
Subject: Snow delays more trains in March

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

To: ntbraymer@yahoo.com;

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RailPAC Weekly E-Newsletter for March 10, 2014

Edited by Noel T. Braymer

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



Recent construction underway in Anaheim for the Anaheim Regional Transportation Intermodal Center (ARTIC) scheduled to open at the end of this year. Photo by Noel T. Braymer

[Devils Lake's Amtrak service resumes today](#)

Devil's Lake Daily Journal-Mar 3, 2014

BISMARCK, N.D. – U.S. Senator Heidi Heitkamp Friday released the following statement regarding Amtrak resuming normal passenger service in North Dakota. Heitkamp has repeatedly pressed BNSF to address disruptions in Amtrak service.

[Amtrak busing passengers over Marias Pass because of avalanche ...](#)

The Missoulian-Mar 5, 2014

KALISPELL — Amtrak is busing its Empire Builder passengers between stations in Whitefish and Shelby due to the threat of avalanches on ..

[Avalanche delays Amtrak travel for several hours](#)

NBC Montana-Mar 3, 2014

It's been a long trip for these Amtrak passengers.

"Supposed to originally leave last night around 9 and get back into our home city which is Tri Cities, Washington about 5:30 this morning, course we're still here in Whitefish," said Curtis Bean.

[Amtrak, Sounder canceled as mudslide hits tracks at Mukilteo](#)

KOMO News-Mar 6, 2014

Spokesman Gus Melonas says crews will have the mud, rocks and tree debris cleared later in the morning, so freight trains can continue to roll.

But Amtrak and Sounder commuter trains will have to observe at 48-hour safety moratorium until Saturday morning. Passengers can be bused

[BNSF should add rail capacity to ease Northstar delays](#)

Minneapolis Star Tribune-Mar 6, 2014

It's hardly a new problem, or a local one. The American Public Transportation Association has followed many freight-commuter conflicts over the years from California to Virginia. Solutions require recognition by the railroads that freight and passengers should peacefully coexist in the public interest — as they once did. Both sides of the rail market are on the upswing, after all.

[Amtrak Cascades riders love their trains; here are more reasons why](#)

The Oregonian-Mar 3, 2014

••• Train is the way to go. No traffic. No gas. No wear and tear on the car (or the human). The Talgo trains in particular are very quiet, very comfortable. The food served in the Bistro car is quite good and even has a bit of Northwest flair to it!

[SKOL: Riding the rails is never dull](#)

The Courier Life News-Mar 6, 2014

We boarded the train at Mount Pleasant, Iowa, on a snowy, very cold February evening and moments later we were seated with a handsome, dark-haired Iowa farmer who was commuting to Omaha to spend the weekend with his wife and daughter.

[Denver Amtrak terminal reopens at Union Station](#)

Lincoln Journal Star-Mar 7, 2014

DENVER — Amtrak's California Zephyr has resumed service to platforms at Denver Union Station after a three-year absence and as a nearly \$500 million restoration of the historic Denver rail hub continues. The Amtrak terminal was moved to a temporary site in 2011 to clear the way for a makeover of the 133-year-old Union Station. The Amtrak platform has reopened under a new canopy, but work continues at the station.

[Amtrak Launches New Ad Campaign After Reaching Record ..](#)

.Skift-Mar 7, 2014

Amtrak isn't trying to take Americans any further than they'd already be going, and probably not for a better price. Instead, it wants to give them a better way to get there whether it be more comfortable or more direct.

[Amtrak Using Snow Schedule in Northeast Corridor](#)

ABC News-Mar 2, 2014

Amtrak says passengers should also expect fewer runs than normal on its Keystone Service, from Harrisburg through Philadelphia to New York ...

[PATCO, Amtrak, NJ Transit and Regional Rail Lines Scheduled ...](#)

MyFox Philadelphia-Mar 3, 2014

Airport delays come as no surprise, but those who commute in, out and about via rail lines should expect schedule delays and changes in lieu of today's weather.

