

DigitalJournal.com (press release)- Mar 13, 2013

Norwich-based specialty travel company Holidays By Rail grows its North American product line with the addition of five new rail-cruise holidays across the USA and Canada, bringing the number of land and sea combination trips offered by the company to more than 30.

### [Quinn proposes Amtrak boost](#)

Galesburg Register-Mail-Mar 12, 2013

It's far from reality at this point, but part of Gov. Pat Quinn's budget proposal is to increase funding for state-supported Amtrak service by \$12 million — a 46 percent jump that would bring total funding to \$38 million — for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

### [Amtrak will help fund cleanup outside Penn Station](#)

Baltimore Business Journal-Mar 14, 2013

The city's spending board approved a contract with Amtrak that calls for the government-owned rail company to help fund for the first time the ...

### [Amtrak halted after freight derailment in Conn.](#)

Boston.com-Mar 17, 2013

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP) — Amtrak has provided alternate service after a freight train derailment in the New Haven area forced service to be suspended along the busy New York-to-Boston corridor.

### [NTSB: Niles Amtrak Derailment In October Human Error](#)

WSJM-Mar 11, 2013

The NTSB says required safety precautions were not taken by railroad employees during maintenance and repair activities both in Niles and in Madison, Illinois.

### [More People Taking Public Transportation, L.A.'s Metro System Leading The Way](#)

Los Angeles Daily News Mar 11, 2013

Record numbers of Americans ditched their own cars and took public transportation in 2012, resulting in the nation's second highest annual ridership since 1957.

The American Public Transportation Association said Monday some of the largest increases occurred in Los Angeles, where the popular Expo Line opened last April...

### [Temporary Bus Lines Announced After Sprinter Light Rail Shuts Down](#)

KPBS-by Nicholas McVicker-Mar 10, 2013

Two temporary bus lines will shuttle passengers across North County for the next two-to-four months, as light rail passenger service on Sprinter trains will be disrupted due to emergency brake repairs, transit agency officials said today.

### [Why Do People Quit Riding Transit? It's the On-Board Delays, Stupid](#)

Streetsblog Capitol Hill (blog)-Mar 11, 2013

Researchers at the University of California at Berkeley are zeroing in on what irks transit riders so much they stop riding...

Above all, they found, transit riders really don't like to wait in the middle of a trip.

**No secret that you lose about half your ridership if there is a transfer, particularly a long wait to transfer. NB**

### [OCTA Directors React to Metrolink Audit](#)

VoiceofOC-Mar 12, 2013

“Based on the documentation provided, it is not clear that Metrolink staff even has a clear idea about what funds member agencies owe,” states the internal report, which was prepared by a committee of the Metrolink board. “The committee is concerned that this is a microcosm of Metrolink staff’s record keeping across the board.”

### [Trolley Buff Guides Others Down The Tracks Of Memory](#)

Los Angeles Times Mar 11, 2013

Once there was a little boy who rode Henry Huntington's trolleys. Now that fact alone is enough to draw a crowd to hear him speak.

Even today, people want to hear about the trolleys, especially the Red Cars — how at their peak, they crisscrossed four counties on more than 1,000 miles of track, why they disappeared, what L.A. would be like if they were still running today.

### [Metro's Van Nuys Boulevard, Sherman Oaks-To-San Fernando Light Rail Plan Opening To Public Comment](#)

Los Angeles Daily News Mar 9, 2013

VAN NUYS -- What may become the San Fernando Valley's first new light rail passenger train are among options going before the public later this month.

Metro has begun soliciting public comment on proposals to possibly improve north-south transit options, generally along Van Nuys Boulevard, between Sherman Oaks and the City of San Fernando.

### [Work to begin March 20 on new Expo Line bridge over Venice Boulevard](#)

Mar 13, 2013

This is a big part of the project. The existing phase 1 ends at an aerial station just shy of crossing Venice Boulevard.

