
Subject: Sprinter Trains shut down over brake problems

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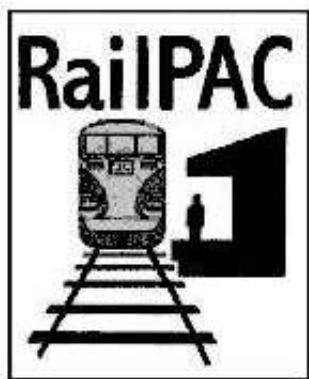
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RailPAC Weekly E-Newsletter for March 11, 2013

Edited by Noel T. Braymer

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Rail Passenger Association of California
www.railpac.org
Traffic? Gas Pains? We need more Trains!



This is one of two busy crossings between the platforms at the busy San Diego Depot with Amtrak, Coaster and San Diego Trolley at downtown San Diego. Photo by Noel T. Braymer

[Social Media Solution Sought for Pacific Surfliner Ridership](#)

KCOY.com-Mar 5, 2013

The State of California and Amtrak believe social media like Facebook and Twitter could actually convince more people to take the train.

The California Department of Transportation has hired a PR firm to promote train ridership by increasing Amtrak California's Facebook fans and Twitter followers by at least 25 percent a year for three years in the \$9 million contract.

Its an easy sell for some and made to order for others like Chris Rivas and the Station Grill.

"Definitely, Amtrak is a plus in the area", Rivas says, "it doesn't bring tons and tons of people in right now but it will get better."

[Survey shows what patrons most want from an improved Union Station](#)

Posted March 7, 2013

In a recent survey, Metro recently asked patrons what they would like to see in an improved Union Station. Among the upgrades requested:...

[Amtrak to run higher speed trains on Fort Lewis short cut](#)

KING5.com- Mar 5, 2013

LAKEWOOD – For riders aboard Amtrak passenger trains, a new train route along Interstate 5 through Fort Lewis would be a shortcut and would shave minutes off trips between Seattle, Tacoma and Portland.

For people who live in communities like Tillicum, the trains threaten to add noise and blocked grade

crossings.

[Amtrak to get \\$12M increase under Illinois budget](#)

ABC7Chicago.com- Mar 9, 2013

The (Bloomington) Pantagraph reported that the 46 percent increase would bring total spending to \$38 million for routes from Chicago to St. Louis, Carbondale and Galesburg.

California now pays over \$30 million each a year for all three State supported trains for a total of around \$100 million. This Federal Law could raise the cost of the Surfliners up to \$50 million. The point of this Federal Law was to drive States to contract with private operators to run their trains which can run these services for less than Amtrak. These operators already do this for commuter trains. The reason private companies can charge less is they don't have the high amount of overhead that Amtrak has. NB

[Amtrak Ridership Increases, But Denver Sees A Drop](#)

KUNC-by Nathan Heffel-Mar 4, 2013

Six metro areas saw a decline in ridership between 1997 and 2012, Worcester Mass. and Denver were the only cities nationwide to lose more than 20 percent of their annual riders. The report states the decline in the Mile High City may partially be attributed to the loss of the Pioneer, a cross country train from Seattle to Chicago.

[Speed and Ridership](#)

Report by Noel T. Braymer

With the constructions of new roads and improved airline service the conventional wisdom was that the railroad's problem were largely the result of losing money because of declining passenger traffic. This ignorance by the general public about the American Railroad industry continues to this day....

Building a railroad was central to developing land in the 19th and early 20th Centuries. Carrying passengers was necessary to bring people to this open land to buy land for new farms from the railroad and to buy houses on railroad land and land for businesses from the railroad. Selling land gave the railroads the money to pay for building the railroad. As farms, towns and business took root in what had been sparsely populated areas this developed freight traffic for the railroads which was more profitable than passengers.

[Operation Lifesaver: Rail trespass deaths, injuries on the rise](#)

Progressive Rail Roding-Mar 5, 2013

While the number of vehicle-train collisions and injuries at highway-rail grade crossings decreased in the United States last year, the number of crossing-related fatalities remained flat and rail trespass deaths and injuries increased, according to Operation Lifesaver Inc. (OLI).

A major problem along rail rights of way are people using trains for suicide and careless people walking on the tracks which are why so many people are getting killed. I can't remember the last time a train jumped off its tracks and went chasing after people or cars. Programs like Operation Lifesaver to educate people, increased law enforcement and security on rail rights of ways, barriers like cactus gardens and stepped up suicide prevention programs will be needed to control this problem. NB

[Anaheim Transit Center Project Center Humming With Construction Activity](#)

Orange County Breeze

Interested in viewing the progress? Cameras are tracking the construction, with images from the same vantage point uploaded every 15 minutes, thanks to ARTIC construction contractor Clark Construction. Visit www.ARTICinfo.com and click on the "Real Time Construction Site Photography" button to link to the images.

ARTIC will provide service to Anaheim and Orange County's more than 40 million annual visitors, as well as Orange County's three million residents, and will house 10 different transportation modes when it opens, including Metrolink, Amtrak, OCTA bus service, taxi, bicycle, international buses and tour and charter buses. ARTIC is also planned for future modes of transportation services, as well as retail, restaurant and office space, making it a multi-purpose civic space.

[Disney Expansion Plans Are Reason For Streetcar Proposal](#)

Voice Of OC updated Mar 7, 2013

West Katella Avenue and West Ball Road Ball, which border the park, are "beyond capacity," Murray said. "If we're ever going to see a third gate at Disneyland," she said, "we need to get cars off the road."

[Council OKs Up To \\$352 Million For Downtown Streetcar](#)

Los Angeles Times Mar 6, 2013

The Los Angeles City Council approved up to \$352 million Wednesday to maintain a streetcar that would run from the Civic Center to the Convention Center.

[Diridon Rail Station plans to transform downtown San Jose into 'Times Square of Silicon Valley.'](#)

San mateo county times- Mar 6, 2013

The Diridon Station Area Plan would add nearly 5 million square feet of office space, 420,000 square feet of retail, roughly 2,600 residential units and 900 hotel rooms to a 240-acre area that includes HP Pavilion. Most of the office space would be situated to the north in an "innovation district" that city officials hope will

[Caltrain agreement fails to pass rail authority vote](#)

Silicon Valley Business Journal - Mar 7, 2013

A "memorandum of understanding" between the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board and seven other groups involved in high-speed rail failed to pass at a California High-Speed Rail Authority meeting Wednesday.

[Peninsula agency approves 'blended approach' plan for high-speed ...](#)

San Jose Mercury News-by Bonnie Eslinger- Mar 7, 2013

A Peninsula transit agency Thursday approved an agreement that affirms the California High-Speed Rail Authority's commitment to run its bullet trains only on Caltrain's two tracks between San Francisco and San Jose.

By adopting the memorandum of understanding, the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board essentially replaced agreements it made with the state agency in 2004 and 2009 that called for bullet trains on four tracks. That plan worried many residents and leaders of mid-Peninsula cities because private property along the train corridor would have had to be seized for the extra two tracks.

Most of the Caltrain right of way is wide enough for 4 tracks and there are stretches that already have 4 tracks. NB

[Foothill Extension Update: Pasadena To Azusa Connection Right On Schedule For 2015](#)

San Marino Tribune Mar 4, 2013

This is the third and final design-build contract needed to complete the nearly billion dollar Pasadena to Azusa project, and keeps Metro on budget and on schedule for delivering the light rail project to Metro in 2015.

[Gold Line Authorities Approve Azusa-Montclair Extension](#)