[Amtrak cancels some NC trains routes, others delayed](#)

Greensboro News & Record-Mar 7, 2014

The trains were canceled due to downed trees on the tracks and inclement weather.

[Amtrak fails to weather winter well](#)

Chicago Tribune-Mar 6, 2014

The passenger railroad's on-time performance plummeted to around 26 percent on one Illinois run in January. Overall for the month, less than half of the state service operated on schedule, Amtrak data

show. Even Amtrak's service between Chicago and Milwaukee, which normally runs like clockwork, recorded its worst on-time performance in five years in January, with only 73 percent of trains arriving on time.

[Police dog finds man carrying 2.4 pounds marijuana, cash in Amtrak ...](#)

KERO-TV 23-Mar 6, 2014

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. - Bakersfield Police Officers and Amtrak Police Officers conducted a drug sting at the Amtrak Train station located at 601 ...

[Buffett's BNSF Crude-Oil Cars Spur \\$5 Billion Safety Spat](#)

Businessweek-Mar 5, 2014

A push by Warren Buffett's railroad to boost oil-shipment safety is meeting resistance from Hess Corp. (HES:US) and other companies that say the plan would mean a surge in costs and force them to scrap thousands of tank cars.

[Intermodal shipping gains steam as faster, cheaper alternative](#)

Omaha World-Herald-Mar 2, 2014

In recent years, intermodal shipping — container shipping using any combination of road, rail or water — has proven a cheaper and quicker alternative to single modes of transit, and more loads moved in intermodal containers in 2013 than ever before, the Association of American Railroads reported.... Intermodal accounted for \$4 billion, or 20 percent, of U.P.'s total freight revenue in 2013 and, for the second year in a row, supplanted coal as the railroad's top revenue-producing segment.

[And America's Most Gridlocked Cities Are...](#)

TIME - Mar 5, 2014

With three cities in the annual Traffic Scorecard top 10 list by traffic information and driver services provider INRIX, California is home to the most gridlock. Long a bastion of traffic, Los Angeles tops the list, with commuters averaging 64 hours wasted in traffic ...

[Can LA Kick Its Driving Habit?](#)

POLITICO Magazine-Mar 5, 2014

...the Wilshire Grand is among a gaggle of projects, 97 in all according to Los Angeles Downtown News, put into development in the rapidly reinventing neighborhood just in the past five months. Overall, 5,000 market-rate housing units will come online in the next two years, joining a boom in office space, museums, restaurants and brand-name shopping. Downtown L.A., left for dead amid the open spaces of Southern California, is back...

Perhaps most consequential may well be the least tangible shift the downtown boom portends: Is it, at long last, changing the car culture of a city long defined by freeways and congestion?

[RailPAC rail PHOTOS of the month \(February, 2014\)](#)

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 Russ Jackson, RailPAC Photo Editor, at info@railpac.org.

[Judge: Kings County high-speed rail lawsuit can move forward](#)

Fresno Bee-Mar 4, 2014

Sacramento County Superior Court Judge Michael Kenny denied a request by the rail agency to dismiss the second stage of a lawsuit that questions whether the state's proposed high-speed train system complies with state law.

This lawsuit also attacks the Prop 1A Bond funding for rail service by claiming blending HSR with

existing ROW in urban areas will not achieve the 2 hour 40 minute running times between LA-SF for express trains called for in the bond measure. This despite computer simulations that shows that it can be done. NB

[high-speed rail agency will appeal judge's latest ruling](#)

Fresno Bee - Mar 7, 2014

The California High-Speed Rail Authority plans to appeal a court ruling that would send the agency to trial on whether its planned bullet train can live up to performance requirements required under state law.

Sacramento Superior Court Judge Michael Kenny ...

[Amtrak and CHSRA seek job-creation strategy from high-speed train ...](#)

Progressive Rail Roding-Mar 3, 2014

The Amtrak and California High-Speed Rail Authority request for proposals for a high-speed trainset manufacturer includes a unique provision: Bidders must submit details on how they would create U.S. manufacturing jobs and train workers.

