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**Subject:** 4 Oil Train fires in last 6 months in North America!

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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, January 6, 2014 9:35 AM

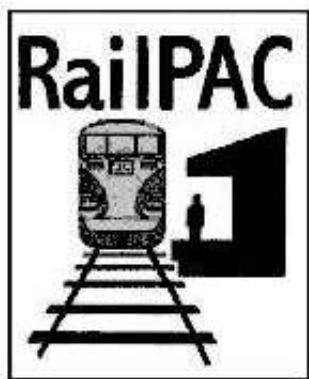
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## **RailPAC Weekly E-Newsletter for January 6, 2014**

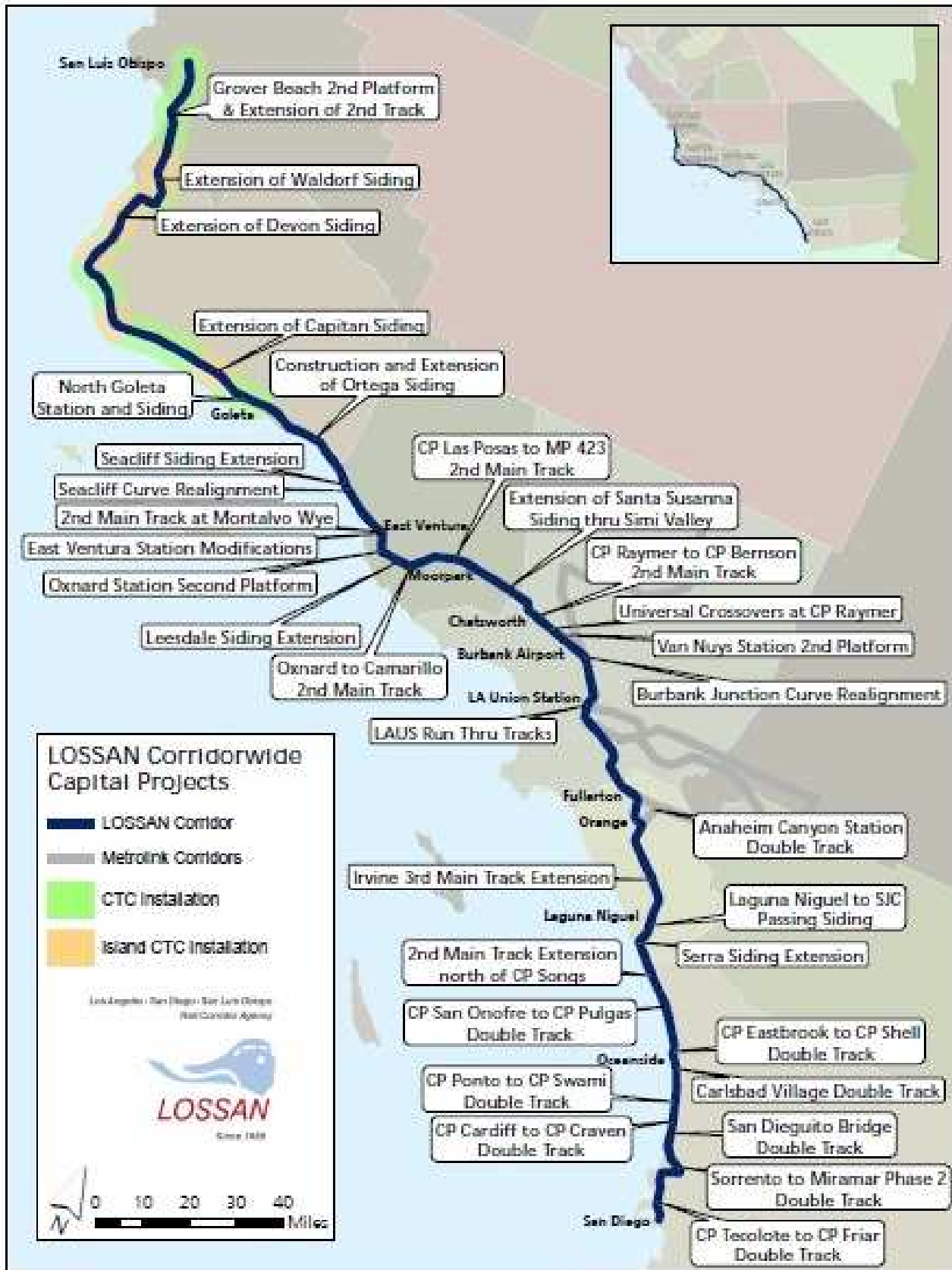
**Edited by Noel T. Braymer**

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**Traffic? Gas Pains? We need more Trains!**



This is a graphic of the track projects planned or soon to be built on the LOSSAN Corridor. San Diego County now has about 54 percent of its 60 miles of railroad double tracked. In 2014 just over 2 additional miles of double track will be added in San Diego County with construction started on 7 miles of additional double tracking. Projects to get 97 percent double tracking in San Diego County have funding for 73 percent of construction as of now.

## [VIDEO:North Dakota oil train crash sparks fireball](#)

The Guardian Dec 30, 2013

North Dakota oil train erupts into fireball after crash.

## [Another Oil-Train Explosion Hits America's Risky Energy Bottleneck](#)

Businessweek (blog) - Dec 31, 2013

For the fourth time in less than six months, a train carrying crude oil across North America has derailed and triggered a massive explosion. A small town in North Dakota just west of Fargo was evacuated after two trains collided on Monday, one carrying ...

## [Fiery oil train collision forces evacuation of North Dakota town](#)

Reuters - Dec 30, 2013

Half of the oil cars have been separated from the train, but another 56 cars remain in danger, said Cecily Fong, the public information officer with the North Dakota Department of Emergency Services. The collision destroyed both engines on the oil train.

