Pasadena Star-News Mar 7, 2013

The approval Wednesday night starts the wheels in motion for initial conceptual engineering work to be completed with construction possibly beginning in as early as three years.

At present, however, this new work is not fully funded, said Lisa Levy Buch, a spokeswoman for the authority, which must now raise the funds for such work.

California Transportation Commission dolls out \$100 million to state rail projects

Railway Track & Structures- Mar 8, 2013

Of the \$333 million, approximately \$100 million will go to 10 rail-related projects from grade separations to light-rail projects to the implementation of Positive Train Control (PTC).

Metrolink Representative Wins ATPA Call Center Challenge Finals

Metrolink Mar 1, 2013

LOS ANGELES – Metrolink's Lauren Whetsel won the 2013 Call Center Challenge Finals held Tuesday at the Omni Los Angeles Hotel as part of the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Marketing and Communications Workshop.

Metrolink begins making financial repairs

Los Angeles Times- Mar 8, 2013

Reacting to a scathing internal review, Metrolink officials are moving to correct serious accounting problems that led to the recent resignation of ...

SMART Contractor Offers \$10000 to Fix "Treegate" at Los Robles

Patch.com-Mar 6, 2013

The Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit construction project manager and contractor met with over 100 residents of the Los Robles mobile home park hoping to deliver good news — offering money to replace trees and raise fencing, in response to last month's brouhaha over the trees that were removed near the tracks without notification.

But the good news was nearly overshadowed by an audience that was fired up to discuss another issue — the placement of a double-track passing site that will run along the front of the primarily senior community.

San Diego's SPRINTER rail celebrates 5 years

Metro March 1, 2013

Launched in 2008, the SPRINTER has become the backbone of east/west public transit in North County, serving 15 stations along a 22-mile route from Escondido to Oceanside. The rail line has seen record-breaking ridership in recent months, with averages of over 10,000 passengers per weekday.

Sprinter rail may halt for brake repairs

U-T San Diego- Mar 7, 2013

The closure would come as the rail line approaches its five-year anniversary on Saturday.

SPRINTER Rail Service To Shut Down Due To Bad Brake Rotors

KPBS- Mar 8, 2013

North County Transit District's SPRINTER rail line, which runs between Escondido and Oceanside carrying 7,800 passengers a day, will be taken off the tracks at midnight Friday for 60 to 120 days to replace worn brake rotors. The NCTD said it is developing bus replacement services...

Tucker says the companies under contract failed to report the issue of the non-compliant brake rotors to North County staff when it was first discovered, and added that the California Public Utilities Commission had no other major findings during the recent inspection.

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Railroad documentary to air on PBS March 10

Uinta County Herald- Mar 8, 2013

EVANSTON: Independent documentary producer Tom Manning paid a visit to the Herald office recently to discuss his most recent production, End of Track, the story of the development of the Union Pacific rail line from Cheyenne to Evanston in the 1860s.

U.S. Railroads To Invest \$24.5 Billion In 2013

Journal Of Commerce Mar 5, 2013

Edward R. Hamberger, president and CEO of the Association of American Railroads, today told the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's subcommittee on railroads, pipelines and hazardous materials that the nation's freight railroads plan to spend a record \$24.5 billion in private funding on the network in 2013.

LA harbor commissioners OK rail yard near port

Los Angeles Times-Mar 7, 2013

The proposal to create a huge staging center for trains hauling freight from the Port of Los Angeles has raised questions about environmental justice, particularly for the adjacent poor and working-class neighborhoods of west Long Beach. There, residents already live in an area known as the "diesel death zone" because of port-related air pollution.

BNSF to test LNG use in road locomotives

Metro March 6, 2013

BNSF has been working with the two principal locomotive manufacturers, GE and EMD, a unit of Caterpillar, to develop the natural gas engine technology that will be used in the pilot.

The use of natural gas as a transportation fuel results in the emission of fewer greenhouse gases and particulates than diesel fuel.

Also LNG will be cheaper than diesel fuel now and into to the future. NB

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This is the "Welcome Sign" at San Diego for Coaster and Trolley Passengers who no longer can get to their trains going through the station but now must walk around it to get to the platforms, Photo by Noel T, Braymer

Opinions expressed in this enewsletter are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Rail Passenger Association of California.

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