

volunteer guide. This will be his third ...

[Amtrak Subsidy Gone, States Must Pay the Freight to Keep Rail ...](#)

New York Times- May 3, 2013

The cost-sharing arrangement between Amtrak and the states, mandated by a 2008 law, is designed to reduce federal support for Amtrak, which has received nearly \$40 billion in taxpayer subsidies since its founding in 1971, and has never made a profit. Last year, the railroad got about \$1.4 billion in federal money for its operations, rail maintenance and equipment purchases.

[Amtrak to get \\$30.2M in federal aid for Sandy repairs, flooded train ...](#)

Hunterdon County Democrat - NJ.com- May 3, 2013

Amtrak is getting \$30.2 million in federal disaster aid for damage caused by Hurricane Sandy along the Northeast Corridor, including reimbursement for pumping seawater from flooded rail tunnels under the Hudson River...Amtrak has six tunnels — four under the East River and two under the Hudson.

[Amtrak Rolls Out Updated Exhibit Train](#)

Amtrak News Release May 2, 2013

Making its first stop at Railroad Days 2013 in Fullerton, Calif., the Exhibit Train features new displays including workable signals, virtual sleeping accommodation tours and trivia with returning favorite displays including the locomotive stand and horns.

[A Magical Ride on the Overland Trail](#)

Santa Barbara View- May 1, 2013

Something magical happens when you step aboard the Overland Trail, one of only 120 Amtrak-certified private rail cars in the United States. You are immediately taken back to a nostalgic era when rail was king.

[A simple way to increase Rail Passenger Miles](#)

By Noel T. Braymer

The Department of Transportation keeps records on many elements of this country's transportation system...

What these numbers show is in terms of passenger miles, rail passenger service has a long way to go to be significant. For years cars and light trucks which include SUV's have produced well over 80 percent of total passenger miles of all travel modes. Air travel for years has carried around 10 per cent of all passenger miles while rail passenger service carries less than one percent of all passenger miles.

The key to producing passenger miles is to carry many people a long distance.

[California's Population Nears 38 Million](#)

Los Angeles Daily News May 2, 2013

Statewide housing growth up 27 percent in 2012

But after years of flat numbers during the recession, the rate of growth is starting to pick up, with the state's additional 298,000 residents representing an increase of 24 percent over the previous year's rate, driven largely by the improving economy and the state's growing number of housing units - particularly apartments and condos, according to state demographers.

[California tax revenue yields multibillion-dollar surplus](#)

Los Angeles Times-by Chris Megerian-May 2, 2013

SACRAMENTO — California has been flooded with revenue this tax season and is on track to finish the fiscal year with a surplus of billions of ...

[93% Of U.S. Transport Remains Reliant On Oil](#)

Face The Facts USA Apr 25, 2013

America's planes, trains and motor vehicles consume 13.6 million barrels of oil each day. Despite rising interest in alternative fuels, 93 percent of American transport still depends on petroleum. In fact, transportation is more oil-reliant than any other U.S. economic sector; 71 percent of our oil supply powers various types of transport.

[California Spearheads a Transportation Reformation to Curb ...](#)

Triple Pundit-Apr 30, 2013

A whopping 40 percent of California's greenhouse gas emissions come from the transportation sector. That is about one and a half times more than emissions from the power sector....Shifting transportation modes from driving alone to carpooling, biking, walking or transit has several valuable benefits. It reduces the number of cars on the road, lowers emissions and improves physical and mental well-being.

[Can California High Speed Rail Succeed?](#)

By Noel T. Braymer

The answer to that question will depend on the final evolution of this project. The California High Speed Rail Project has evolved in many ways just in the last 5 years. We can expect more changes to the California High Speed Rail Project before it is running.

[One Year Later, Who Is Riding the Expo Line?](#)

Neon Tommy- May 1, 2013

Simon said that in the long term, ridership has been slowly increasing on Metro's other rail lines, "Rail patronage has increased steadily almost every year since the first line opened in 1990; and not only because more lines came online – within each Line the growth has been steady and it has not reached a stable endpoint."

