
Subject: Has Amtrak started a War with cyclists over the Surfliners?

From: Rail Passenger Association of California (noelnoelt@cox.net)

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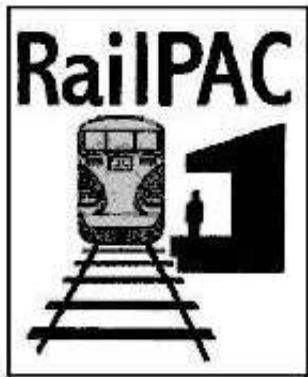
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RailPAC Weekly E-Newsletter for May 13, 2013

Edited by Noel T. Braymer

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If you would like to subscribe to the E-Newsletter just send me your name and email address to nbraymer@railpac.org



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



This is construction of viaduct for the Expo Line extension to Santa Monica over Sepulveda Blvd near Pico in West Los Angeles. This 6.6 mile project should open by 2016 and the \$1.5 billion dollar price tag reflects the several elevated crossing needed over busy West LA area streets. Photo by Noel T. Braymer

[Arizona Railway Museum in Chandler will celebrate National Train Day](#)

Arizona Republic-May 7, 2013

The Arizona Railway Museum's 2013 National Train Day on ... which bills itself as the “largest railroad museum between California and Texas,” ...

[Free, Historic, Fun: National Train Day](#)

NBC Southern California May 7, 2013

Little conductors and adult train buffs make for Union Station.

[Amtrak station hosts National Train Day events Saturday](#)

Herald and News- May 10, 2013

National Train Day events will be offered at the Klamath Falls Amtrak Station from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, according to a news release.

[Volunteers sought for Amtrak program](#)

Herald and News- May 9, 2013

An Amtrak train leaves Klamath Falls on its way to Eugene. The Klamath County Museum is seeking volunteers interested in serving as docents ..

[Amtrak launches safety video for kids](#)

Railway Track & Structures- May 10, 2013

The eight-minute video is available at Amtrak.com and YouTube and can be used as an educational outreach tool. In addition, it will be shown ...

[American Maglev Trains Still Stuck At The Station](#)

EarthTechling-May 6, 2013

The seemingly magical magnetic-levitation (maglev) train, cruising at ultra-high speeds a few inches above the track rather than on it, is capable of hitting 250 to 300 mph because there's no friction.

There is friction from air pressure. Wind resistance or drag is a major factor the faster planes, trains or automobiles travel the more energy they need to go faster. This is why airplanes rarely go at top speeds at low altitudes but cruise at high speed at high altitudes with low air pressures and reduced wind resistance. Can't do that with Maglev on the surface. NB

[Exclusive First Look at Transbay Transit Center Construction](#)

Curbed SF-May 6, 2013

It will be completely enveloped in glass perforated aluminum, and house all major regional bus lines, Caltrain, and maybe, eventually, possibly, ...

[All Points: High-speed rail](#)

Fort Worth Star Telegram-May 6, 2013

A Japanese-backed company, Texas Central High Speed Railway Llc., wants a high-speed rail line between southeast Dallas and Houston.

[Amtrak to Wichita](#)

KWCH-by John Boyd- May 10, 2013

National Train Day is tomorrow, but supporters of passenger rail in Wichita will get a jump on it today. They're holding a press conference this ...

[Wichita, OKC, KC mayors sign joint letter of support for OKC-Wichita ...](#)

Wichita Business Journal (blog)-May 10, 2013

The mayors' letter says, in part, "The fulfillment of our ultimate economic success is seriously hampered by the passenger rail 'service gap' between Oklahoma City and Wichita. The absence of this vital link is a crucial deficiency in a transportation system anchored by Interstate 35 from San Antonio to Kansas City."

[CHSRA awards Balfour Beatty \\$120-million management contract](#)

Railway Track & Structures- May 9, 2013

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) has awarded a two-year, \$120-million contract extension to Parsons Brinckerhoff, Balfour Beatty's professional services division, for program management services on the California High-Speed Rail project.

[Bike to Work Day benefits whole city](#)

San Francisco Examiner-May 6, 2013

So there's reason to cheer as employers make more space for bike parking, as well as at BART and Caltrain stations and on-street bike parking ...

[Metrolink to offer free train ride to bicyclists on Bike to Work Day](#)

Metrolink News Thursday May 9, 2013

Metrolink will celebrate Bike to Work Day on Thursday, May 16, by offering free train rides to Southern California commuters who bring their bicycles on board Metrolink trains.

[Amtrak's Pacific Surfliner to Require Fee/Reservation For Bikes](#)

Curbed - May 7, 2013

The Surfliner, which runs from San Luis Obispo to San Diego, "serves the most popular bicycle tourism route in the country, so it's frustrating to see Amtrak California antagonizing what would otherwise be one of its most loyal customer bases," says Eric Bruins of the LA County Bicycle Coalition.

[Amtrak's Pacific Surfliner Adopts Wildly Anti-Bicycle Policy](#)

Streetsblog Los Angeles (blog)-May 7, 2013

Starting on June 1, the Amtrak Pacific Surfliner service connecting San Luis Obispo to San Diego by way of Los Angeles is adopting a new policy that will make life harder for anyone planning on biking to or from the train. The policy is so onerous for bicycle commuters, one has to assume it's intentional.

This policy of requiring reservations and charging for bikes on the Surfliners could prove a public relations nightmare for LOSSAN and Amtrak. There are problems providing enough places for bikes on trains. Some of this can be solved with bike rentals and improved storage of bikes at stations. Part of the problem is any bike shop owner could design a more efficient way of storing bikes on trains for more bikes with less space than is usually found on trains. Some of the older equipment on the Surfliners were not built for bikes which is part of the problem. The combination of bikes and trains makes for an efficient and fast way to travel using much less energy and land than by auto. One fact stands out, there are far more people riding bicycles than trains. For proof go to any supermarket newsstand and look for magazines on trains and you will rarely find any. But at this same supermarket newsstand you will find 3 or 4 bicycling magazines. These magazines are for serious cyclists such as long distance road bike riders or extreme mountain bike riding. NB