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**Subject:** Despite Shale Oil, World Oil Production continues to decline!

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

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**To:** ntbraymer@yahoo.com;

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**Date:** Monday, December 30, 2013 9:33 AM

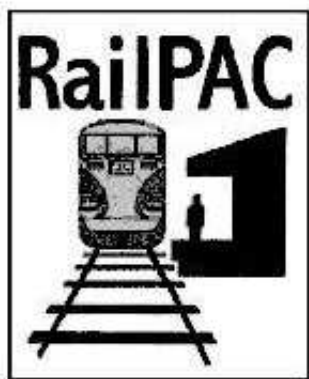
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## **RailPAC Weekly E-Newsletter for December 30, 2013**

**Edited by Noel T. Braymer**

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**Rail Passenger Association of California**  
**[www.railpac.org](http://www.railpac.org)**  
**Traffic? Gas Pains? We need more Trains!**



Sign at the construction site for the downtown Azusa station for the Gold Line extension from Pasadena deeper into the San Gabriel Valley. Under construction since the summer of 2011, it is now over half finished and will be in service by 2016.. Photo by Noel T. Braymer

### [Perkins on travel: Winners, losers for 2013](#)

San Jose Mercury News-Dec 25, 2013

Looking back, I'd conclude that 2013 wasn't a great year for travel, but it wasn't a bad one, either. Air travelers lost on comfort and fares, and the "resort fee" scam spread to more hotels, but these were countered by long-haul bus improvements and increased rail offerings....

More high-speed rail.

The fast train networks in several areas -- especially China and Spain, but also in Benelux, France, and Italy -- expanded. But here in North America, we got bupkis.

### [What's the Good News for Rail Passenger Service in California?](#)

Posted August 16th, 2013

By Noel T. Braymer

While things may seem rocky now, the future is very promising. Just look at how far things have come in Los Angeles since 1990 when the first 22 miles of Light Rail opened. Los Angeles now has 87.8 miles with 6 lines of Light Rail and Subway service. By 2023 Los Angeles County has funding and plans to increase that with 31 miles...

### [Fresno group files CHSRA support statement](#)

RailwayAge Magazine - Dec 24, 2013

The letter, posted Dec. 23 on STB's website, was submitted by Henry R. Perea, chairman of Fresno Works, a group that "represents a unified effort to bring the California High-Speed Rail Authority's heavy

maintenance facility to Fresno County."

### [Top Exec of 2013: Gov. Jerry Brown](#)

Sacramento Business Journal-Dec 26, 2013

Gov. Jerry Brown's moderating influence helped prevent Democratic lawmakers from enacting a number of bills opposed by the business lobby...

Several of the governor's biggest initiatives face critical tests in the year ahead...

Another is California's nascent high-speed rail system, which is under legal attack as it moves into the construction phase in coming months.

### [Very fast train? Here's France's very fast way to do it](#)

Sydney Morning Herald-Dec 21, 2013

Matthieu Lafaurie, director of communication for the LISEA consortium that includes VINCI, one of the world's largest construction companies, says studies show two hours is the key to unlocking economic development and boosting passenger numbers for both business and leisure.

### [This High-Speed Train Picks Up Passengers Without Having to Stop](#)

Smithsonian (blog) Dec 27, 2013

One particularly intriguing proposal that futuristic-minded engineers have batted around since the 1960s is the notion of a high-speed train that can transport and pick up passengers at various stops along the route without ever having to actually, you know, stop

### [EBA approves Velaro D high speed trains for domestic operation](#)

Railway Gazette International-Dec 23, 2013

Siemens says it has now delivered four of the eight-car, 320 km/h **(198 mph)** trains to DB for use on domestic long-distance services, with a further four to follow 'in Spring 2014'. EBA has approved operation both singly and in multiple.

### [Give the train privateers a tilt](#)

Scotsman-Dec 26, 2013

A new race is on which can at last make London-to-Scotland express rail travel competitive with aviation. New plans for the fastest ever long-distance rail service between London King's Cross and Edinburgh using new tilting trains will slash city to city journey times from an average of just under four and a half hours to just over 3hrs 40 mins. .

### [Hollysys Automation Technologies Announces a High-Speed Rail ...](#)

PR Newswire (press release)-Dec 23, 2013

BEIJING, Dec. 23, 2013 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Hollysys Automation Technologies, Ltd. (NASDAQ: HOLI) ("Hollysys" or the "Company"), a leading provider of automation and control technologies and applications in China, announced today that it signed a sizable contract to provide the Automatic Train Protection (ATP) equipment and system for 200-250km/h high-speed trains, with the contract size being approximately RMB 100.37 million or USD\$ 16.40 million.

### [Former BP geologist: Peak oil is here and it will 'break economies'](#)

The Guardian Dec 23, 2013

Industry expert warns of grim future of 'recession' driven 'resource wars' at University College London lecture...

