
Subject: Massive Oil Train Fire in Canada, More Oil Trains for USA

From: Rail Passenger Association of California (noelnoelt@cox.net)

To: ntbraymer@yahoo.com;

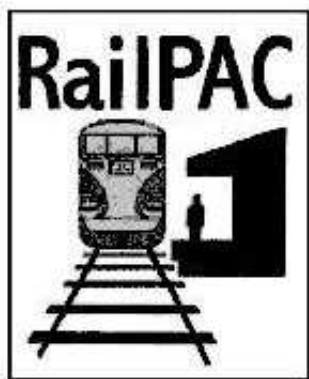
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RailPAC Weekly E-Newsletter for July 8, 2013

Edited by Noel T. Braymer

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



Here at Oceanside in February 2010 we see an old New Jersey Transit "Comet Cars" like those are being upgraded for use on the San Joaquins. Comet Cars were added to Metrolink trains to provide provide added seats on busy trains before the delivery of the new Rotem cars. All passenger loading and unloading as well as handicapped access were from the bi-level cars. Photo by Noel T. Braymer

[Comet Car Access problem? A RailPAC solution](#)

RailPAC Opinion with PHOTOS, by Paul Dyson, RailPAC President

But access does matter, for wheelchairs, bicycles, and just for those of us who are not as nimble as we used to be. A train consisting entirely of Comet cars plus a Horizon café car and a "cabbage" locomotive for baggage and bikes offers no alternative but to climb those steps, and this will inevitably require longer dwell times at stations, and equipment for loading wheelchairs.

We have a suggestion.

[Peninsula commuters flocking to Caltrain, SamTrans during BART strike](#)

San Francisco Examiner - Jul 2, 2103

Caltrain has added stops at the Millbrae station to many of its express trains, which run between San Jose and San Francisco, in order to pick up commuters who would normally board BART, Caltrain spokeswoman Christine Dunn said. So far, Dunn said, ...

[SFO Airport Still Providing Free Shuttle Service through Bart Strike](#)

Patch.com - Jul 2, 2013

San Francisco International Airport is continuing to run free shuttles between Caltrain's Millbrae station and the airport to accommodate passengers during the BART strike, a spokesman said today. The shuttles depart from the Millbrae station about every 15 ...

[BART GM weighing needs of riders, workers](#)

San Francisco Chronicle (blog)- Jul 3, 2013

The key issues involve balancing the demands of the transit district's labor force with the demands of riders, she said.

Those demands include upgrading aging infrastructure and replacing hundreds of 40-year-old train cars, while ensuring the viability of the nation's fifth-largest public transportation system in an era of tight budgets and a still-recovering California economy, she said.

[BART Strike Over ... For Now](#)

SF Weekly (blog)- July 4, 2013

BART and its unions have agreed to extend their current contract another 30 days which means the trains will be moving by tomorrow afternoon ...

[Five confirmed dead after Quebec train disaster \(with video\)](#)

Calgary Herald - Jul 7, 2013

Authorities in Quebec say about 40 people are considered missing after Saturday's train derailment, explosions and fire in Lac-Megantic. Police also say they have found two more bodies to bring the official death toll to five. Quebec provincial police lieutenant ...

[Does Canada train blast show danger of oil transport in US?](#)

Christian Science Monitor Jul 7, 2013

Oil trains have been crossing Maine since May, 2012, according to the Portland Press Herald and Maine Sunday Telegram. Some have been involved in accidents that barely avoided environmental catastrophe... The Lac-Megantic tragedy confirms their worst fears, said Maine environmentalists. The destroyed train would likely have entered Maine around the town of Jackman, and traveled to Brownsville in the middle of the state. There it would have been picked up by a locomotive from a New Brunswick railroad and hauled northeast to the Canadian coast.

[Benicia: Valero's crude-by-rail project up for hearing](#)

Vallejo Times-Herald-Jul 6, 2013

... other California refineries are quietly planning to use rail to import controversial Canadian tar sands oil, and worry about potential train spills ...



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

[For more information about the 2013 Conference click here.](#)

[Comic-Con and Del Mar racetrack make Amtrak reservations a must](#)

Los Angeles Times-Jul 2, 2013

That's the word Monday from Amtrak, which is requiring train reservations in anticipation of a heavy passenger load on the weekend of those ...

