through campus, or you can catch the Bear Express, a free shuttle to the stadium.

For more information, visit the Capitol Corridor website at www.capitolcorridor.org or check out www.calbears.com.



Keep an eye out for some changes at our stations and on board our trains that will make your experience with Capitol Corridor easier and more enjoyable. We listen to your suggestions, and we're making changes. You may have seen some of the improvements already:

Wi-Fi On Board

Wireless Internet (Wi-Fi) is on board the Capitol Corridor! Our Wi-Fi pilot program allows passengers to check email, chat online and enjoy digital entertainment or surf the Internet from the comfort of the train. Currently, our Wi-Fi enabled cars rotate among different trains, giving all passengers a chance to test the service. Visit www.capitolcorridor.org to find out when Wi-Fi will be on your train!

Real Time PIDS

PIDS, or Passenger Information Display System, are located at every Capitol Corridor station stop. These signs display real-time updates so you can check the status of your train. PIDS also provides messages about Capitol Corridor service and programs.

Café Car

Due to popular demand, the Smoked Turkey Sandwich with Swiss and the Miller Hot Dog are here to stay on the menu. This fall we're introducing a tasty addition to our menu – Maui style chicken adobo over rice. You'll need something to wash that down, so we've expanded our selection of beverages to include select microbrews such as FatTire Amber, Pyramid Ale and others. You can also buy discounted BART tickets. The well-trained, professional staff welcome the opportunity to serve you when you visit the Capitol Corridor Café Car.

That's not all! We've got more exciting changes that we'll unveil soon. Here's a sneak peek at what's in the works:

New Call Center

Effective October 1, 2005, CCJPA will initiate our next phase of improved customer service by opening a locally based call center. The new phone number is 1-877-9RIDECC (1-877-974-3322). What this means for our passengers is improved customer care with local representatives who are familiar with the Capitol Corridor service, route and connecting transit options. Localizing the call center also results in a cost savings that ultimately translates into more amenities and improved service for you.

Outdoor Quik-Trak Machines

Look for outdoor Quik-Trak machines to start appearing at station platforms near you in Spring 2006! Capitol Corridor unstaffed stations, such as Auburn, Rocklin, Roseville, Berkeley, Oakland Coliseum and Santa Clara/Great America, will soon have outdoor Quik-Trak machines enabling passengers to buy both single and multi-ride tickets at those locations. The new Quik-Trak machines will make purchasing tickets much more convenient for passengers traveling along the Capitol Corridor route.

The Capitol Corridor Connection is the passenger publication of The Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority (CCJPA)
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1-877-9RIDECC
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