Dr. Miller critiqued the official industry line that global reserves will last 53 years at current rates of consumption, pointing out that "peaking is the result of declining production rates, not declining reserves." Despite new discoveries and increasing reliance on unconventional oil and gas, 37 countries are

already post-peak, and global oil production is declining at about 4.1% per year, or 3.5 million barrels a day (b/d) per year:

### [The Peak Oil Crisis: California's Bubble Pops](#)

Falls Church News Press-Dec 11, 2013

Rapid increases in production, however, mean that the faster we use up something the sooner will come the day when production starts to decline and that may not be very far away...

As the U.S. burns about 7 billion barrels of oil a year we have at least a three-year supply of shale oil – if we can get it out of the ground. Interestingly, the government's contractor reported that some 15.4 billion barrels of this shale oil were buried under California while only 3.6 billion was in North Dakota and 3.4 billion in south Texas. The rest was sort of scattered around.

### [Activist Tom Steyer launches California oil tax campaign](#)

San Francisco Chronicle-Dec 17, 2013

Environmental activist Tom Steyer, the billionaire Democrat who poured millions of dollars into 2013 campaigns around the country, launched a political drive Monday in his home state to call for an oil extraction tax that he argues will raise billions in revenue for California.

**California is one of the few if any other oil producing States that doesn't have an oil extraction tax. NB**

### [State Energy Efficiency Scorecard Released – How Did Yours Fare ...](#)

Triple Pundit-Dec 26, 2013

Massachusetts retained the top spot in the rankings for the third year in a row, after overtaking California in 2011.

### [What's Needed for Great Rail Passenger Service](#)

By Noel T. Braymer

When rail service is good, people will take the train in droves. When there is great rail service, many traffic congestion problems can be solved or reduced. The problems today with depending on cars for transportation are: they take up lots of space, we can't build enough roads or parking lots in urban areas for more cars, cars waste a great deal of energy while creating pollution and they are becoming increasingly more expensive to own and operate. Plus there are many people who can't or shouldn't drive. As America's population ages the number of people who can't drive will increase.

### [End of the road? Are major routes through cities outdated?](#)

BBC News 26, Dec 2013

When it emerged Birmingham's Queensway tunnels would be closed for six weeks over the summer, it is no surprise there were predictions of "chaos"...

There was some surprise, therefore, when the anticipated gridlock did not materialise.

### [LA County transit officials plan to put sales tax measure on ballot](#)

Los Angeles Times-Dec 24, 2013

Transit leaders are pondering whether to seek an additional half-cent levy or extension of Measure R, either next year or in 2016.

**A recent vote to extend Measure R fail by less than one percent to pass by a 2/3's majority. Extending the half sales tax and borrowing money now could speed up the pace of construction which would save money in the long run. NB**

### [Colorful New Look For Blue Line-Adjacent Retail In Long Beach](#)

Curbed LA-Dec 23, 2013



Using a Community Development Block Grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the city of Long Beach is upgrading a stretch of businesses on Anaheim Street and Long Beach Boulevard, adjacent to the Anaheim station on the Blue Line.

### [Metro Introduces New Unified Design For All Future Stations](#)

Curbed LA-Dec 23, 2013

The next wave of Metro stations will share a "signature look" by using a set of rearrangeable elements that will give each above-ground, elevated, and underground station a unified, recognizable appearance, so you know a Metro station when you see one.

### [MTC approves SMART train extension](#)

Marinscope Community Newspapers Dec 27, 2013

Officials with the Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit received a nice financial boost earlier this week when the Metropolitan Transportation Commission approved \$16.7 million to extend rail to the Charles M. Schulz-Sonoma County Airport in Santa Rosa Wednesday.

### [Oakland airport BART tram to open in fall 2014](#)

San Francisco Chronicle-Dec 24, 2013

BART's Oakland Airport Connector looks as if it's ready to roll, but the 3.2-mile automated rail link between the airport and the Coliseum/Oakland Airport Station isn't quite complete. The \$484 million project is on budget, according to BART officials, and it is expected to open on time sometime in the fall.

### [USAA Real Estate Company And Partners Acquire 850000 Square ...](#)

Area Development Online-Dec 23, 2013

According to USAA officials, the property enjoys ease of access to I-880 and I-680 as well as US 101 and proximity to the VTA Light Rail and Bus Lines, the ACE and Caltrain commuter trains.



The view along the Embarcadero in San Francisco. Due in large part to improved Muni Metro with nearby Caltrain service this area is thriving with new development. Photo by Noel T. Braymer

### [Iowa slams door on Amtrak](#)

Quad City Times-Dec 26, 2013

Iowa's deferred planning resulted in dismissed funding. The federal DOT moved \$34 million in Iowa transportation grant funding to Illinois, where work is well underway.

Branstad consistently has balked at high capital and operating costs for rail. But he's lavished much bigger tax cuts on other businesses. Under Branstad's authority, Iowa awarded \$50 million in tax credits to Orascom, then piled on another \$57 million in tax credits to CF Industries, which demanded the same deal for its new fertilizer plant.

