
Subject: Gov. Brown averts BART Strike for another 7 Days

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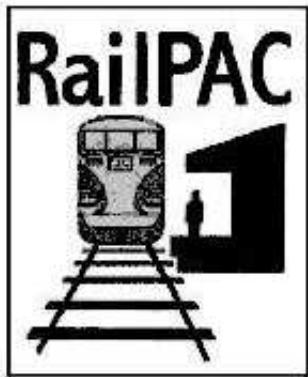
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RailPAC Weekly E-Newsletter for August 5, 2013

Edited by Noel T. Braymer

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



An example of "Streetcarring" on Metrolink trains at LAUS. Metrolink has hired additional security to check passengers for valid tickets before allowing them to board trains. Only half of the doors are opened for boarding where security and train crew inspects tickets at half opened doors. Many trains have security on board to check tickets for boarding at intermediate stations. This is an attempt to increase revenues from fare evaders. Tickets inspections are important to prevent fare evasion. However there is a point of diminishing returns when the cost of ticket inspections cost more than the revenue generated. A statistician can calculate the optimum level of ticket inspections for maximum revenue at the lowest cost. This has been done in Europe for years. The best way to increase revenue on any train is to attract more paying passengers. Photo by Noel T. Braymer

[BART strike averted - for now](#)

San Francisco Chronicle- Aug 4, 2013

Oakland -- Commuters averted yet another BART strike after Gov. Jerry Brown intervened Sunday night in the negotiations

[High-speed rail agency to weigh contracts for Valley survey work](#)

Fresno Bee- Jul 31, 2013

The California High-Speed Rail Authority's board members, at their meeting in Sacramento, will formally begin their search for companies to survey and map parcel lines, utilities and easements. Those activities will set the stage for property appraisals and acquisition after the agency finalizes a route through the southern San Joaquin Valley for the statewide bullet-train system.

[High-speed rail board adopts policy to manage construction costs](#)

Fresno Bee - Aug 1, 2013

At their meeting in Sacramento, board members unanimously adopted a plan to set and manage

contingencies for individual construction contracts for the statewide rail system. That will include the \$985 million contract that's already been awarded -- but has yet to be signed -- to build the first 30-mile stretch from Madera through Fresno.

[HSR director promises groundbreaking will come soon](#)

ABC30.com- Aug 1, 2013

Authority Director Dan Richards says things are about to happen.

"We're really on the verge of breaking ground our organization is just about to sign the contract with the contractor," said Richards. "Right now it's logistical issues more than anything else."

[5 Reasons California's High Speed Rail Is The Best Public Works ...](#)

Carbonated.tv-Jul 30, 2013

The high speed rail project will create 20,000 jobs a year over the next 5 years, according to Inhabitat. That is welcome news to cities like Fresno and Merced, where the first 65 miles of track will be built, which have unemployment rates of 13% and 15% respectively.

[The Flawed Federal Rule That Killed High-Speed Rail to Vegas](#)

The Atlantic Cities-Jul 29, 2013

Still, major transportation projects do get relief from Buy America now and then. The Systemic Failure blog astutely points out that, just this month, the federal government gave a billion-dollar highway project additional time to meet a new Buy America stipulation that requires "all" related contracts to meet the requirement — even, for instance, the relocation of utility lines. The fact that XpressWest wasn't granted that same leniency raises the possibility that the Buy America provision was simply a pretense for some larger discontent with the plans.

[Spain train crash driver was on phone to conductor: court](#)

AFP - Jul 31, 2013

With 79 people killed and 178 injured, it was Spain's worst rail disaster since 1944.

Garzon had said in his first testimony to the Galicia regional court on Sunday that he "didn't understand" how he failed to brake in time, a recording of his court hearing revealed.

"I can't explain. I still don't understand," the driver told the judge when asked why he hadn't slowed down in time to take a sharp bend near the northwestern city of Santiago de Compostela.

[Spain: train crash driver received 3 signals to slow down in the minutes before ...](#)

Washington Post - Aug 2, 2013

MADRID — The driver of a Spanish train that derailed, killing 79 people, ignored three warnings to reduce speed in the two minutes before the train hurtled off the tracks on a treacherous curve, crash investigators said Friday. A court statement said the driver ...

[Sophisticated system intended to keep high-speed rail safe](#)

The Conversation-Jul 29, 2013

ERTMS not at site of crash

This state-of-the-art ERTMS system, which could possibly have prevented the crash was installed on this model of train, but not along the tracks at the dangerous curve outside Santiago de Compostella, where trains need to slow down to 80kmh. Asfa only alerts the driver, but is unable to automatically stop the train.

[Amtrak crash claims life of bulldozer driver, victim identified](#)

KTVQ Billings News- Jul 31, 2013

No one on the train was injured, but officials on the train did not allow passengers to disembark to get

rides with waiting friends until a replacement engine arrived. The 13 car Amtrak was carrying 326 occupants, including crew.

[Amtrak Cities Sprinter on test at Pueblo](#)

International Railway Journal- Jul 31, 2013

AMTRAK President Mr Joe Boardman, Federal Railroad Administrator Mr Joseph Szabo and Siemens Rail Systems USA president Mr Michael Cahill visited the Transportation Technology Center (TTCI) at Pueblo on July 29 to see the ACS-64 Cities Sprinter electric locomotive being put through its paces.

[Caltrans surveys Sacramento sites for new railyard](#)

Sacramento Bee- Aug 4, 2013

The California Department of Transportation, which oversees much of the state's intercity rail service, is aiming to create a new working railyard in Sacramento's urban core to maintain Amtrak's fleet of Capitol Corridor and San Joaquin Corridor passenger trains.

The vacant sites Caltrans is eyeing include one next to Sutter's Landing Regional Park along the American River and another in east Sacramento next to Business 80, the same spot where former state treasurer Phil Angelides plans to build hundreds of single-family homes.

[1st Run: Comet & Cabbage on San Joaquin Train](#)

Trainorders Aug 1, 2013

Today was the first test run of the Comet cars and cabbage cab car on the Amtrak San Joaquin train. It was rumored to be going out on train #712, but instead it was run as a test train (no passengers), pretty much a second section of #712, about an hour after the scheduled train. By an amazing amount of luck, I was in a good spot to catch it out on the road.

[Retro train cars coming to Hanford](#)

Hanford Sentinel-Aug 3, 2013

The new single-deck rail cars that will soon be attached to some trains rolling through Hanford are actually smaller than the double-decker ...

[Amtrak's Southwest Chief: a future still in doubt](#)

Commentary by Russ Jackson, RailPAC

It's time we took another look at the continuing saga of the future of the Southwest Chief, which requires action as to whether 1) It will continue on its historic route from Albuquerque to Kansas via the Raton Pass route, or, 2) It will be moved to the BNSF "Transcon" route from Belen, NM to Kansas via Amarillo and Wichita, or, 3) It will be discontinued altogether. The decision deadline is the end of 2014.

[10 iconic train excursions](#)

USA TODAY- Aug 1, 2013

One of the best ways to experience the travel style of yesteryear's rich and famous is to spend some time on a luxury train. Typically, these trains provide private two-person overnight compartments, some with built-in showers, along with lavish service, onboard guides, and elaborate meals.

[Riding the rails across America](#)

Stuff.co.nz- Jul 31, 2013

By train across the United States – what a tantalising prospect.

My route is an elongated loop from the west coast to the east and back again further south, exploring Denver, Chicago, New York, Washington and New Orleans on the way...

We're learning that an Amtrak train is no luxurious Orient Express, or stylish Eurostar. It's a no-frills commuter train