

Pillow Service to Be Discontinued For Coach Class Passengers



Effective August 1, 2013

Amtrak will discontinue the current practice of providing mini-pillows for Coach class passengers and offer a new product to enhance the passenger travel experience by providing several comfort items in a keepsake tote.

New Amenity – Passenger Comfort Kit

- Customers can purchase a Passenger Comfort Kit that includes an inflatable pillow, earplugs, blanket, and eye shade.
- Passenger Comfort Kits can be purchased for \$8.00 from the Lounge or Café car while traveling.

[Amtrak's Unpersuasive Response on Boarding Procedures](#)

The Slate- Jul 17, 2013

Last week I wrote about Amtrak's strange boarding procedures at New York Penn Station and Washington Union Station and today, mysteriously enough, they have a post on their All Aboard blog asking "ever wonder why the boarding procedures in our big stations work the way they do?" They offer three bullet points, none very persuasive:

[Corrine Brown wants Amtrak restored from Jacksonville to New ...](#)

Business Journal-Jul 15, 2013

Even though repairs have since been made and freight train traffic restored, Amtrak has never reestablished passenger service along the route.

[Report says southern Montana Amtrak route will draw riders, but ...](#)

The Missoulian- Jul 17, 2013

That's the conclusion of an Amtrak report released Friday on the possible revival of the North Coast Hiawatha Route through southern Montana.

[Amtrak repairs overhead wires in NJ](#)

Glens Falls Post-Star - Jul 18, 2013

Amtrak says the heat wave was to blame for overhead wire problems that disrupted rail service along the Northeast Corridor in New Jersey. The power lines were sagging and that caused delays for Amtrak passengers and New Jersey Transit commuters ...

[Amtrak imposes speed restrictions because of heat](#)

WWLP 22News- Jul 18, 2013

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) - Amtrak is slowing trains along the busy Northeast Corridor because the heat wave is driving up internal temperatures of ..

[Amtrak train stalls south of Baltimore](#)

Baltimore Sun- Jul 19, 2013

A mechanical problem stalled an Amtrak train south of Baltimore Friday evening, stranding its 404

passengers for about 40 minutes, an Amtrak ...

[Broken Rail Causes LIRR Rush Hour Nightmare](#)

Gothamist - Jul 17, 2013

There are some eastbound cancellations and delays of up to 20 minutes due to a broken rail in one of Amtrak East River tunnels.

[LIRR watchdog group: Amtrak board lacks commuter rep](#)

Newsday Jul 19, 2013

Mark Epstein, chairman of the LIRR Commuter Council, said Thursday that a vacancy on Amtrak's seven-member board should be filled by a New York commuter.

"New York rail commuters who rely on Penn Station are at the mercy of Amtrak, and their interests, perspective, and voice need to be heard and reflected in Amtrak's governance,"

No Way! Amtrak was never suppose to be involved with commuter rail in the first place because it is a money sponge. The Amtrak Board is already dominated by officials from the East Coast. What is long overdue is a new authority instead of Amtrak to be responsible for the infrastructure of the NEC. It should be locally controlled and funded by a combination of local and Federal Funding. The fact is Amtrak's Federal funding subsidizes commuter trains on the NEC at the expense of the National System. This is at the heart of Amtrak's budget problems not the cost of food on the Long Distance Trains. NB

[Amtrak transfers passengers after train stalls in Joppatowne](#)

Baltimore Sun- Jul 17, 2013

The mechanical problem was reported on Train 91, bound for Miami from New York, between 1:30 p.m. and 1:50 p.m., Amtrak spokeswoman Christina Leeds said. Amtrak moved the 145 passengers to a new train that was moving by 3:30 p.m., she said.

Second Silver Star breakdown this month. At least it happened on the NEC this time and the passenger were evacuated and not stuck on the train. NB

[How to Fund Transit Without Raising Fares or Cutting Service](#)

The Atlantic Cities Jul 18, 2013

When Mark Aesch became head of the Rochester-Genesee Regional Transportation Authority, back in 2004, the metro area's bus system was in terrible shape....Not only did Aesch keep his pledge not to raise fares, but in 2008 he actually lowered them.

These days the public expects transit agencies to cut service or hike fares when funding runs low. But Aesch's entire philosophy is based on the belief that the best way to raise both ridership and revenue is by improving the transit experience.