## [Casselton, N.D. residents flee town after oil train explosion](#)

Minneapolis Star Tribune - Dec 31, 2013

The explosion happened shortly after 2 p.m. Monday after a BNSF grain train derailed and crashed into a crude oil train near Casselton, which is 20 miles west of Fargo, causing tank cars to explode in towering mushroom-cloud flames. No one was injured in ...

## [Derailing Revives Calls To Change How Trains Haul Crude Oil](#)

NPR-Jan 1, 2014

A fiery oil train crash in North Dakota is once again raising questions about the safety of transporting oil by rail.

## [Amtrak delayed by incident](#)

Daily Inter Lake-Dec 31, 2013

Passengers on Amtrak's westbound Empire Builder were delayed about nine hours Monday by a train collision and derailment in Casselton, ...

## [Rerouted trains and break down delay Amtrak passengers](#)

Valley News Live-Dec 31, 2013

Fargo Amtrak station passengers should have been miles down the tracks by this afternoon, but rerouted trains around Casselton and a ...

## [Amtrak: Long-distance rail will continue to falter without changes](#)

The Seattle Times (blog)-Dec 30, 2013

Unless Amtrak is given more resources, or the powers of the commercial railroads are reduced, long-distance rail travel will only continue to falter.

## [Amtrak Service On Keystone Line Suspended Between Lancaster ...](#)

CBS Local- Dec 30, 2013

PHILADELPHIA (CBS) — Amtrak says Keystone Service is temporarily suspended for passengers traveling between Lancaster and Harrisburg, ..

## [Amtrak service restored between Lancaster and Harrisburg](#)

abc27-Dec 31, 2013

Amtrak's Keystone Service has been restored for passengers traveling between Lancaster and Harrisburg.

It was suspended Monday due to debris on the track.

### [Amtrak to suspend some Crescent service in Jan., Feb.](#)

Access North Georgia-Dec 31, 2013

WASHINGTON - Amtrak service will shut down in parts of the Southeast for several days in January and February for rail maintenance by ...

