
Subject: Power out on Metro North has it and Amtrak's NEC a mess

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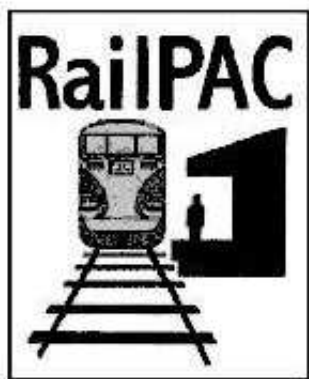
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RailPAC Weekly E-Newsletter for September 30, 2013

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 is the view from Venice Blvd in Culver City looking east at the viaduct for the extension of the Expo Line from Culver City to Santa Monica. This Phase 2 of the Expo Line construction underway since 2011 is now at the half way point with completion expected by 2015. Photo by Noel T. Braymer

[Living Near Good Transit May Make You Happier](#)

The Atlantic Cities Sept 13, 2013

Jason Cao, a transport policy scholar at the University of Minnesota, has conducted a short but tidy study that demonstrates just what good public transit can mean to a person's life. His findings, in a word: satisfaction.

Cao focused his research on the Hiawatha light rail line in Minneapolis (lately called the Blue line instead). The line runs 12 miles between the downtown area and the Mall of America, carrying travelers to major sports stadiums, entertainment districts, and the international airport.

[High-speed rail team opens Fresno office Tuesday](#)

Fresno Bee-Sep 23, 2013

An open house Tuesday afternoon will celebrate the opening of Fresno offices for Tutor Perini/Zachry/Parsons, the joint engineering and construction team hired to design and build the the first section of high-speed rail in the Fresno-Madera area.

[1 Injured After 4 Big Rigs Collide, Shutting Down 5 Freeway In Gorman](#)

CBS Local-Sep 24, 2013

GORMAN (CBSLA.com) — At least one person was seriously injured Tuesday after a crash involving four big rigs prompted the closure of the northbound Golden State (5) Freeway.

Shutdowns of major freeways particularly the I-5 is becoming more common because of weather or with truck accidents. We need alternatives. NB

[Speedy Trains Transform China](#)

New York Times- Sep 24, 2013

CHANGSHA, China — The cavernous rail station here for China's new high-speed trains was nearly deserted when it opened less than four years ago.

Not anymore. Practically every train is sold out, although they leave for cities all over the country every several minutes.

[Reid wants to get high-speed rail project back on track](#)

VEGAS INC-Sep 23, 2013

"I've had conversations within the last week with the White House and with (XpressWest Chairman) Tony Marnell, who is the person who is putting up all the money on that," Reid said. "(California Gov.) Jerry Brown loves it. I like it. It's a pretty good start."

[We're holding ACE in drive for SJ Valley employment](#)

Manteca Bulletin- Sep 28, 2013

The real game changer for the economically challenged in the San Joaquin Valley won't be California High Speed Rail. It'll be well-run traditional rail modeled after the Altamont Corridor Express service. That's because high speed rail will serve one of three classes: Upper income super-distance commuters, tourists, and Los Angeles to San Francisco business travel.

ACE-style service targets traditional commuters, regional entertainment travel, and the poor. That's right. The poor.

I think this article illustrates a major problem the High Speed Rail Project has in the San Joaquin Valley. Many people there feel this project is only for well paid people in Southern California and the Bay Area. The people in the Valley feel left out and of being taken advantaged of by the big city slickers. The California High Speed Rail Authority needs to do a better job showing how High Speed Rail can serve more of the San Joaquin Valley and how people of modest means will be able to ride it. The SNCF, operator of the TGV has gone to great lengths to offer discount ticket and extensive service in France to insure everyone can ride High Speed Rail. ACE is not in competition with High Speed Rail, but will benefit from it with transferring riders to and from High Speed Rail. The larger cities in the San Joaquin Valley understand what High Speed Rail can do for their local development. But more work is needed to insure the smaller towns in the Valley are not left out and ignored. High Speed Rail needs all the support they can get if it is to get built. NB

[Judge will decide if high-speed rail bonds are valid](#)

Fresno Bee - Sep 27, 2013

SACRAMENTO - California voters approved Proposition 1A, a \$9.9 billion bond measure for high-speed rail, almost five years ago. On Friday, a cadre of attorneys argued over whether or not the state can now sell those bonds.

[Metro North Rail Service Disruption To Continue](#)

Hartford Courant-Sep 25, 2013

NEW HAVEN — Metro-North's New Haven Line service was suspended Wednesday because of an electrical problem and will continue to be disrupted at least through Thursday, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority said.

The suspension is affecting train service between Stamford and Grand Central Terminal. Amtrak service to and from Penn Station also is delayed.

[Amtrak Acela service is canceled for Thursday after power outage](#)

Boston Globe-Sep 25,2013

Amtrak's Acela service between New York and Boston has been canceled for Thursday after transportation through the Northeast was delayed ...

[Acela service from New York to Boston shut down through Sunday](#)

Boston Globe - Sep 27, 2013

Amtrak's high-speed Acela Express service between New York and Boston is shut down today due to a power problem in the New York area, and will remain out of service through Sunday, Amtrak says. The railroad said it would add extra cars to regular Northeast Regional trains to accommodate people who planned to take the Acela. Delays should be expected due to the use of diesel locomotives.

[Frustration, Gridlock for Conn.-NYC Rail Commuters](#)

ABC News-Sep 26, 2013

Parts of Interstate 95 turned into a virtual parking lot Thursday as tens of thousands of Metro-North Railroad commuters scrambled for alternate ...

[Power repairs for NY-Connecticut rail woes may be weeks](#)

Norwich Bulletin-Sep 25, 2013

Amtrak, which runs along the same Metro-North corridor, advised passengers that service in the Northeast was operating with "significant ...

[MTA Aims for 50% Service on Metro-North New Haven Line](#)

NBC New York - Sep 28, 2013

MTA officials announced Saturday that they hope to restore service on the Metro-North New Haven line to about half its normal volume in time for the Monday morning rush. The authority has been scrambling to restore service after a 138,000-volt Con Edison feed loader failed Wednesday.

[My \(almost\) Amtrak meltdown](#)

WPIX-TV- Sep 28, 2013

All aboard! I'm VERY lucky I made it aboard this Amtrak train to Washington, D.C. Saturday, as residual delays from the Metro-North power outage continued to affect other railroad lines this weekend to other cities and states.

[Signal issues delay Amtrak, MARC trains](#)

Washington Post (blog)-Sep 23, 2013

A problem with Amtrak's signal system created headaches for Amtrak and MARC trains on Monday afternoon. Signal problems between ..

[Amtrak takes steps to preserve Hudson Yards right of way](#)

Progressive Rail Roading- Sep 25, 2013

The project is part of Amtrak's Gateway Program, a series of infrastructure projects that will double train capacity between Newark, N.J., and Penn Station. The projects include two new rail tunnels that will run under the Hudson River.

[NY to help pay cost of Amtrak train to Vt.](#)

WCAX-Sep 27,2013

RUTLAND, Vt. (AP) - The state of New York is going to help pay the cost of running Amtrak's Ethan Allen Express to the Vermont city of Rutland.

[Train track repair date pushed back](#)

Glenwood Springs Post Independent-Sep 28, 2013