
Subject: Metrolink: Raise Ridership Not Fares for More Revenue

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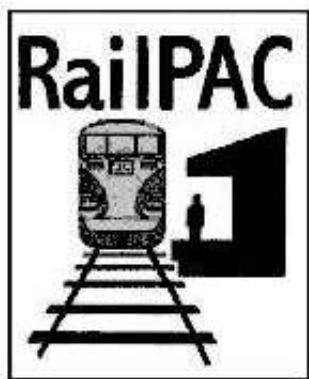
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RailPAC Weekly E-Newsletter for May 28, 2013

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!



The view from the top level of one car on Metrolink Train 850 from Oceanside to Riverside on May 24, 2013 leaving Santa Ana. This is a typical scene on this train which usually has light ridership. This train gets little marketing or mention that it has a connection but without joint ticketing with the Coaster from Stan Diego. Photo by Noel T. Braymer

[Metrolink to conduct public outreach process for potential fare policy changes, a fare increase](#)

Friday May 17, 2013

LOS ANGELES – The Metrolink Board of Directors approved staff to initiate a public outreach process for potential fare policy changes and a potential fare increase as one element to help close an existing \$14.5 million funding gap for Fiscal Year 13-14 budget. Additionally, a Title VI Disparate Impact and Disproportionate Burden Policy Thresholds will also be considered.

The public will be asked to give feedback regarding an average system-wide fare increase of up to 7 percent, which would go into effect on or after July 1, 2013.

As a recipient of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding, Metrolink is required to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and to carry out the United States Department of Transportation's Title VI regulations. Comments and suggestions on the proposed fare increase, fare policy changes and Title VI policies may be submitted orally or in writing at a public hearing to be held on June 14, 2013 at a meeting of the Metrolink Board of Directors or submitted in advance (by June 12, 2013 at noon) of the public hearing by clicking on the "eComment" option at www.metrolinktrains.com/ecomments.

Comments can also be submitted by mail in advance of the public hearing by sending feedback to the attention of "Metrolink Fares" at the SCRRA headquarters located at One Gateway Plaza, Floor 12, Los Angeles, CA or faxed to the attention of "Metrolink Fares" at (213) 452-0429 . No public comments will be considered after the public hearing scheduled for June 14, 2013 begins.

[Metrolink: Raise Ridership Not Fares for More Revenue](#)

By Noel T. Braymer

With about 18 million potential passengers in Metrolink's market, it is barely scratching the surface with about 50,000 passengers on a good day. There is no mystery how to increase rail passenger revenue. Train revenue increases with longer routes serving as many markets as possible by selling more of the highest priced and longest distance tickets. The next best thing are good connections with other trains and connecting buses to increase the number of markets for each train. Lastly it is important to keep trains in revenue service as much as possible. Transportation services sells time on seats, that is its inventory. When a train sits idle during the day or runs with empty seats that is the same as a supermarket throwing out rotten food. Markets discount food prices to sell it before throwing it out. Businesses when they need cash have a sale. They need to clear out inventory and get cash for it. Commuter train service is inefficient because outside of weekday rush hours the seats are usually empty. Trains cost money standing still, so it is better to have trains running earning revenue. Before raising fares Metrolink needs a business plan to increase revenue with increased ridership.

[Truck crash may have caused Washington state bridge collapse](#)

Reuters May 24. 2013

The truck, after the accident, rumbled across the bridge safely before a portion of the structure collapsed, sending two vehicles and a mass of concrete and steel into the river on Thursday evening. Three people had to be rescued, officials said.

[Washington Bridge Collapse: 759 Bridges In State Have Worse ...](#)

Huffington Post- May 24, 2013

There are more than 700 bridges in Washington State with worse sufficiency scores than the bridge that collapsed into the Skagit River on .

[Amtrak adding 1 daily round trip n. of Seattle](#)

MyNorthwest.com May 24, 2013

In a statement Friday, Amtrak, the Washington Transportation Department, Sound Transit and BNSF Railway said they're working together to add the service.

[US infrastructure spending has plummeted since 2008](#)

Washington Post (blog)-May 24, 2013

California's transportation spending declined by 31 percent from 2007 to 2009, for instance. Texas's fell by 8 percent. At the same time, ...

Infrastructure is expensive and isn't profitable to own. But it is critical to economic health and prosperity. What holds back passenger rail service in this country is largely the state of rail infrastructure. The definition of a third world country and poverty is lousy infrastructure. NB

[Two freight trains collide in Missouri, bringing down overpass](#)

Reuters- May 25, 2013

By Tim Bross. ST. LOUIS | Sat May 25, 2013 11:45pm EDT. ST. LOUIS (Reuters) - Two freight trains collided at a rail intersection in rural Missouri on Saturday, triggering the collapse of a highway overpass when at least a dozen rail cars derailed and struck a ...

It appears that a UP train ran a red light and broadsided a BNSF train which derailed and knocked down the highway overpass. Could PTC have prevented this? And will the UP be charged for the damages to the highway? NB

[Holiday weekend to begin with heavy travel](#)

San Bernardino Sun- May 23, 2013

Transportation Safety Administration officials at airports throughout Southern California say those who are heading to the airports should expect ...

[Californians expected to reduce holiday weekend air travel](#)

Sacramento Bee-May 22, 2013

AAA projected that slightly more than 4 million Californians plan on traveling 50 miles or more over the three-day weekend, a 2.1 percent decline from last year.

Another holiday and reduced rail passenger service instead of holiday special service to provide economical alternatives to crowded and often dangerous highways. NB

[Metro-North to Resume Full Service](#)

New York Times-May 21, 2013

Full service for both the Metro-North Railroad and Amtrak is expected to return on Wednesday morning to the area affected by the train collision ...

[Crumpled Railcars Led To Designs Saving Commuters' Lives](#)

Bloomberg May 21, 2013

The Connecticut crash between two Metro-North Railroad commuter trains injured 76 people out of about 700 passengers with no immediate fatalities. Casualties would have been worse if lawmakers and regulators hadn't acted to improve car safety in recent years, said a safety advocate who helped write the laws.

The design changes came out of the Gunpowder Junction crash in Maryland on Jan 4th 1987 when a Conrail freight trains ran a red light and an Amfleet trains got hit by it. NB

[Dogs On Amtrak Bill Would Allow Pets On Trains](#)

Huffington Post- May 22, 2013

The Pets on Trains Act of 2013 would reverse standing policy prohibiting animals from being brought on trains unless they are traveling with people with disabilities. Its bipartisan co-sponsors -- Rep. Steve Cohen (D-Tenn.) and Rep. Jeff Denham (R-Calif.) -- fully acknowledge that they are personally vested in ensuring its passage.

[Amtrak mulls Amarillo route](#)

Amarillo.com- May 25, 2013

A Burlington Northern Santa Fe freight trains rolls past the old Amarillo train depot. Amtrak officials are considering rerouting its Southwest ...

[Comet Cars not seen in a glowing light by newly formed San Joaquin Joint Powers Board](#)

Report by Bill Kerby, RailPAC Treasurer

The San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (SJJPA)... met in the City of Sacramento's old city hall on May 24th.

[Amtrak Extends CEO Boardman's Contract for Two More Years](#)

Bloomberg- May 23, 2013

Amtrak, the U.S. intercity passenger railroad, extended the contract of Chief Executive Officer Joseph Boardman for another two years, with the board saying it's pleased with his performance.

[Why California, Nevada and Arizona are the best places for High Speed Rail](#)

By Noel T. Braymer