### [Amtrak adds capacity on 'Auto Train](#)

Progressive Rail Roading- Jan 2, 2014

Up to 60 additional coach seats will be available for travel on various dates on Train 53 to Florida and Train 52 from Florida through March 31, said Amtrak officials in a press release.

### [Amtrak prepping for storm](#)

FOX43.com Jan 2, 2013

Amtrak forces up and down the Northeast Corridor are making preparations for potential impacts from the pending winter storm.

### [Amtrak to operate modified snow schedule on Friday](#)

FOX43.com-Jan 3, 2013

Due to the winter storm impact upon the Northeast Corridor, Amtrak will operate a modified snow schedule on Friday. Acela Express and ...

### [US Northeast Snow Closes Highways, Offices, Grounds Flights](#)

Businessweek-Jan 2, 2013

Amtrak canceled some trains between Boston and Washington and ... Winter storm warnings and weather advisories stretched from Indiana...

### [Logan Airport Halts Flights During Snow Storm; Amtrak To Operate ...](#)

CBS Local-Jan 2, 2014

The winter storm will also impact Amtrak service in the Northeast Corridor. Acela Express and Northeast Regional service will operate between ...

### [Snowstorm hurts airline travel in Midwest, Northeast](#)

USA TODAY- Jan 2, 2014

Airports suffering the worst are Chicago O'Hare International, which had 822 cancellations; Newark Liberty International, which had 424 cancellations; and Boston's Logan International, which had 337 cancellations, according to FlightStats. Also in the New York area, a major hub for airlines, LaGuardia had 257 cancellations and John F. Kennedy International had 185.



The Van Nuys Station with one field side platform and an unsafe second platform between tracks. Los Angeles County has on its to do list creation of a second field side platform and extension of double tracking west of Van Nuys out to Chatsworth. This will make more and faster rail passenger service possible in the San Fernando Valley. Photo by Noel T. Braymer

### [Here's What's Happening on the LOSSAN Corridor in 2014](#)

Compiled by Noel T. Braymer

There is a great deal of construction that will be finished as well as started during 2014 along the LOSSAN Rail Corridor. This is largely centered in the Counties of San Diego, Orange and Los Angeles. This is a quick review of some of these project underway now.

### [Oklahoma Passenger Rail Hitting The Tracks In Style](#)

News On 6-Dec 29, 2013

It has been years since a passenger train like The Meteor has connected Tulsa to Oklahoma City, and while that still may be in the distance, ...

### [Tommy Thompson Once Again Backs High Speed Rail](#)

Wisconsin Public Radio News-Dec 30, 2013

Former Gov. Tommy Thompson is again saying he supports high speed rail in Wisconsin, after rejecting the idea during his unsuccessful bid for U.S. Senate.

### [What's coming up regarding California HSR Project in early 2014](#)

examiner.com Dec 22, 2013

This is a year-end update on various high-speed rail (HSR) subjects and actions that have not been dormant in this month of holiday cheer. Watch for fireworks early next year on various fronts. Here are a



few that are ripe for action.

### [Will California Bullet Train Start Work Soon Or Is It Totally F'd?](#)

Curbed LA-Jan 3, 2014

California high-speed rail officials remain bullish on the San Francisco-to-LA project as 2014 begins, even with a couple of recent (and major) legal setbacks. Some people in central California, where construction is supposed to start—now, this month or next, according to the AP—are hoping the Democrats who control the legislature and governorship will pull the plug (good luck with that)

### [Jerry Brown eyes cap-and-trade money for high-speed rail](#)

Sacramento Bee- Jan 5, 2014

The proposal - and the prospect of additional funding from the state's cap-and-trade program in future years - could provide a significant lift to a \$68 billion rail project beleaguered by uncertainty about long-term financing.

Brown plans to propose allocating several hundred million dollars this year.

