



Metrolink as of May 2013 is aiming for Mid-2014 to have PTC Operational. The hardware is mostly installed now. The biggest problems are securing radio frequencies for this wireless system and debugging software to get the system up and running. NB.

Rail News not in The News.

On August 8th a sub-committee tasked with selecting an administrative agency for the new LOSSAN Joint Powers Authority recommended at the LOSSAN Technical Advisory Committee that the Orange County Transportation Authority be given the contract. This is subject to approval by the LOSSAN Board at their next meeting in San Diego on August 23rd.

Amtrak has finished its management reorganization which means laying off many competent and highly experienced employees. Standing out in this group leaving Amtrak is Brian Rosenwald best known for his introduction of the Pacific Parlor Car among many upgrades on the Coast Starlight. Despite Amtrak's PR and misleading accounting, it has been in a slow downwards spiral since the 1990's. Amtrak had to be bailed out with a massive increase of its subsidy after a near shutdown in 2002 which the taxpayers are still paying. Behind this downwards spiral is Amtrak's fixation on the Northeast Corridor and High Speed Trains both of which are very expensive to operate. Amtrak neglects its long distance service and does so at its peril. Amtrak need broad political support from most of country to survive which is only served by Long Distance Trains. Amtrak ignores the fact that long distance service is the most productive revenue producers for all transportation services, not only passenger rail service. NB

High-Speed Rail: the future of freight

World Finance- Aug 9, 2013

The positive news continues with the first freight train from the eastern city of Zhengzdou arriving in Hamburg-Billwerder – the European bloc's third largest trading hub – after traversing over 10,000km **(6,000 miles)** across Eurasia, passing through Kazakhstan, Russia, Belarus and Poland. ...

The crossing was completed in just 15 days, which completely eclipses the 30 – 40 day wait for goods required by container vessels to cover the same distance.

[Hey look! Station platforms rising for Gold Line Foothill Extension in Arcadia and Monrovia!](#)

The Source Aug 9, 2013

Progress continues on the Gold Line Foothill Extension project — you can now see the station foundations in Arcadia and Monrovia, as shown above. Work can also be up seen throughout the 11.5-mile alignment between eastern Pasadena and the Azusa/Glendora border.

[California court dismisses LA Expo Line suit](#)

RailwayAge Magazine- Aug 7, 2013

Light rail transit advocates said the move clears the way for continued construction of the Expo Light Rail Line, now being extended about eight miles from its current terminus in Culver City to the vicinity of the 3rd Street Promenade in Santa Monica, Calif.

[Pension reform holds up \\$2.2 billion in federal transit grants to Metro](#)

Pasadena Star-News Aug 5, 2013

The federal government is withholding more than \$2.2 billion in grants from the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority due to complaints filed by labor unions over the state Public Employee Pension Reform Act.

If funding remains frozen in the fall, Metro's board will consider cuts to train and bus service and/or raising fares to make up shortfalls from undelivered operating grants, according to a July memo from Terry Matsumoto, Metro's chief financial services officer.

[New parking structure debuts at Bob Hope Airport](#)

Burbank Leader Aug 6, 2013

The replacement parking structure is the first completed piece of the airport's new \$112-million transportation center, which also includes a consolidated car rental facility that is now about 60% complete, Feger said. **The transportation center will also improve rail connections to the airport.**

NB

[Just How Much Control is Disney Taking Over the OC Streetcar?](#)

Curbed LA Aug 6, 2013

The \$319-million streetcar planned to connect an under-construction transit center in Anaheim with the Disneyland resort is more expensive than planned, clearly because of demands from Mouse House officials, according to a new report picked up by the Voice of OC.

[Union Station Planning To Open More New Restaurants](#)

LAist Aug 6, 2013

Metro is looking to open six new eateries on the Eastern portal of the station, currently where an alternate Red Line entrance and the Patsaouras Transit Plaza reside.

That's nice, but the old Union Bagel site is available and still not rented. The same can be said of the Fred Harvey Restaurant that has been closed since the mid-1960's. NB

[London's High-Speed Crossrail Drives Office Boom](#)

Businessweek Aug 6, 2013

Crossrail, Europe's largest construction project, costing an estimated 15 billion pounds (\$23 billion), will cut commuting times by as much as half, enticing tenants to rent offices in once-overlooked corners of the City.

