
Subject: LOSSAN needs Leadership, CA HSR is NOT Dead.

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

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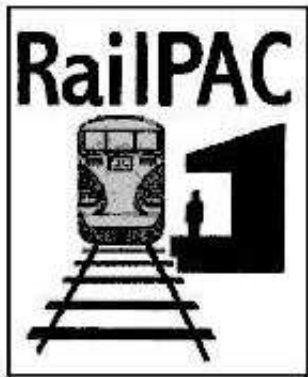
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RailPAC Weekly E-Newsletter for August 26, 2013

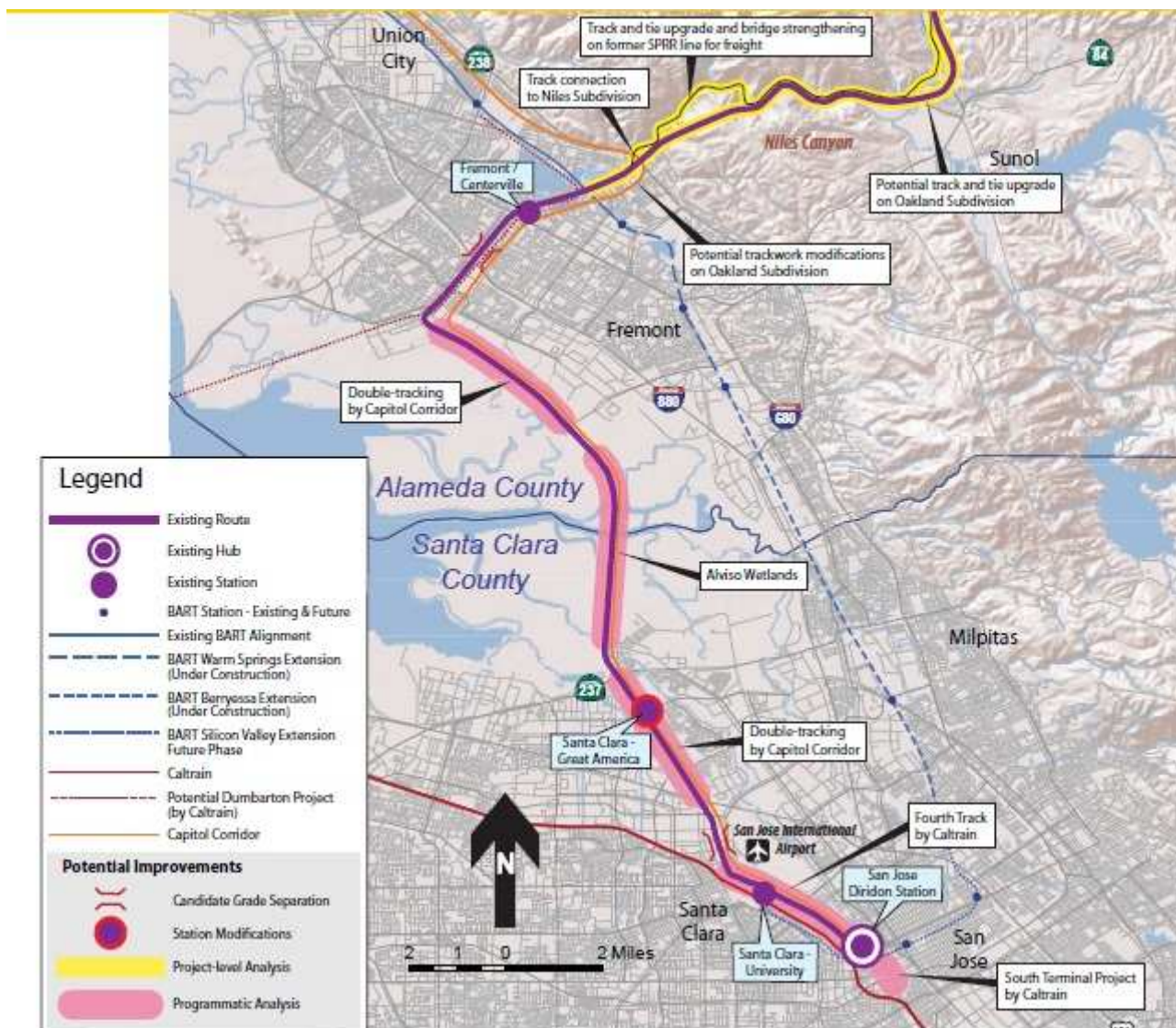
Edited by Noel T. Braymer

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



This graphic from ACE shows planning for potential track improvements between San Jose and Niles Canyon.

[Contract for first section of HSR signed](#)

Fresno Bee- Aug 20, 2013

No date has been set for when work will begin, but Morales said he is hopeful for breaking ground within a month. The first tangible work will include clearing property, demolishing buildings and relocating utilities. Actual construction, however, is not expected to take place until next year.

[Court Rules Against California Bullet Train But Doesn't Derail It](#)

Curbed LA-Aug 19, 2013

A Sacramento Superior Court judge has ruled that the California High-Speed Rail project is out of order, but he hasn't ordered that work stop just yet....

(Judge) Kenny is allowing work to start on the train, which is already majorly delayed, but he scheduled future hearings to decide how the violations can be addressed.

[High-speed rail ruling won't change ACE expansion plans](#)

Tracy Press Aug 23, 2013

The San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission is relying on high-speed rail funds for its expansion. But the public affairs manager for the regional rail commission, Thomas Reeves, says the ruling will not halt the planned expansion of Altamont Corridor Express.