### [Entire Neighborhoods in San Francisco Would Have To Be Trashed To Build The Hyperloop](#)

Business Insider Jan 3, 2014

The Hyperloop would move people in cars sealed inside a tube of moving air at speeds up to 760 mph. The idea is to travel between San Francisco and Los Angeles at an average speed of 600 mph. The problem is the corners: A vehicle moving that fast around corners would subject passengers to G-forces in excess of 0.5g, worse than a race car accelerating to 60 mph in 6 seconds. Above 0.5g, humans start to get sick and throw up on each other.

### [Roadworks cause Turkey's state-of-the-art high-speed train track to collapse...](#)

Hurriyet Daily News-Dec 30, 2013

The western city of Eskişehir lies at halfway point of the high-speed railroad between Ankara and Istanbul, which is expected to be operational next year. The new line will reduce the journey by train between Turkey's two main cities from seven hours to three.

### [Plan for 220km network of bike paths suspended above railway ... \*\*that's 137 miles\*\*](#) **NB**

The Guardian (blog)-Jan 2, 2014

The project, which has the backing of Network Rail and Transport for London, would see over 220km of car-free routes installed above London's suburban rail network, suspended on pylons above the tracks and accessed at over 200 entrance points.

### [RailPAC PHOTOS of the Month \(December, 2013\)](#)

Here are this month's photos by RailPAC photographers. Click on each photo to see it full size!

Contributions to this page are welcome. Send your jpg rail photos to RailPAC Photo Editor, at [info@railpac.org](mailto:info@railpac.org). Russ Jackson, Photo page editor. And, a HAPPY NEW YEAR from the RailPAC Staff.

### [A million ACEs](#)

Central Valley Business Times-Dec 28, 2013

The ACE service began in October 1998 with 714 passengers on its first day.

So far in 2013, the ACE trains have carried more than 169,000 more passengers than last year, a 20 percent increase.

### [Large development floated for ex-State Farm site](#)

Santa Rosa Press Democrat-Jan 2, 2014

A Southern California-based developer has purchased the property. ... and that the development will link closely with the SMART commuter rail station ... "We want to take advantage of the train station and help enable a town ...

### [This Is What San Francisco Could Look Like In 2033](#)

Huffington Post-Dec 31, 2013

Scheduled for completion in 2017, the Transbay Transit Center will feature a rippling metal facade, a column allowing natural light into the station and a rooftop City Park with gardens, trails, an open-air amphitheater, a children's play space, a restaurant and a cafe.

### [BART workers get chance at \\$500 bonus this year](#)

San Francisco Chronicle-Dec 30, 2013

Under the new contract, BART agreed to pay its workers \$500 for every 1 percent that core commuter ridership exceeded projections.

### [Jan. 2-16: Caltrain working nights in Atherton](#)

The Almanac Online-Dec 19, 2013

As part of its program to upgrade signal and train-control systems, Caltrain will be working on its right-of-way in Atherton from Jan. 2 through Jan. 16. The work hours are 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays.

### [Del Mar man killed by train while saving dog](#)

San Jose Mercury News - Jan 3, 2014

Sheriff's Sgt. Anthony O'Boyle tells U-T San Diego the collision happened Friday afternoon while the man was walking the yellow Labrador retriever off leash on the coastal bluff in Del Mar.

### [Former Del Mar Mayor struck and killed by train](#)

KFMB-Jan 3, 2013

One of Terrell's friends told CBS News 8, that crossing the tracks was a daily routine for the retired SDSU professor and his Labrador retriever...

The North County Transit District provided bus service between Solana Beach and Sorrento Valley for rail commuters facing delays due to the fatality. Coaster train service was expected to be running behind schedule into the evening hours, the agency advised.

### [Witnesses: Driver Ignored Crossing Gate Before Train Plowed Into Car](#)

NBC Southern California-Dec 31, 2013

A driver suffered minor injuries when a commuter train plowed into his car at an Orange County rail station and slowly pushed it down the tracks before passengers helped the man out of the vehicle.