Why is Amtrak's solution for busy trains always to spend money to turn passengers away with reservations? Why hasn't there been at least by LOSSAN planning to attract more passengers by borrowing idle commuter equipment and bringing in more money on busy travel days?

[Slightly fewer of us will travel this Fourth of July weekend](#)

Daily News Jun 26, 2013

The auto club expects about 2.32 million Southern Californians to drive to holiday destinations, a decrease of half of one percentage point, according to an auto club statement.

The top five driving destinations for Southern Californians traveling over the holiday weekend, according to a survey of AAA travel agents, are:

1. San Diego; 2. San Francisco; 3. Las Vegas; 4. the Grand Canyon; and 5. the Central Coast.

[How to build California High Speed Rail While Making Almost Everyone Happy](#)

By Noel T. Braymer

The reason for these delays in approving final routes for High Speed Rail through Hanford and Bakersfield is the strong opposition to the alternatives being presented to the local communities. The opposition stems from local impacts and loss of private property. The most vocal opposition in the San Joaquin Valley is from the farmers around Madera where a new right of way would be built on acres of local farmland to connect future High Speed Rail from Southern California and the San Joaquin Valley south of Fresno to San Jose and San Francisco over the Pacheco Pass.

[Rail authority: State's bullet trains to reduce future greenhouse gases](#)

Fresno Bee- Jul 2, 2013

Operations of California's high-speed rail system between 2022 and 2050 could remove between 27.1 million and 44.9 million tons of greenhouse gases by shifting travelers from automobiles and airplanes to electric-powered high-speed trains.

The greenhouse-gas estimates were included in a report this week from the rail agency to the state Legislature. Legislators made the report a requirement last summer when they approved money for the statewide rail project to begin construction in the San Joaquin Valley.

[Bombardier Unveils Newest Very High Speed Train in Italy](#)

Mass Transit Jul 3, 2013

The V300ZEFIRO is the fastest train in Europe and is capable of reaching commercial speeds of up to 360 km/h. **(224 mph)** During test runs the train will reach speeds in excess of 400 km/h. **(247 mph)** Its advanced high acceleration enables the train to deliver excellent travel times, even on winding routes. It is fully interoperable and will provide cross-border services, taking passengers to other European countries without the need to change trains. It could also be adapted for use on networks in many other countries.

[Cheaper to go Over than Through the Mountains](#)

By Noel T. Braymer

XpressWest in 2009 looked at Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU) trains with a top speed of 125 miles per hour and and Electrical Multiple unit (EMU) trains with a top speed of 150. They based their analysis on available in-production trainsets from Bombardier. Interestingly ACE is planning on using DMU trains with a top speed of 125 miles per hour. This is part of their plan to reduce running times between Stockton and San Jose from 2 hours 10 minutes to an hour.

[20 trains coming down the track](#)

Manteca Bulletin- Jul 4, 2013

Manteca and Lathrop commuters to the Bay Area could catch one of 20 daily trains to the Bay Area under a strategy being pursued by the Altamont Corridor Express service.

Plans call for upwards of 10 trains a day on both the proposed extension south into Merced and also on the upgrade of the existing Stockton-San Jose corridor.

[ACE eyes fast track for extending service to Modesto, Turlock, Merced](#)

Modesto Bee- Jul 6, 2013

If all goes well, daily commuter train service would start in 2018 for Modesto and by 2022 for Turlock and Merced...

Even Rep. Jeff Denham, a Republican who has been critical about how much high-speed trains could cost taxpayers, thinks expanding ACE "is a great idea."

"It's proven ridership, and it's growing," Denham said of ACE. Calling himself "a big fan of rail," Denham said the goal is to have ongoing operating expenses covered by ticket sales rather than government subsidies.

Denham, whose 10th Congressional District covers Stanislaus and southern San Joaquin counties, said he agrees that taxpayers should pay the initial rail construction costs: "Government has a responsibility to build the infrastructure, just like with highways."

[Amtrak Barred From Rulemaking Power For Freight Railroad](#)

Bloomberg- Jul 3, 2013

The court threw out a law passed to enforce a requirement, dating to Amtrak's creation in 1970, that freight trains give priority to passenger trains on tracks they share, which they do in most of the U.S.

In other words if we want Long Distance Trains, we will need government funding to maintain