[UCLA / UC Berkeley Law Report on High Speed Rail Policies for California's San Joaquin Valley](#)

Legal Planet Aug 20, 2013

The environmental law centers at UCLA and UC Berkeley Schools of Law are releasing today a new report on policies to maximize the economic and environmental benefits of high speed rail in the San Joaquin Valley....

... the report calls for Valley leaders to harness the opportunity presented by high speed rail to develop a unified, Valley-wide plan for economic development and environmental preservation tied to the system. Local leaders from businesses, community groups, and the public sector will need to use high speed rail funds to plan for thriving communities connected to the system and support programs to help catalyze private investment in development projects in line with these plans.

[Downtown Business Association supports downtown bullet train ...](#)

BakersfieldCalifornian.com Aug 20, 2013

Downtown Business Association officials said Tuesday that they will speak to the Bakersfield City Council at its Sept. 11 meeting in support of a high-speed rail station in downtown....

[High-speed rail is at the foundation of China's growth strategy](#)

Quartz- Aug 22, 2013

Has China overinvested in high speed rail? Anecdotal stories of empty train stations in far-off provinces have led some to conclude that high-speed rail is just another Chinese white elephant—an investment without a cause. But the recent experience with high-speed rail belies this narrative, and a closer look at the data reveals that high-speed rail has been, and is set to be, a vital part of China's growth strategy.

[Panel rejects oversight on bullet train land deals](#)

Sacramento Bee- Aug 22, 2013

The Joint Legislative Audit Committee declined a request by two Republican lawmakers Wednesday to audit how the state is acquiring private land for California's high-speed rail project...

State Auditor Elaine Howle said an audit would have taken about six months. The state auditor has examined elements of the high-speed rail project twice before, first in 2010 and again in 2012.

[Fresno Inn tenants upset over short-notice eviction](#)

Fresno Bee-Aug 21, 2013

Residents of a rundown central Fresno motel are upset over three-day eviction notices that blame Caltrans construction for the order to get out immediately...

Caltrans, however, appears to be a scapegoat for the motel owners. The eviction notices issued Aug. 8 say the move is "do (sic) to Cal-Trans demalition (sic)" starting Sept. 1.

Caltrans will eventually rebuild the nearby Clinton/Highway 99 interchange as part of a highway relocation project tied to high-speed train plans, said spokesman Jose Camarena.

[Dan Morain: Denham's ploy backfires on high-speed rail](#)

Sacramento Bee - Aug 21, 2013

By sending the letter that led to the Surface Transportation Board's involvement, Denham, who didn't respond to my requests for an interview, managed to undermine his allies – or at least the enemies of his enemies – in the fight against the rail project.

[The Fallacy behind Hyperloop](#)

By Noel T. Braymer

The problem with Hyperloop, like most attempts to "reinvent the wheel" is that the promoters of such

ideas ignore the fundamentals of how transportation works.

[Washington DOT begins work to prevent landslides on Amtrak ...](#)

Progressive Rail Roding- Aug 21, 2013

Construction has begun on a \$16 million project designed to stabilize slopes and prevent landslides along the Pacific Northwest's only north-south passenger-rail corridor, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) officials announced Monday.

[Amtrak train derailed near downtown](#)

San Antonio Express- Aug 23, 2013

A Union Pacific spokeswoman said the derailed train was Amtrak's. When contacted late Friday, the Amtrak representative refused to comment ...

[Amtrak official 'confident' Indiana partnership can help preserve Indy-Chicago ...](#)

Indianapolis Star - Aug 21, 2013

Effective Oct. 1, federal funding will cease for passenger rail routes shorter than 750 miles in 19 states, and that includes the 196-mile Hoosier State.

The better solution would be to run the Cardinal as a daily train. Amtrak is willing to do that but is unable to get an agreement with the CSX. NB

[Amtrak considers expanding regional routes](#)

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel-Aug 19, 2013

Trains from Milwaukee to Chicago and St. Paul, Minn., may be faster and more frequent in the near future, as Amtrak and transportation departments in Wisconsin and neighboring states study the possibility of expanding service on regional routes.

[Hiawatha rail upgrade may require new train](#)

Business Journal of Milwaukee Aug 22, 2013

Meanwhile, two train sets Talgo Inc. built to run on the Hiawatha route are mothballed in Milwaukee.

[PennDOT, Amtrak reach agreement](#)

The Tribune-Democrat- Aug 21, 2013

While the deal between Penn-DOT and Amtrak is yet to be inked, the details have been worked out and the state is committed to funding the service for at least a year. ...

This means daily runs of The Pennsylvanian, connecting Philadelphia to Harrisburg to Pittsburgh and numerous stops in between, will continue through the end of September 2014.

[Third rail in Amtrak East River tunnel loses power AM delays plague ...](#)

New York Post-Aug 19, 2013

Long Islanders faced a difficult commute into New York City this morning after problems with the third rail in one of Amtrak's East River tunnels.

[Amtrak Made a Smart Call to Let Tunnels Flood During Sandy](#)

WNYC (blog) Aug 20, 2013

Amtrak might have been able to avoid the flooding in at least one of its Hudson River tunnels during Sandy, but it is probably best that it didn't.

[NEC Upgrades: Andrew Selden responds to Progressive Railroading](#)

Train traffic congestion in the NEC reflects mostly the overload of regional commuter trains taking advantage of the severely under-priced federal infrastructure of the NEC. (Amtrak's capital subsidies