From the Capitol Corridor CC Rail Mail for March 7, 2014

SERVICE ADVISORY: Last Day of Temporary Schedule Due to Track Work on March 12, With Residual Delays Through March 15The final phase of track work that started back in January will begin on Saturday, March 8 and continue through Saturday, March 15. Please note, however, that the temporary modified schedule on which certain trains (544, 546, 548, 744, 746, and 748) are running during the work periods will only be in effect only through Wednesday, March 12. Starting Thursday, March 13, these trains will revert to the regular schedule, but could experience minor delays due to the continuation of late-night track work through Saturday, March 15. Read the most recent service notice about this track work project.

SERVICE ADVISORY: San Francisco Motor Coach Stop Changes on March 9 and 15Due to the Sunday Streets event on Sunday, March 9 and the annual St. Patrick's Day parade on Saturday, March 15, some motor coach stops in downtown San Francisco will be relocated temporarily. If you use Capitol Corridor to travel to or from San Francisco on the weekend, please read the complete notice for details.

Save 50% on Weekend Fares With mild temperatures and longer days, spring is the perfect time for a weekend getaway, and Capitol Corridor provides service to some of northern California's most exciting destinations – from San Jose to Sacramento and everything in between, including San Francisco. And now through April 24, you can save 50% on weekend fares.

[Metrolink Service to Be Limited This Weekend, Next](#)

Patch.com - Mar 7, 2014

There will be no bus service or alternate transportation provided to or from Oceanside or San Clemente either weekend. No Metrolink trains will provide service to or from the Oceanside or the San Clemente stations either weekend, reports the city.

[What will and what should happen for Rail in San Diego](#)

By Noel T. Braymer

There is 60 miles of passenger railroad in San Diego County from the Orange County border to the Santa Fe Depot in downtown San Diego. Right now just over half of this 60 miles is doubled tracked. San Diego County is planning to spend a billion dollars over the next 20 years to double track roughly 97 percent of this railroad in the county. This is the result of public demand 3 years ago when planning began to rebuild and widen the I-5 in north San Diego County. The public wanted more rail service and much less widening of the freeway. So now freeway improvements, double tracking and wetlands restoration are all part of the same project.

[Commuters mixed over proposed paid parking at Rancho Cucamonga Metrolink station](#)

.Inland Valley Daily Bulletin- Mar 6, 2014

Officials are considering a move to impose paid parking at the lot by August, which would create a \$4.50 daily fee, a \$25 monthly fee for Rancho Cucamonga residents and \$30 for nonresidents.

[LA-area grade separation program to continue in 2014, OCTA says](#)

Progressive Rail Rooding-March 6, 2014

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) expects to post more progress this year on its bridges program, which calls for building seven grade separations in Anaheim, Fullerton and Placentia, Calif.

[LA Streetcar Could Receive Federal Small Start Monies](#)

LA Weekly Mar 6, 2014

Dreams of a downtown Los Angeles streetcar revival just got a big boost.

The office of City Councilman Jose Huizar last night announced that the Federal Transit Administration gave the thumbs up for L.A. to be in the running to receive \$75 million in cash from Washington to seed the project.

[Blind man survives being run over by Metro train](#)

Los Angeles Times-Mar 6, 2014

A blind man who fell off the edge of a subway platform Thursday afternoon and into the path of an oncoming Metro train survived the accident mostly unharmed, officials said

[Photos of the exploratory shaft being dug in preparation of Purple Line Extension construction](#)

The Source Mar 5, 2014

It's quite a feat. The shaft is already 65 feet deep and is being dug to learn more about soil conditions in the area and validate what is already known. The work is an important step in preparing for station excavation and tunneling for the subway.



This is a view as of late February from the train near San Onofre Creek in Camp Pendleton by North Green Beach. This looks like a replacement bridge over the San Onofre Creek which is needed to replace the 87 year old wooden bridge. Double tracking starts south of this point at the San Onofre siding which construction has started to extend it south to Las Pulgas. Photo by Noel T. Braymer

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You can send your comments to me at nbraymer@railpac.org

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