### [Caltrain/VTA To Host Transit Open House in Gilroy](#)

Patch.com-Mar 13, 2013

Caltrain and the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority will host an Open House at the Gilroy Caltrain Station/VTA Transit Center, 7150 ..

### [GE Races Caterpillar on LNG Trains to Curb Buffett Cost](#)

Bloomberg-Mar 6, 2013

That may provide another opportunity for GE, which makes equipment it says can liquefy natural gas at any point along a distribution network. GE sold two of the so-called MicroLNG units to Seal Beach, California-based Clean Energy Fuels last year to help create a coast-to-coast network of LNG fueling stations for trucks.

### [Class I railroads rate the state of positive train control](#)

Progressive Rail Roding- Mar 15. 2013

"From an industry perspective, 2015 is really not achievable," says Tom Schnautz, director of advanced train control systems for Norfolk Southern Railway.

**The railroads have most of the PTC hardware, but say they are having trouble with the software  
NB**

**Table 2.1 – LOSSAN Weekday Passenger Rail Corridor Traffic and Traffic Increase Assumptions**

Operator	Line	2011 Base Line	2014 Proposed Service	2030 Proposed Service
COASTER	Coast	22	28	40
Metrolink	Coast	0	1	0
Metrolink/COASTER	LA-SD*	0	3	10
Metrolink/COASTER	IE-SD*	0	0	4
Metrolink	Orange County	19	16	18
Metrolink	OC Intra-County	0	10	14
Metrolink	IEOC	14	16	24
Metrolink	91/Perris Valley	9	12	32
Metrolink	Antelope Valley	30	30	46
Metrolink	Burbank-Bob Hope	11	11	0**
Metrolink	Ventura County	20	20	36
Metrolink	Ventura-Santa Barbara	0	2	8
Amtrak	Pacific Surfliner (All Stop)	21	22	28***
Amtrak	Pacific Surfliner (Limited Stop)	1	2	8***
Amtrak	Coast Starlight	2	2	2
Amtrak	Southwest Chief	2	2	2
Amtrak	Sunset Limited	0	0	2
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>151</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>274</b>

## We Get Email

### Re: "Speed and Ridership" Post

One almost incidental but very critical observation by Noel in his recent editorial: "Many people who live in major metropolitan areas rarely or never travel to the central city near where they live...." This comment is absolutely true, and becoming more the case every year as suburban development occurs. From personal experience, I have been through Los Angeles many times over many years and never once used LAUS as the desired origin or destination point. Currently I am forced to use Sacramento as an origin or destination from time to time due to lack of connections, but it is certainly not the point of choice. When I lived in the Bay Area many years ago I used SFO and OAK airports and Amtrak occasionally, but only under duress as the only option available. While there are certain segments of the population who choose to live in downtown areas, most of us do not and I would postulate that the majority of us who live in outlying areas despise the very thought of driving to downtown San Francisco or Los Angeles for transportation connections. The trump card held by rail is the ability to serve suburban and intermediate stations, whether by direct intermediate & long distance trains or by carefully coordinated all-stops locals with limited stop express services. Flying will always be faster than rail in the LA/SF-type markets and if potential rail travelers are forced to endure the hostilities of downtown terminals the airplane will win. Speed is not the only, nor even the most important consideration.

Ralph James

**I lived 18 years in Los Angeles near LAX. I remember back then it was an old joke "if there was life east of the 405 Freeway?" among people who lived on the West Side. I talked to a guy once at a party back then who was from Long Island which is part of the metropolitan area of New York City. I asked him about taking the train Back East. He was repulsed by the idea in particular of the thought of going into Manhattan. French National Railroads (SNCF) has just recently started a new service called OuiGO. Oui means yes in French but Go is not a French word and saying oui go sounds like WE GO which is a bi-lingual play on words. The purpose of this new service is to boast ridership of TGV trains from stations in the suburbs of major French Cities. Today there is**