



www.sfbike.org

An 8,000 member non-profit organization promoting the bicycle for greener and healthier transportation

For Immediate Release
January 9, 2008

Contact: Leah Shahum
415-431-2453 x306
Andy Thornley
415-431-2453 x307

New Bicycle Valet Service Opens at SF Caltrain Station

*Warm Planet Bikes to provide free, secure bicycle storage
to Caltrain's booming bicycle ridership*

New facility funded by region's largest transportation agencies

SAN FRANCISCO – Transportation officials and sustainability advocates from around the Bay Area will officially launch the **grand opening of San Francisco's first free-standing, attended bicycle parking facility this Wednesday at 11:30am at Caltrain's 4th and King St. station**. Operating out of a new 1,600 sq. ft. structure, Warm Planet Bikes will provide free, secure bicycle parking to Caltrain's booming bicycle ridership.

The grand opening will feature speeches by local politicians and the heads of the region's largest transportation agencies, such as Caltrain Board Member and SF Treasurer José Cisneros, MTA Executive Director Nathaniel Ford, and SFCTA Executive Director José Luis Moscovich.

The new bike valet station is a response from Bay Area leaders to the growing demand for sustainable transportation choices. As gasoline prices have shot up, and amid growing concerns over global warming, more and more people are combining bicycling and transit. Caltrain's bicycle ridership has increased 2.8% over the past year, to where 1 in 15 Caltrain riders are bicycle commuters. Caltrain, known nationally as a leader in promoting multimodal bike/transit trips, reports that cyclists now constitute nearly 7% of their weekday ridership.

Funded by grants from the region's largest transportation agencies (see breakdown next page), Warm Planet Bikes will accommodate over 130 bicycles to serve commuters travelling down or up the Peninsula. In addition, Warm Planet Bikes will offer bicycle repair services for a fee and a retail store.

Secure bicycle parking is now an integral part of the Bay Area region's intermodal transportation network, with well-established parking facilities at BART stations (Embarcadero, Berkeley and Fruitvale). Caltrain has secure bike shelters at its Palo Alto, Mountain View and Menlo Park stations, and bike lockers are available at 27 Caltrain stations. Wednesday's opening of Warm Planet Bikes symbolizes the growing relationship between bicycling and transit.

The Warm Planet Bikes bike valet station is the culmination of over 6 years of advocacy by the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition. Says SFBC Executive Director Leah Shahum, "This has been a commendable group effort from local and regional transportation agencies pro-actively working to deal with the Bay Area's increasing traffic and congestion. Caltrain and the Bay Area have long been leaders in promoting sustainable transportation choices, and the opening of the new bike valet service is the latest, greatest example of ensuring that more people can combine biking and transit to get around the region in a healthy, sustainable, and convenient way."

Warm Planet Bikes is located at 311 Townsend St. (at the 4th and Townsend Caltrain Station). They are open Monday through Friday from 7am to 8pm. For more information go to: <http://www.warmplanetbikes.com/>

#####



**Grand Opening of New Bike Valet Service at Caltrain's San Francisco Station
January 9, 2008**

Warm Planet Bikes Grand Opening Event Details:

What: Bike Valet Grand Opening Celebration at Caltrain's San Francisco Station

When: Wednesday, January 9, 2008, 11:30am

Where: Warm Planet Bikes, 311 Townsend St., at the 4th and Townsend Caltrain Station, San Francisco

Cost: Free

Web: <http://www.warmplanetbikes.com>; http://www.caltrain.com/info_bicycles.html

Featuring: Celebratory ribbon cutting; Speeches from regional transportation officials and local politicians; Open house of the new facility; Complimentary lunchtime snacks.

Warm Planet Bikes: Funding breakdown

Who contributed and how much (full agency names below):

Caltrain bike valet station Design and Construction

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Fund source</u>	<u>Amount</u>
SFCTA	Transportation Enhancement Activities (TEA) San Francisco Share	\$554,000
SFCTA	Transportation Fund for Clean Air (BAAQMD) Program Manager Funds	\$200,000
MTA	TDA-3 (City/County of San Francisco)	\$46,000
Total		\$800,000

Caltrain bike valet station Operations (3 years)

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Fund source</u>	<u>Amount</u>
MTC	Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Program (RBPP)	\$300,000
SFCTA	Prop K Sales Tax	\$39,000
Total		\$339,000

Source: SFCTA

SFCTA = San Francisco County Transportation Authority

MTA = San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency

MTC = Metropolitan Transportation Commission

BAAQMD = Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District)



Caltrain & Bicycles: Ridership Numbers

Ridership counts are conducted on a single weekday in February. Every passenger on every train is counted. The counts have taken place in Feb. since 1994. There were no schedule or service changes in the last year, so comparing 2007 numbers to 2006 is an “apples-to-apples” comparison. This is unlike 2004 and 2005, when there were drastic changes to Caltrain service: in 2004, Baby Bullet express was introduced and in 2005, the service was “reinvented” with more express service.

The Feb., 2007, count showed 2,334 bike boardings. This is a **2.8% increase** from the Feb., 2006, count of 2,271.

Feb. 2007: Top Five Stations (total bicycle commuters per station)

San Francisco	442
Palo Alto	273
Mountain View	233
Redwood City	163
San Jose Diridon	134

Feb. 2007: Top Five Trains (total bicycle commuters per train)

#217 (7:57 a.m. SJ – serves Gilroy)	52
#267 (4:39 p.m. SJ)	51
#158 (307 p.m. SF)	45
#323 (5:45 a.m. SJ)	43
#220, 227, 280	42

Source: Caltrain

Bicycling in San Francisco: David Binder Research Poll, November 2007

According to a survey conducted by David Binder Research, November 27-28, 2007:

Who is riding a bicycle now?

5% say the bicycle is their *primary* method of traveling in San Francisco

12% say they ride a bike in San Francisco more than once a week

A total of **24%** polled say they ride a bike in San Francisco at least a few times a month

Reasons to support cycling:

75% say City government should do more to encourage bicycling as a routine form of transportation in San Francisco

68% say City government should invest in forms of transportation that are more environmentally friendly than the private car, such as biking, walking and public transportation

73% say that increasing the number of bicyclists helps reduce global warming

82% say that increasing the number of bicyclists helps improve public health

62% say that increasing the number of bicyclists helps ease traffic congestion in the city