**Talk about a lucky fool. Grade crossing and right of way accidents and deaths are very disruptive to train schedules making it difficult to operate service on time or reliably. Adding to this the trains are held by authorities, particularly when there is a death, for a long time for an investigation which often have to wait for the coroner to arrive at the scene. Speeding up the process of these investigations and cracking down on trespassers and bad drivers are needed to insure a safe and reliable rail passenger service.NB**

### [Firefighters Monitor "Combustible Sawdust" After Lumber Yard Fire](#)

NBC Southern California - Jan 3, 2014

Metrolink's Antelope Valley Line 223 to Lancaster was delayed near Sylmar/San Fernando, Metrolink Tweeted. Officials provided alternate transportation between Sun Valley and Lancaster. It took more than

100 firefighters to douse the blaze.

### [Maintenance and restoration work at Los Angeles Union Station to take place this winter and spring](#)

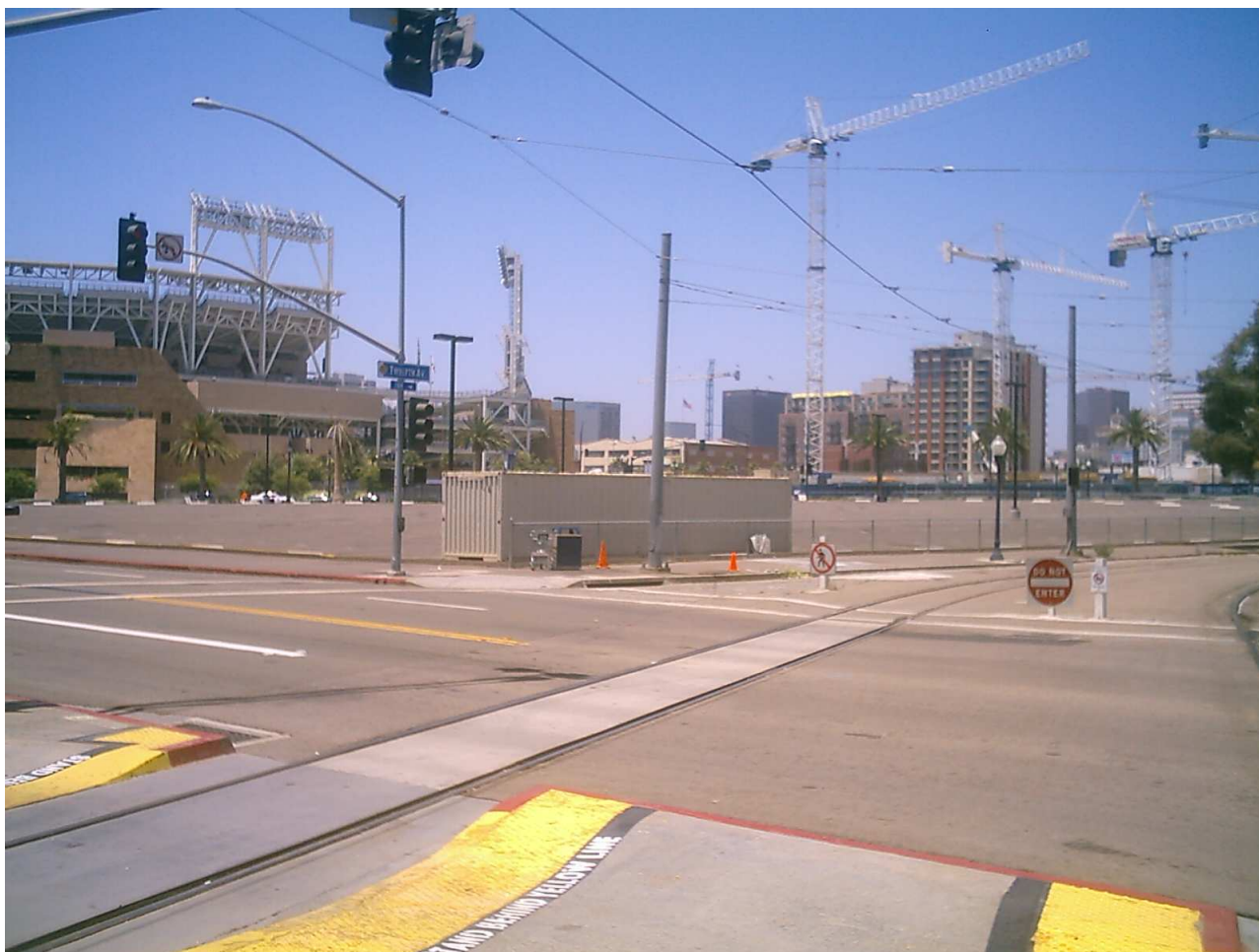
The Source Jan 2, 2014

The projects are scheduled to be completed by May 2014, in time to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Union Station.

### [Santa Monica Sees Its Future in Culver City Expo Development](#)

Santa Monica Daily Press Dec 5, 2013

Santa Monica, which is much larger than Culver City, gets its Expo Light Rail sometime in 2016. The Daily Press reached out to those in Culver City who deal with traffic, business, and crime to see what might be in store for the city by the sea. -



This is the view at the 12th Street and Imperial Ave San Diego Trolley Station in 2005 with PETCO Park, the stadium for the San Diego Padres on the left. This station is the junction point now of all three Trolley Lines in San Diego. This station and PETCO Park are in the center of San Diego's Skid Row which has several homeless shelters in this area of downtown San Diego. The construction of the new stadium in this area next to the Trolley was part of a larger redevelopment plan for this part of downtown San Diego. Photo by Noel T. Braymer

## **We Get Email**

**Re: Rail can't replace parking at stadiums ?**

[Levi's Stadium To Create Parking Nightmare For Santa Clara](#)