[Arcadia's Colorado Boulevard To Be Closed For Three More Weeks Due To Gold Line Bridge Work](#)

Pasadena Star-News Apr 30, 2013

Following the reopening of Colorado, construction of the Santa Anita Avenue bridge is now slated to begin at the end of May and continue for seven months

[Transit Agency's Revolving Door Costs Big. Causes Turmoil](#)

KPBS May 2, 2013

The turnover among upper management at the North County Transit District has cost hundreds of thousands of dollars and has, at times, put riders at risk. Inewssource calculated that 21 of the agency's top 25 positions have turned over since 2009 when Executive Director Matthew Tucker arrived. Some of the positions revolved as many as five times in three years.

[North County Rail And Bus Service Suffers Without Contract Oversight](#)

KPBS May 2, 2013

When Matthew Tucker came on board as head of the North County Transit District four years ago, the operation faced major budget cuts threatening its train and bus service.

Tucker cut 433 of 533 jobs, contracted nearly everything to private companies and took the bows for saving the agency...

Today, it's unclear exactly how much the outsourcing has saved the transit agency. And there are many in the industry who question whether it was worth it.

North County is still ultimately responsible for making sure the trains and buses run on time, meet consumers' needs, and are safe.

That's the part that hasn't gone so well.

[SPRINTER SHUTDOWN COSTS TAKE BIG JUMP](#)

U-T San Diego-by Chris Nichols-May 3, 2013

Costs related to the Sprinter train shutdown have increased sharply in recent weeks and could soon top \$3 million, according to a review of purchases approved by the North County Transit District.

What's wrong with Santa Margarita Bridge?

I was searching for information on the LOSSAN - Santa Margarita bridge project and stumbled across the following pdf on your site: <http://www.railpac.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/April-1-2013-Part-2.pdf>

On the very last page, there was a question posed regarding the progress of the SMR bridge. I too originally saw that the bridge was slated for completion for mid 2012, and then saw it become mid-2013.

Now, on the Keep San Diego moving website, they have revised it to mid-2014 as of April 2013.

In the NCTD Board of Director update (<http://www.gonctd.com/userfiles/file/BoardUpdate-04-24-13.pdf>), it is noted that the bridge had "sustained irreparable structural damage since construction in 2010" without any further reference to the damage other than "crews will work to remove the damaged support structure."

Right now, it looks like they are demolishing the entire beam structure that was completed over the last year and in the BoD update, it notes a completion date of Spring 2014.

"In advance of placing the new concrete deck for the new trackway, it was observed that portions of the temporary wooden supports or "falsework" for the bridge had failed. The falsework failed just prior to when the concrete for the bridge deck was to be placed.

To ensure the integrity of the original bridge design, the contractor has elected to remove and replace the elements of the superstructure that had been completed prior to the falsework collapse. The piers and footings of the bridge, whose foundations were installed to depths up to 220 feet below the river bottom, were not damaged by the falsework failure and will remain in place."

This would explain why the construction activity halted for so long.

Source: <http://www.keepsandiegomoving.com/Lossan/santa-margarita-schedule.aspx>

Respectfully,

Markus Quon.

Long time rider of Metrolink 605 and 602

[San Mateo: Caltrain holds meeting on replacement of four outdated rail bridges](#)

San Jose Mercury News-Apr 30, 2013

SAN MATEO -- Caltrain will hold a public meeting Thursday to inform residents in the North Central neighborhood about its plans to replace ...

[Bike storage site at Caltrain's Fourth and King station set for major ...](#)

San Francisco Examiner- May 1, 2013

The overextended bike parking facility at Caltrain's Fourth and King station is poised to receive an array of improvements, including new ...

[Caltrain ridership skyrockets](#)

Palo Alto Online- May 3, 2013

After years of seeking emergency funding to keep from drastically slashing services, Caltrain is on track to balance its budget in fiscal year 2014 after high ridership numbers this year, rail officials announced on Thursday.

[Bids To Build SF Central Subway Are \\$100 Million Over City's Estimates](#)

KALW Apr 26, 2013

The Central Subway will be a 1.7-mile tunnel under the heart of the city for Muni's T-Third light rail line. The subway will finally provide a connection from the up-and-coming South of Market neighborhood to densely populated Chinatown.

[RailPAC Rail Photos of the Month \(April, 2013\)](#)

Here are 5 photos by RailPAC photographers. Click on each photo to see it full size! Contributions to this page are welcome. Send your jpg rail photos to RailPAC Photo Editor, at info@railpac.org