

Reid said Friday it is too early to turn off the lights.

"The administration has not permanently foreclosed the possibility of such an investment and I remain committed to working with them and with (principal developer) Tony Marnell and XpressWest to secure this vital investment for Nevada," he said.

### [High-speed rail service to Phoenix on track](#)

Tucson News Now- Jul 10, 2013

Federal funding for transportation projects is drying up and the competition is fierce.

So in this case, a public-private partnership is being encouraged.

"There are a lot of international equity firms out there looking for safe, long term investments in infrastructure in the country," Fairly said. "And this is an ideal corridor for them to invest in."

What makes it attractive is the potential for success.

A recent study released by the Arizona Department of Transportation shows by 2050, it will take 324 minutes to drive from Tucson to Phoenix. Taking a high speed train at 110 mph, will take 73 minutes.

### [Free Screening Inside Metro's Historic Los Angeles Union Station](#)

The Source Jul 9, 2013

For the first time ever, Metro and Downtown Film Festival L.A. will host a free public screening of the Oscar-winning 1974 neo-noir film Chinatown at historic Union Station on Saturday, July 20.

### [San Bruno residents anxious for completed Caltrain grade separation](#)

San Mateo Daily Journal-Jul 11, 2013

Constructing a lifted Caltrain track above the street level at San Bruno, San Mateo and Angus avenues has caused traffic and parking problems, and noise pollution for years. But for some longtime residents, dealing with years of inconvenience and safety risks will be well worth it.

### [Public decries loss of trees in San Mateo Caltrain project](#)

San Mateo Daily Journal-Jul 11, 2013

Caltrain's plan to replace four aging bridges in San Mateo got a mostly glowing review from the city's Public Works Commission last night but some members of the public do not like the idea of cutting down dozens of heritage trees to accommodate the project.

About 115 trees in Caltrain's right-of-way will have to be removed with about 70 of them being heritage trees based on trunk size.

### [Bay Area Rapid Transit police investigate amateur pornography ...](#)

The Republic-Jul 12, 2013

SAN FRANCISCO — Bay Area Rapid Transit police are investigating an amateur pornographic video apparently shot on a moving train.

### [Deadly French train crash at Bretigny-sur-Orge](#)

BBC News - Jul 12, 2013

Six people have been killed and more than 20 injured in a train crash at Bretigny-sur-Orge, south of Paris, French officials have said.

### [Loose rail connector 'may have caused' France crash](#)

BBC News- Jul 13, 2013

The train crash south of Paris which left six people dead may have been caused by a fault in the rail tracks, says the state rail company.



Recent view of construction from the train of the new Valley View Ave grade separation project. Photo by Noel T. Braymer

## We get Emails

### Re: PAJANIMALS

It is good to see that Amtrak is finally connecting with Jim Henson Productions with their children's programming. One of the best Jim Henson Productions children's programs is "Dinosaur Train" on Mon. through Fri. on most PBS TV Stations. If you like trains and dinosaurs (what little kid doesn't?), this is the program to watch. I am an old Kindergarten Teacher that never grew up and still am fascinated by trains and planes and other things that go.

Thanks for the good articles. We still miss our "Desert Wind"!

Grace Schmiedel

Las Vegas, NV

### Re: The Good and some Bad on Amtrak

My wife and I left San Bernardino, CA on 6/23/13 to begin a Guest Rewards train trip to Longview, TX. Metrolink 367 was on time into LAUS. After a wonderful meal on across the street, we settled down to a couple of hours of people watching before we could board the train. A breath of fresh air was an Amtrak employee Eric Richardson who was out in the middle of the station providing everyone with information as to train status, etc. He was energetic and appropriate. He did this right up to the time for us to board # 2 at 9:00 pm. If this is a new innovation, it is an excellent tool to keep travellers informed and Amtrak is to be commended. We decided to start our journey this way rather than board in Palm Springs which is the closest station to us. Boarding at 12:30 am at an unstaffed station was not appealing. The train was basically on time all the way into San Antonio, TX. There we had to change roomettes, since the train was so full, we could not get into the thru car transferred to the Texas Eagle. This was almost painless and

sitting in the San Antonio station gave us a change to meet more people. The train left San Antonio on time and we met La Shonda Hayes. She was our bedroom attendant and was bright, cheerful, capable and available. We have been riding Amtrak since 1986 and she is, without question, the best attendant we have ever had. She is a credit to Amtrak, defiantly a keeper. We arrived Longview, TX fifteen minutes late which I consider highly acceptable.

Left Longview on 7/1 to begin our journey home. Arrived in Dallas and Ft. Worth ahead of time. This bedroom attendant was almost worthless. As good as Ms. Hayes was, he was the opposite. No towels or water in the room and had the gall to knock on our door twice in the last hour or so of the trip into San Antonio to ask if we had any garbage. Got the impression he wanted to get home asap. We have travelled the Eagle about six times over the years and found the service and the food to be less than satisfactory. This trip was no exception. If not for Ms. Hayes, it would have been less that satisfactory. Could not wait to get back on the Sunset where the trip was much more enjoyable.

Our new bedroom attendant was T J Reaves. This was his first trip with Amtrak in this capacity. He was exceptional and should continue to grow and be one of the best. We arrived at LAUS 90 minutes late and since bedroom passengers could have stayed in their accommodations for sixty minutes after an on time arrival, this was just fine.

So, bottom line is Amtrak continues to have a cadre of very fine employees as well as some poor ones. Seems that the consistency is still not there. On time performance was better than the past. Maybe that issue is being resolved. Our next trip is planned for September and we'll be there.

Andy Sack, Banning, CA

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