*"It's sounding like everyone's been a little overly optimistic about how the city of Santa Clara is going to handle the estimated 18,000+ cars that will arrive in town on game days once the 49ers kick off their 2014-15 season. There's been a lot of talk about the "ample" number of parking spaces available near the stadium, but almost none of that parking is stadium-specific, and a lot of it belongs to neighboring businesses that will make parking for Monday night football games impossible."*

This might not be such a good example after all, as apparently, the nearby VTA and ACE/Capitol Corridor stations with shuttles won't be enough to convince enough fans to get out of their cars when going to the game to have a weeknight game. This issue might even be worth an article on its own to discuss where planning went wrong and what might be tried to address it.

Martin Wasiak

**I stand by what I said about the new 49er's Levi Stadium. When some people hear about plans to build a major stadium depending on rail transit; the first thing they complain about is people won't take the trains and there won't be enough parking. These were the same complaints when PETCO Park was built in San Diego. Parking is limited in this part of San Diego. I have lived in San Diego County for about 25 years. I remember the opposition to PETCO Park because of its location and limited parking. Parking has never been a problem at PETCO Park. I remember that after the first baseball season at PETCO Park which set attendance records compared to the recent past, it was found that there was in fact surplus parking all baseball season long with Trolley and Coaster ridership higher than expected.**

**Camden Yards in Baltimore 20 years ago was the first new baseball stadium since the 1940's built in an urban area without direct freeway connections and massive parking lots. It was a major success as an anchor for redeveloping the area around the harbor in Baltimore and as a popular stadium. Other team owners took notice of this and became interested in similar projects for their teams in large part for income from commercial land development. In California we have seen this model work in San Francisco for the new Giant's stadium and in San Diego. If we look back at the past the Los Angeles Coliseum was enlarged in 1932 to hold over 101,000 people for the Olympics. The Coliseum was often full between 1932 through the early 1960's with limited parking. Back then most people got to the Coliseum by Streetcar. Today the Expo Line is increasingly popular now as a way to get to events at the Coliseum NB**

**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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