### [No-show? No refund, Amtrak says in new policy](#)

Boston.com (blog)-Dec 24, 2013

The company announced last week that starting March 1, travelers must cancel their tickets more than 24 hours before the train departs from its origin in order for them to receive a full refund.

### [Editorial: Amtrak's often-tardy Empire Builder, one of its ...](#)

The Spokesman Review-Dec 28, 2013

Spokane and other cities and towns along the route of the Empire Builder receive the worst Amtrak rail service in the country, with the one ...

### [Wi-Fi Doesn't Just Enhance Amtrak — It May Actually Encourage New Riders](#)

The Atlantic Cities-Dec 23, 2013

As travelers increasingly see the train as a sort of mobile office, free Wi-Fi becomes less of an amenity

and more of an essential service. Until travel times themselves improve, Amtrak's ability to offer more productive travel time, at least compared with driving or flying, represents one of its chief competitive advantages.

### [Romancing the Rails](#)

San Antonio Express-Dec 27, 2013

When my husband, Brian, and I needed to get from Point A (Portland, Ore.) to Point B (Los Angeles) and had plenty of time to spare, Amtrak's Coast Starlight fit our needs.

### [Scenic Vintage Railcar Daytrip!](#)

Santa Barbara Independent-Dec 28, 2013

... Central California coastlines will feature two historic rail cars and a lunch ... The train is scheduled to depart Santa Barbara at 10:22

### [City councils renew commitment to bring passenger rail service to ...](#)

TriCities.com-Dec 17, 2013

The Bristol, Va., and Bristol, Tenn., councils met at the Bristol Train Station Tuesday to review the progress made so far in passenger rail efforts in both states and to voice support for establishing an active passenger station in the city.

### [Eastern Flyer lets you ride the rails to Oklahoma City and back](#)

Tulsa World-Dec 25, 2013

While Amtrak offers services between Texas and Oklahoma City, Tulsa has been without passenger services since 1967, said Evan Stair, who runs the train service advocacy group Passenger Rail Oklahoma.

"Essentially they are attempting to develop passenger rail service on this line," Stair said. "They want to test the demand for service between Tulsa and Oklahoma City."

Passenger rail advocates have been pushing for rail service from Dallas to Kansas City that would include stops in Oklahoma and Tulsa for five decades. It would connect Oklahoma and Texas to the upper Midwest.

### [November 2013 Capitol Corridor Service Performance](#)

**Report by David B. Kutrosky, Managing Director**

**Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority**

As stated in earlier reports, our an initial analysis of our downward ridership trend has revealed that the largest sustained customer losses are occurring at the Placer County, Sacramento and Davis stations, and on the midday trains. Efforts are underway now to reverse these trends. Some immediate actions include the reinstitution of the Seniors 50% discount on midday trains and the 50% on-line fare discount for weekend travel.

### [Easy Ways for Amtrak to Make More Money](#) **Posted February 2nd, 2013**

Report by Noel T. Braymer

Cutting back on Long Distance Passenger Service has never saved money for Amtrak. It was tried in 1979 and again in 1997 with losses increasing not decreasing. Amtrak's losses increased 150 million dollars from 1978 to 1981 after the October 1979 service cutbacks of 5 Long Distance Trains. Despite service cutbacks after 1994 which included in 1997 elimination of 2 Long Distance Trains, Amtrak almost ran out of cash for operations by 2002 from the cost of the start up of the Acela Trains.

### [What the Southwest Chief Should Be](#) **Posted January 19th, 2013**

Report by Noel T. Braymer



Imagine you are at the Albuquerque Train Station and you can catch a train there to Fresno or Denver, St Louis, Phoenix, Pittsburgh, Washington D.C. as well as Chicago and Los Angeles. How many “trains” would be needed to do this? Well 5 but they would all arrive at Albuquerque at the same time.

### [Bombardier gets TransLink contract](#)

RailwayAge Magazine-Dec 23, 2013

Bombardier Transportation said Monday, Dec. 23, 2013 it has signed a contract to provide train operations for TransLink's West Coast Express regional rail system in the Lower Mainland region of British Columbia.

Bombardier provides operations and maintenance services to transit systems across North America, including AMT (Agence Metropolitaine de Transport) in Montreal, GO Transit in Toronto, MARC (Maryland Area Regional Commuter), MBTA (Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority) New Jersey Transit, NCTD (North County Transit District) in California, OC Transpo in Ottawa, SFRTA (South Florida Regional Transit Authority), SCRRA (Southern California Regional Rail Authority), and, beginning in the spring of 2014, Central Florida Commuter Rail Transit (SunRail). Bombardier also supports transit systems with overhaul and refurbishment programs and material and technology solutions.



The Pacific Surfliner at San Luis Obispo in October 2013. Photo by Noel T. Bryamer

**Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Rail Passenger Association of California.**

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policymakers at all levels!

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