



TA Community Advisory Committee

Meeting of January 6, 2026

Correspondence as of December 26, 2025

Subject

1. article to share
2. Caltrain's electric fleet more efficient than expected

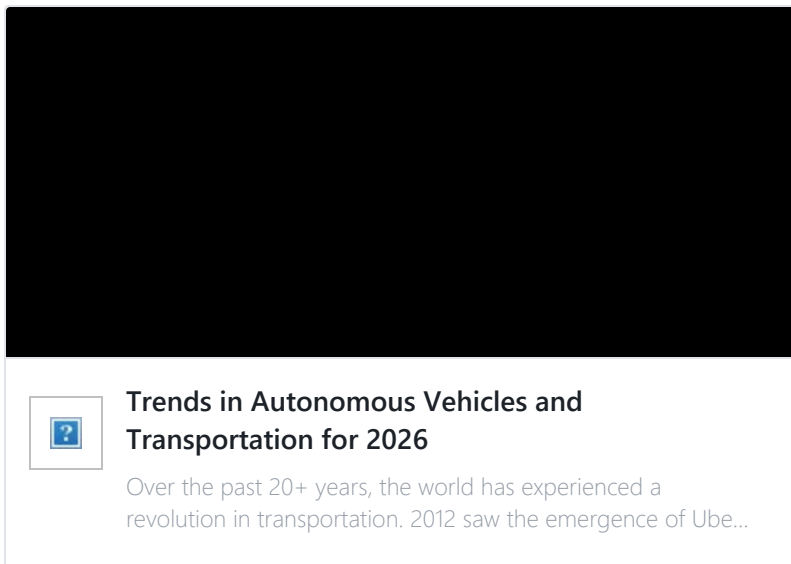
From: [Karen Kuklin](#)
To: [Peter Skinner](#); [cacsecretary \[@smcta.com\]](mailto:cacsecretary[@smcta.com]); [Patrick Gilster](#)
Subject: article to share
Date: Friday, December 19, 2025 9:11:37 AM

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders.

Hi all,

I thought this might be interesting to share with the CAC - Patrick knows Billy well - you all probably do! Former client ...article on AI trends for 2026.

[Trends in Autonomous Vehicles and Transportation for 2026](#)



Best
Karen

Karen Cribbins-Kuklin
E: Karen.Kuklin@att.net

From: [Richard Hedges](#)
To: [Board \(@smcta.com\)](#)
Cc: [cacsecretary \[@smcta.com\]](#)
Subject: Caltrain's electric fleet more efficient than expected
Date: Friday, December 26, 2025 12:57:49 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders.

MASS TRANSIT

Join Now

Login

Promoting best practices for integrated mobility

FUELING & PROPULSION

Caltrain's electric fleet more efficient than expected

Thanks to Caltrain's regenerative braking, the agency is revising electricity cost estimates from \$19.5 million to \$16.5 million annually.

Related To:

[Caltrain](#)

Jan. 24, 2025



Caltrain notes its electrified service runs on 100 percent renewable energy.

Caltrain is reporting that its [new electric trains](#) are outperforming the agency's original projections. Announced during the monthly board of directors meeting, the agency reported that regenerative braking on the new trains is generating and sending back to the electric grid approximately 23 percent of the energy consumed by the system.

Originally estimated to cost approximately \$19.5 million annually, Caltrain's electricity use since the [launch of electric service](#) averages 207 MWh on weekdays and 175 MWh on weekends, revising cost estimates to \$16.5 million. With the agency expecting approximately \$6 million annually in energy credits from the California Air Resources Board's Low Carbon Fuel Standard Program, Caltrain says the first year of electric service will have lower fuel costs than the previous diesel service. Currently, Caltrain is providing that power to the grid free of charge, as there is no legal requirement for the agency to be reimbursed for the energy generated.

Regenerative braking works by driving an electric motor in reverse to recapture energy rather than losing it as heat during braking. Caltrain's fleet is designed to return that power to the Overhead Contact System, which feeds it to the nearest traction power facility. From there, it can be used to power other trains on the system or returned to the grid.

"Caltrain is running its service on 100 percent renewable energy and is returning nearly a quarter of that energy to the grid," said Caltrain Executive Director Michelle Bouchard. "The new electric fleet is delivering on its promise of state-of-the-art service, living up to our mission of providing sustainable transportation that enhances quality of life for everyone."