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tracks. This isn't the first time something like this has happened. Maybe we need K-Rails often used in the center medians of roads to prevent head on collisions on the shoulder to keep vehicles off the tracks.NB

#### Amtrak Lines Shut Down Between Philadelphia And D.C.

CBS Local- Sep 11, 2013

NEW YORK (CBSNew York) — The Acela Express and Northeast Regional Amtrak lines have been shut down between Washington, D.C. and ...

#### **Amtrak Disruptions**

Baltimore Sun-by Kevin Rector-Sep 11, 2013

The overhead power system was damaged south of Elkton at around 10:30 a.m., with hundreds of passengers stuck on several trains until about 1 p.m., said Craig Schulz, the Amtrak spokesman. MARC train service north of Martin State Airport was also disrupted, but had been restored with minor delays as of about 5 p.m., Maryland Transit Administration spokesman Terry Owens said.

#### Amtrak service restored between Philadelphia, DC

WRAL.com- Sep 11, 2013

WASHINGTON — Amtrak says train service between Philadelphia and Washington has been restored after being suspended because of damaged overhead wires.

#### Amtrak service restored, delays expected

WTNH-Sep 13, 2013

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (WTNH) -- Amtrak service has been restored between New Haven and Providence, Rhode Island. Service was ..

#### New Haven-Providence Amtrak service restored

WFSB-Sep 13, 2013

Amtrak service between New Haven and Providence has been restored after crews worked to clear a tree and other debris brought down by severe weather.

## Metrolink crash memorial to be unveiled Thursday in Moorpark

Ventura County Star- Sep 10, 2013

A memorial plaque will be unveiled in Moorpark on Thursday, the fifth anniversary of a deadly Metrolink crash in Chatsworth. Twenty-five ..

# 2013 Steel Wheels Conference, October 5th

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# 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

#### California Toll Road Risks Biggest Default Since Detroit

Bloomberg Sep 10, 2013

California's largest toll-road agency, whose revenue has trailed projections for six years, is nearing the biggest default in the \$3.7 trillion municipal market since Detroit's record bankruptcy.

#### Road tolls in U.S. will need to rise

Moody's Sep 10, 2013

Toll roads' combined leverage grew last fiscal year, Moody's found, with debt per roadway mile rising to \$18.9 million from \$14.3 million the year before.

Toll roads are not the easy way to avoid raising taxes for infrastructure some claimed they would be. NB

# After the Addition of Bike Lanes and Plazas, Manhattan Traffic Moves Faster STREETSBLOG.ORG Sep 5, 2013

In Manhattan below 60th Street, predictions that reallocating space to walking, biking, and transit would only worsen traffic have not come to pass. In fact, average traffic speeds have picked up. GPS data from yellow cabs below 60th Street show that average speeds are up 6.7 percent since 2008. The average speed of a taxi trip, which was 8.9 mph in 2011, inched up to 9.3 mph last year.

# UCLA could teach L.A. commuters to improve traffic

UCLA Newsroom Aug 19, 2013

The number of car trips in and out of UCLA has declined steadily since 2003, and is lower now than it was in 1990. The dramatic increase in the use of alternative transportation by UCLA students, staff and faculty is partly the result of a sustained campaign by UCLA's transportation department to encourage alternative commuting methods like public transit, vanpools, biking and walking.

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#### Black and white and red all over - Calgary's new LRT cars revealed

CTV News- Sep 11, 2013

The new S200 light rail vehicles will be manufactured at Siemens' plant in Sacramento, California and feature a new design and air conditioning.

#### San Diego pilots mobile ticketing

www.thetransitwire.com Sep 6, 2013

The San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (CA) launched a pilot test of MTS mTicket, a mobile ticketing application that lets riders use their smartphone to purchase a day pass when riding the San Diego Trolley to Chargers and Aztecs football games this season.

#### TriMet mobile ticketing app sales reach \$100K

METRO Magazine Sep 12, 2013

Portland, Ore.-based TriMet's mobile ticketing app, TriMet Tickets, proves an overwhelming success in its first week. As of Wednesday, TriMet sold more than 21,700 mobile tickets and passes through the app, generating more than \$100,000 in sales. There have been more than 16,000 downloads of the free app.

#### Metro's August ridership: two rail lines reach new all-time highs

The Source Sep 11, 2013

The Expo Line had its best month yet with 27,280 average weekday boardings and the Red/Purple Line had its second best month with 164,081 boardings.

#### And Now the Reason Foundation Is Completely Wrong About Expo

LASTREETBLOG.ORG Sep 12, 2013

Last year, the Reason Foundation, an oil industry funded think tank that pretends to espouse Libertarian principles, declared the Expo Line a failure after sending two people to ride Phase I of the light rail line on its opening week and complaining that it wasn't meeting its ridership projections for 2020. The line averaged 11,000 weekday boardings. Expo's 2020 projections was 27,000....

This is hardly news for anyone that's ever read a Reason transit analysis. As Streetsblog.net's Angie Schmitt noted last year, Reason Foundation reports on rail are predictable, they all say the same thing. "Ridership will be lower than expected; costs will be higher." Don't forget it will be a disaster, your great grandchildren will curse you as they pay your debts for this horrible idea which will create the next economic crisis. Plus buses can do the same job cheaper and are more flexible from people who rarely ride buses. NB

## Clever financing keeps Hong Kong metro profitable

METRO Magazine Sep 12, 2013

HONG KONG — Mass Transit Railway (MTR), which manages the subway and bus systems on Hong Kong, is considered the gold standard for transit management worldwide. In 2012, the MTR turned a profit of \$2 billion, with farebox recovery ratio of 185%, the world's highest, The Atlantic reported. Following the concept of "value capture," the Hong Kong metro essentially functions as part of a vertically integrated business that, through a "rail plus property" model, controls both the means of transit and the places passengers visit upon departure, according to the report.

People keep thinking the business of public transport is to carry people. It isn't, that's only a means to an end. The purpose of public transport is to develop land and the economy. NB

# Union Station page now up on Metro.net

The Source Sep 11, 2013

In case you didn't know, Metro.net now has a page exclusively dedicated to Los Angeles Union Station.

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