Perhaps Metrolink should consider more commuter service in the region besides Los Angeles Union Station. NB

[In Vancouver, traffic declines as population rises](#)

D.C. Streetsblog Aug 5, 2013

Gordon Price, a former city legislator in Vancouver, says every time a project is proposed for bikes or transit that reduces space for cars, there's an outcry. "They keep predicting intolerable gridlock," he said. "And it never happens. You can be in downtown Vancouver and it's not congested."

When you give people convenient transportation options that don't involve driving, like Vancouver has, they will make practical choices not to drive, Price said. Vancouver isn't the only place to demonstrate that transit-oriented growth can reduce traffic. Arlington County, Virginia, set off on a similar path in the 1970s, focusing development near Metro stations, and has seen traffic counts drop on major arterial roads even as population grows.



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

[2013 Steel Wheels Conference, October 5th](#)

[Bike share program rolls out in the Bay Area](#)

Silicon Valley Business Journal- Aug 7, 2013

Those kiosks will hold 700 bicycles from Portland-based Alta Bikes that will get you from your Caltrain stop to your workplace or favorite haunt ..

[Virginia is first to sign onto Amtrak funding plan](#)

Washington Business Journal- Aug 8, 2013

Virginia is the first state to comply with a federal law requiring states to share more costs for Amtrak operations.

States face an Oct. 1 deadline to comply with the new law or risk losing Amtrak rail service.

[Feds guarantee \\$15M for railroad station](#)

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle - Aug 8, 2013

Federal Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx billed the funds' obligation as an important milestone for the project, which would replace the dilapidated Central Avenue Amtrak station now in use. The new station, to be erected in the same location, will cost \$26.5 million altogether.

[Call For Bids On Next Generation Of Locomotives](#)

CBS Local- Aug 8, 2013

CHICAGO (AP) – A group of states forging ahead with plans for high-speed passenger rail have put out a call for bids for the production of 35 next-generation locomotives.

The request for proposals released Thursday calls for lighter, cleaner-burning locomotives that can reach speeds of up to 125 miles per hour.

[Michigan one of several states seeking high-speed rail service](#)

HollandSentinel.com-Aug 9, 2013

Illinois is leading the procurement. The other states taking part are California, Michigan, Missouri and Washington.

The Federal Railroad Administration has allocated \$808 million for the new locomotives and for the construction of 130 bi-level passenger cars.

[Man lying on tracks killed by Amtrak train](#)

Central Florida News 13- Au 7, 2013

A man is dead after being hit by an Amtrak train in Osceola County. ... Amtrak Train 92, which is the Silver Star, was carrying 146 passengers.

Seems the Silver Star has the worse luck of any Amtrak train this summer. NB

[CA Leads Nation in Fatal Crashes at Train Crossings](#)

NBC Southern California- Aug 9, 2013

The most dangerous train crossing in California is where Nogales Street crosses the tracks in Rowland Heights. According to a new federal report, it is the third most dangerous crossing in the United States. Forty-thousand cars cross the tracks, over which 52 trains rumble each day.

A federal database rates thousands of crossings across the country, predicting the likelihood of accidents happening there.

There have been seven accidents at the Nogales Street crossing in the past five years, including one that happened earlier this month.

[Why Don't More US Airports Connect to Amtrak?](#)

The Atlantic Cities- Aug 7, 2013

Of the 60 large or medium hub airports in the United States, about 21 are located within 5 miles of Amtrak, with another 21 within 10 miles. A few of these airports (like those in Baltimore and San Jose) can bring travelers to and from the train station by shuttle or public transit. But only airports in Newark, Burbank, and (soon enough) Miami have access to Amtrak right on campus, either by a quick walk or an automated tram:

San Diego is planning on building a train station at the airport for Coaster, Amtrak and High Speed Trains. Many airports like LAX and Ontario have rail connections because they were former military bases or aircraft manufacturing sites during World War II and rail freight service was needed. NB

[The Airlines' Battle for Los Angeles](#)

Businessweek Aug 6, 2013

There are more than 50 flights each day between Los Angeles and San Francisco, enough for one every