2013 Steel Wheels Conference Joint RailPAC-NARP members meeting

Saturday, October 5, 2013
Port of San Francisco Community Room
Pier 40 • Embarcadero, San Francisco

10:30 am-3:00 pm with a break for lunch (*not provided*)

Doors Open 10:00 am

RailPAC members business meeting 3:00 pm

2013 Conference Program Includes

High Speed Rail – Dan Richard, CHSRA

Northern California Regional Rail – Dan Leavitt, SJVJPA

Caltrain Modernization – Marian Lee, PCJPB

Amtrak and the National Network – Robert Stewart, Chairman, NARP

RailPAC Meeting Notice! Saturday, October 5, 2013

Location: Port of San Francisco Community Room, Pier 40, Embarcadero, San Francisco, next to the ballpark. [Save the date! Details, and Reserve your place here](#)

[NCTD To Change Email Retention Policy From 2 Years To 60 Days](#)

KPBS-Jul 17, 2013

With inewssource at the forefront, media outlets have been chronicling NCTD's precipitous decline in service, safety, management and reputation by way of a state law called the California Public Records Act. The CPRA is the most powerful tool for accessing records from any public agency funded by taxpayer money.

[Bike share system to hit the Peninsula](#)

Mountain View Voice- Jul 16, 2013

Seventy bikes will be placed at seven stations around Mountain View, part of a 700 bike-system extending from key trains stations on the Peninsula -- San Francisco, Redwood City, Mountain View, Palo Alto, and San Jose.

[Caltrain Project to Close Streets in July and August](#)

Patch.com-Jul 15, 2013

Caltrain's ongoing grade-separation project in San Bruno will require four separate street closures in July and August.

[Will New Transbay Transit Center Transform SoMa?](#)

CP&DR Jul 16, 2013

Three years of subterranean excavation are supposed to lead to steel beams for a five-story building that will begin to rise in 2014. When completed in 2017, the four-block-long transit center is expected to become a civic and regional landmark, with a large rooftop park, surrounded by numerous skyscrapers

and a pedestrian-dense office, retail and residential community. Project boosters are referring to it as the Grand Central Station of the West.

[Davis lays track for ultra light rail demonstration](#)

Sacramento Business Journal Jul 15, 2013

Whereas a traditional light rail car weighs up to 100,000 pounds, the ultra-light concept is to have smaller cars that weigh around 10,000 pounds.

[ACE commuter rail looks to expand- holding public open houses](#)

Central Stockton News- Jul 20, 2013

The project includes improving existing service and extending new ACE rail service to downtown Modesto by as early as 2018 and to Merced by as early as 2022.

The San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission is holding five public scoping meetings over the next two weeks to get public comment on its plans, which it calls "ACEforward."

[LACMTA files motion to dismiss lawsuits against light-rail project](#)

Progressive Railroading Jul 16, 2013

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) has asked that three state lawsuits that challenge the agency's environmental studies for the Regional Connector light-rail project be dismissed.

[Is the California PUC foreshadowing the California Supreme Court?](#)

L.A. Streetsblog Jul 16, 2013

The Public Utilities Commission last week issued a ruling that, in essence, confirmed its earlier approvals of street crossings for the second phase of the Expo Line. The group Neighbors for Smart Rail has challenged that decision all the way to the California Supreme Court, with a ruling expected soon.

[Rail quiet zone plan put on hold in Glendale](#)

Glendale News Press Jul 16, 2013

Glendale's plan to apply for a "quiet zone" for trains passing through the San Fernando Corridor faces yet another delay.

[New shuttle service debuts connecting Thousand Oaks and Metrolink's Moorpark station](#)

The Source Jul 15, 2013

LOS ANGELES – Metrolink has partnered with the City of Thousand Oaks and Thousand Oaks Transit to provide convenient weekday round-trip shuttle service between the Metrolink Moorpark Station from the Thousand Oaks Transportation Center, The Oaks Shopping Center and California Lutheran University.

[Ocean Festival 2013](#)

The San Clemente Ocean Festival takes place on Saturday, July 20 and Sunday July 21. There's plenty of adventure at "The Greatest Show on Surf!" To get to the San Clemente Ocean Festival

Board Metrolink Train 660, 662, 857, or 859 at the station nearest you.

Exit Metrolink at the San Clemente Pier Station.

Walk from the Station to the Ocean Festival event.

[Fund Tucson rail, Las Vegas interstate](#)

Arizona Republic- Jul 19, 2013

Consider the passenger-rail line between the state's two largest metropolitan areas.

The drive on Interstate 10 from Tucson to Phoenix takes an hour and a half to two hours. Increased