
Subject: More Trains equal More Riders

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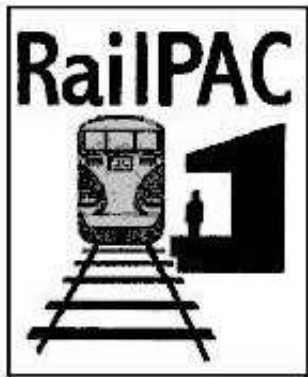
Date: Monday, June 24, 2013 9:30 AM

RailPAC Weekly E-Newsletter for June 24, 2013

Edited by Noel T. Braymer

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



The historic Glendale, California train station at night. Photo by Noel T. Braymer

[Our View: Denham errs with HSR comments](#)

Merced Sun-Star June 17, 2013

Rep. Jeff Denham, R-Turlock: He presented a list for where the \$6 billion should go: replace the Baltimore and Potomac tunnels, build a new Portal South Bridge, replace the Susquehanna River Bridge and the Gunpowder River Bridge.

"I believe the \$6 billion that was given to California high-speed rail could be better spent on such upgrades as these projects where they are both clearly identified and necessary beyond dispute," he said.

Here's the kicker. Denham was not just talking about the \$3.4 billion that the federal government awarded to California's high-speed rail project. **He threw in \$2.6 billion from California's voter-approved Proposition 1A bonds, appropriated by the Legislature last July for the first 130-mile stretch in the Valley. That's our state money... {emphasis added}**

Denham's constituents and residents across the state should demand more from their congressman. He should be representing the Central Valley, California and the transportation interests of the nation — not pitting the Northeast region against all others.

[Denham juggles national, local needs on House rail panel](#)

Fresno Bee Jun 20, 2013

WASHINGTON — High-speed rail has dominated the transportation debate in California in recent years, but the state has other passenger and freight rail needs that have received less attention, transportation experts say.

[House transportation bill denies high-speed rail funding in 2014](#)

Sacramento Bee- Jun 19, 2013

The bill from by the transportation subcommittee of the powerful House Appropriations Committee declares that "none of the funds made available by this act may be used for the California High-Speed Rail Program of the California High-Speed Rail Authority." The language conforms with the views of skeptics like Rep. David Valadao, R-Hanford, a member of the appropriations committee, Rep. Jeff Denham, R-Turlock, chair of the House railroad subcommittee and Rep. Kevin McCarthy, R-Bakersfield, the House majority whip. Denham said Wednesday his intent is to ensure that "Valley dollars stay in the Valley."... The California High-Speed Rail Authority has already received some \$3.5 billion in federal funds, and was not anticipating getting any more in Fiscal 2014. The high-speed rail language was included in a bill that, overall, provides \$15.3 billion for an assortment of federal transportation.

[House Budget Proposal Cuts Transportation Funding 15 Percent, Eliminates TIGER Program](#)

Transportation Issues Daily Jun 18, 2013

House Republicans are proposing a 2014 transportation budget that excludes TIGER funding, and slashes funding for Amtrak and some aviation programs.

[Poland's first Pendolino high-speed train off production line](#)

thenews.pl-Jun 18, 2013

"For 25 years, the maximum speed on Polish tracks has been 160 km per hour," noted Deputy Minister of Transport Andrzej Massel at a press ...

160 kilometers an hour is 100 miles per hour which is faster than any train now in California or most of the United States. The Poles intend by the end of next year to raise speeds up to 125 miles per hour and in the future to 143 miles per hour on improved existing tracks with tilt-trains. NB

[Is downtown holding 4 ACEs?](#)

Manteca Bulletin-Jun 17, 2013

Meeting the 2018 deadline would require Stanislaus County voters to impose a county-wide transportation sales tax as San Joaquin County has through Measure K.

It would cost \$161 million to extend ACE train service along the existing Union Pacific Railroad corridor through Manteca and into downtown Modesto as part of the first phase. The project includes 20.3 miles of track to essentially double track the corridor from Lathrop to downtown Modesto. The doubling tracking would cost \$40.6 million for construction while the 250 acres of right-of-way required is expected to cost \$50 million. Structures- such as bridges - would add another \$30 million while a signal system would cost \$40.6 million.

[High-speed rail ahead](#)

Visalia-Times-Delta Jun. 19, 2013

It's a green light to start building high-speed rail north of Fresno but red tape and legal wrangling will keep crews from turning dirt on the South Valley section any time soon.

[High Speed Train from Germany to UK Soon](#)

Rhino Car Hire-Jun 17, 2013

The plan has been under the microscope for over three years and a test journey was completed successfully in 2010 but it's still expected to take until 2016 for the first commercial service to start. Between now and then, final details of the route and logistics will be sorted out although it's believed that the train will be formed of sixteen coaches carrying a maximum of 888 passengers. The train will split in Amsterdam allowing half to go on to Cologne then Frankfurt whilst the other half will terminate in

Rotterdam.

[Britain, France face EU action over Eurotunnel charges](#)

Reuters Jun 20, 2013

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - The European Commission has given France and Britain two months to respond to a request to lower charges for passenger and freight trains using the Channel Tunnel, or face possible court action, it said on Thursday....

EU officials said if the charges were lower, the tunnel could make up the difference through increased freight traffic, forecasting a doubling of the amount of daily freight trains.

[Temporary Seattle-Bellingham Amtrak Cascades service ends as I-5 ...](#)

Access Washington-Jun 18, 2013

SEATTLE – With the temporary bridge nearly in place over the Skagit River and Interstate 5 soon back in business, the additional Washington State Department of Transportation-sponsored Amtrak Cascades service between Seattle and Bellingham will be discontinued.

[Amtrak: Track Problem To Blame For LIRR Derailment](#)

CBS Local- Jun 19, 2013

Specifically, Amtrak said a switch point protector guard became dislodged, and the wheels of the train left the tracks.

[Blumenthal calls on Amtrak to pay more for track upkeep](#)

New Haven Register- Jun 19, 2013

Connecticut pays far more than its fair share for maintenance of railroad tracks through the state and Amtrak should contribute more, according ...

[Lawmakers ask MTA to support Amtrak tunnel project](#)

The Journal News / Lohud.com- Jun 19, 2013

Eight state lawmakers from Rockland and Orange are calling on the MTA to financially back a \$15 billion Amtrak project that would build two ...

[John Mica Fed Up With Amtrak Gourmet Menu](#)

Talk Radio News Service- Jun 18, 2103

Amtrak trains featuring gourmet menus in their café cars are losing more than \$400 per passenger ticket, and a leading House Republican wants an investigation.

**First maybe Mr. Mica should learn something about Amtrak Accounting and how it assigns costs.
NB**

[Lawmakers push Amtrak to allow bicycles on trains, saying it would ...](#)

The Saratogian-Jun 17, 2013

SARATOGA SPRINGS — Tourism is already one of the Spa City's most lucrative summer industries. State, federal and local officials are touting a program that could make the area even more of a destination in the spring and fall, too.

[Old rail coaches will find new life on Amtrak's Valley route](#)

Fresno Bee- Jun 19, 2013

The new/old 64-seat, single-level Comet cars will initially replace 90-seat bi-level coaches on one of the four daily round trips by the San Joaquin trains between Bakersfield and Oakland. The bi-level "California cars" will be added to the other five daily trains on the San Joaquin route, including two that run between Sacramento and Bakersfield.