

This isn't just my opinion. The Brookings Institute, a Washington based "Think Tank" came to this conclusion in a paper it released in October 2009. This paper is titled "**Expect Delays: An Analysis of Air Travel Trends in the United States**" by Adie Tomer and Robert Puentes. Looking at air corridors under 500 miles that carried the most people that could be handled by High Speed Trains as quickly as by air, the Brookings Institute found the top three air corridors for High Speed Rail were Los Angeles to San Francisco, Los Angeles to Las Vegas and Los Angeles to Phoenix. This didn't count air travel from Los Angeles to San Jose or Sacramento or air travel from San Diego to San Francisco, San Jose, Sacramento, Las Vegas or Phoenix which would add millions more passengers.

### [GOP, Amtrak Debate Responsibility For Long-Distance Train Routes](#)

The Hill May 21, 2013

"Year after year these routes lose money," Rep. Jeff Denham (R-Calif.) said during a hearing of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee after acknowledging Amtrak's gains in ridership on its shorter routes...

He criticized the company for not meeting reporting requirements for the financial performance of its longer routes, however.

"[The Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008] requires Amtrak to develop and post on its website performance improvement plans for its long distance passenger routes and implement those plans for its worst performing routes," Denham said. "This all was supposed to be done by 2012.

However, as we all know, long distance has been losing more and more since PRIIA became law."

**For all we know the long distance trains may not be losing all that much money either. The point is with Amtrak accounting we can't know. NB**

### [Congressional panel to scrutinize high-speed rail at Madera meeting](#)

Fresno Bee- May 24, 2013

The head of the California High-Speed Rail Authority is being asked by a congressional subcommittee to provide a detailed account of how the state agency plans to spend more than \$3 billion it has received from the federal government.

Dan Richard, the authority chairman, is one of a half-dozen witnesses invited by Rep. Jeff Denham, R-Turlock, to testify at a hearing Tuesday in Madera. Denham leads the House Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials, which is part of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

### [Michael Lomio: Fast-rail a big step forward](#)

Merced Sun-Star-May 21, 2013

Project is pricey, but well worth cost

Since Californians approved Proposition 1A in 2008, there has been tremendous effort put into designing and planning the high-speed system. Now, it is poised to become a reality.

### [Rail projects mean thousands of jobs](#)

Stockton Record-May 22, 2013

STOCKTON - There are roughly \$2 billion in passenger rail construction and improvement projects coming in the next year, including at least \$300 million of spending earmarked for small businesses, for the Bay Area and Central Valley.

### [High speed rail may be stopping at Shafter, for now](#)

Bakersfield Californian- May 25, 2013

A proposal by Bakersfield officials for a "time-out" on California's high speed train through town may be gaining traction. The California High ...

**Planning for High Speed Rail construction south of Shafter would be put on hold as Bakersfield**

**gets more time to hash out issues for planning in town, the trains will still go to Bakersfield.NB**

### [A \\$750 Billion Infrastructure Bank -- With No Federal Funds](#)

Transportation Issues Daily May 19, 2013

The legislation creates the American Infrastructure Fund (AIF). It would be funded by the sale of \$50 billion worth of Infrastructure Bonds which would have a 50 year term, pay a fixed interest rate of 1%, and would not be guaranteed by the U.S. government.

### [Behind the scenes at Grand Central Terminal](#)

Video Duration: 04:31

New York's Grand Central Terminal is celebrating its centenary.

### [BART Board to Discuss Bike Rule Changes Thursday Evening](#)

Patch.com- May 22, 2013

BART officials are recommending the board approve changes to the transit system's rules that would allow bicycle riders to use BART trains during commute hours on all but the first three cars of a train.

### [With little wiggle room, Muni trusting controversial contractor for ...](#)

San Francisco Examiner- May 23, 2013

Operating under a tight schedule and even tighter budget, Muni is about to hand over its \$1.6 billion Central Subway plan to a man who has a contentious history with The City and a reputation for exceeding project costs.

### [Caltrain to begin using new elevated track in San Bruno](#)

Progressive Rail Roding-May 23, 2013

Caltrain will mark a milestone on Sunday when southbound trains departing the San Bruno, Calif., station will travel on new, elevated grade for ..

### [Mayor-Elect Eric Garcetti to join Metro Board of Directors on July 1](#)

May 22, 2013 by Steve Hyman

Mayor-Elect Garcetti will take the oath of office on July 1 and, at that time, also be awarded an automatic seat on the Metro Board, the 13-member body that oversees Metro and has the final say on many of the large decisions made by the agency

To put it another way, the Metro Board which projects to build and where to build them and also approves the agency's budget each year. The proposed budget for fiscal year 2013-14 is \$4.891 billion. As mayor, Garcetti will also have the opportunity to appoint three others to the Metro Board. One of those three is usually a member of the Los Angeles City Council. The mayor plus the three appointees makes for a considerable voting bloc given that seven votes are usually needed to approve items before the Board.

### [\\$40-Million Leimert Park Stop Gets Green Light From LA City Council](#)

NBC Southern California May 22, 2013

The Los Angeles City Council Wednesday approved \$40 million for the construction of a rail stop at Leimert Park on the Crenshaw Line. But, some transportation officials are worried that amount may not be the enough to get the job done.

### [First Plans Revealed For Rail From Union Station To Santa Ana](#)

Curbed LA May 22, 2013

Did you know there is a plan to develop the West Santa Ana Branch of the old Pacific Electric corridor into a public transit line with a projected ridership of 80,000 passengers a day? The Downey Beat reports

that a planning effort, led by the Southern California Association of Governments, has produced an Initial Executive Summary for a Alternatives Analysis Report (pdf) for the long-stewing plans (they've been floating around since 2002).

### [PERRIS VALLEY LINE: Local lawmakers push to circumvent judge's ...](#)

Press-Enterprise- May 23, 2013

Riverside County Supervisor Marion Ashley said he flew to Sacramento on Thursday, May 23, with Riverside County Transportation Commission Chairwoman Karen Spiegel and Perris Mayor Daryl Busch to meet with two Democratic lawmakers from Riverside County, State Senator Richard Roth and State Assemblyman Jose Medina.

### [Metrolink Commuters Delayed After Amtrak Train Crashes Into ...](#)

CBS Local-May 22, 2013

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO (CBSLA.com) — Close to 700 Metrolink commuters were delayed Wednesday after after an Amtrak train en route to ...

### [Dodgers and Metrolink The Rail Series May 27 and 28](#)

Los Angeles Dodgers- May 24, 2013

LOS ANGELES - The Dodgers and Metrolink have partnered on the Rail Series which will provide special round-trip service between ...



This is the view of a crossing on the old ATSF Harbor Line along Aviation Blvd by LAX. The line is out of service because of the construction of the Crenshaw Light Rail Line from LAX to the Expo Light Rail Line 8.5 miles to the north. Doesn't look like it will be available for future rail passenger service to downtown Los Angeles or the rest of the region. Photo by Noel T. Braymer