

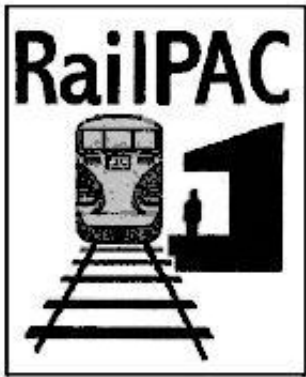
Subject:	People want to keep the Chief and bring back the Sunset to Florida!
From:	Rail Passenger Association of California (noelnoelt@cox.net)
To:	ntbraymer@yahoo.com;
Date:	Monday, May 19, 2014 9:31 AM

RailPAC Weekly E-Newsletter for May 19, 2014

Edited by Noel T. Braymer

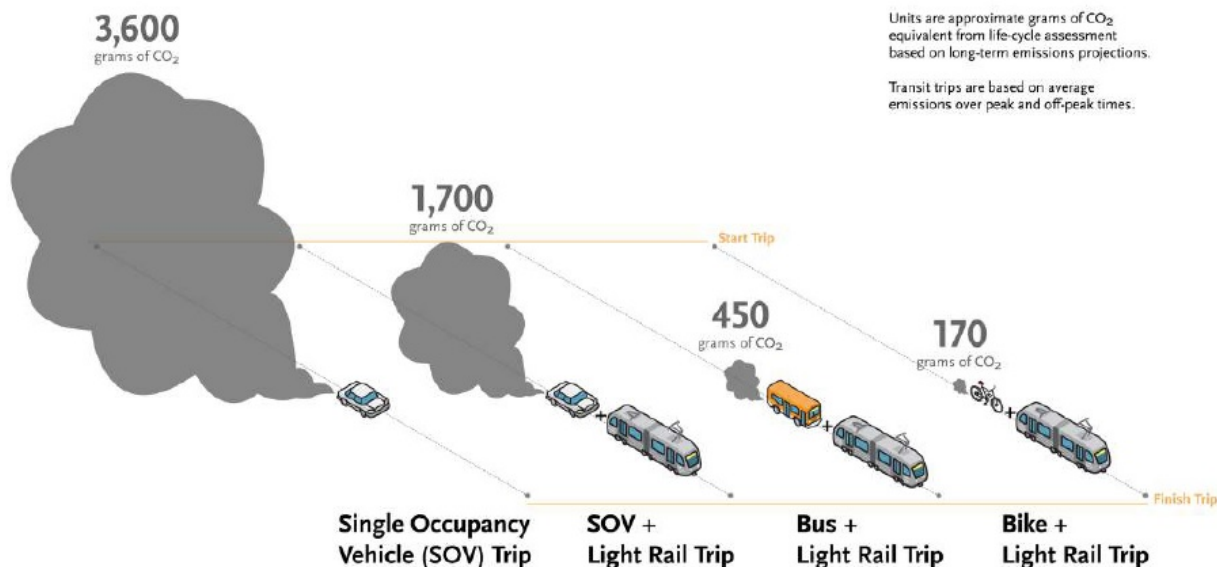
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Rail Passenger Association of California
www.railpac.org
Traffic? Gas Pains? We need more Trains!

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Per Person Per Trip



This is from a report by LA Metro and SCAG which includes this graphic on Green House Gas sources released on March 2014. In order to qualify for Cap and Trade funding we will likely see more efforts to encourage bike riding combined with rail passenger service.

[Bikes and walking + transit = lower greenhouse gas emissions](#)

The Source May 12, 2014

I thought that posting the above chart would be a nice way to begin Bike Week. As the chart neatly shows, taking transit can be an effective way to reduce greenhouse gases — especially those who bike or walk to and from light rail stations. It makes sense: no fossil fuels are needed to power your legs.

[VIDEO: Hickenlooper visits Pueblo](#)

Pueblo Chieftain - May 15, 2014

Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper signed the Southwest Chief passenger rail bill at Pueblo's Union Depot Wednesday, legislation that could mean the return of a passenger rail line through Pueblo

[EDITORIAL: State politicians cooperate to protect our economic future](#)

Colorado Springs Gazette - May 15, 2014

Colorado Springs saw how things can get done Wednesday when business and political leaders set aside petty disputes, entrenched ideologies and personal grudges. Gov. John Hickenlooper, a Democrat, swooped into town to sign an assortment of bills, ...

[Grant would fund study of New Orleans rail service expansion](#)

Memphis Commercial Appeal-May 11, 2014

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The Southern Rail Commission has applied for a \$1 million federal grant to study the feasibility of restoring passenger train service between New Orleans and Orlando, Florida. Amtrak's Sunset Limited, which runs from New Orleans to Los Angeles, included a leg to Orlando until Hurricane Katrina struck in August 2005.

[Tardy and detoured, Amtrak struggles to serve](#)

Twin Cities Daily Planet (blog)-May 15, 2014

After all, the Amtrak Empire Builder linking Chicago and the Pacific Northwest through Minnesota has run on schedule barely one-fifth of the time over the past year, and even less most recently. For one scary example, the daily eastbound train did not arrive in Fargo, N.D., on time even once from late April 2013 through last February.

[Amtrak Auto Train out of Sanford canceled Monday](#)

Orlando Sentinel-May 11, 2014

Amtrak has canceled the Auto Train Monday because the service has been running behind for more than a week and officials are trying to catch up.

[Amtrak's vulnerability \[Editorial\]](#)

Baltimore Sun-May 12, 2014

Our view: Century-old infrastructure can't continue to support passenger rail service in Baltimore and the rest of the populous Northeast corridor

[Catch a train, and take the kids](#)

Chicago Tribune-May 14, 2014

If you're a kid, what's better than sleeping in a bunk bed? Sleeping in a bunk bed on rails.

My sons, now 5 and 9, have loved traveling in Amtrak's family bedrooms, four-bed rooms on the lower level of Superliner sleeping cars.

[With Pullman Rail Journeys a 934 mile trip through time](#)

Travel Weekly-May 15, 2014

Pullman Rail Journeys, a private train and charter outfit that operates first-class passenger service on Amtrak's network, has taken a U-turn in time to the golden age of rail travel.

[East St. Louis pushes for Amtrak station](#)

The State Journal-Register-May 14, 2014

EAST ST. LOUIS — East St. Louis' mayor and the area's clergy are making a pitch for an Amtrak station for the city as part of efforts to develop a high-speed Amtrak route between Chicago and St. Louis.

[Amtrak adds more trains to Wolverine Line for summer](#)

WWMT-TV-May 16, 2014

Starting Monday, and running through August, Amtrak will add an eastbound trip on Sundays and a westbound trip on Mondays.

[Taking Amtrak to Raleigh, NC, and whistling all the way](#)

Washington Post-May 15, 2014

Plane, train or automobile? Which is best if you're heading someplace that's not really close, but not all that far away, either? To help you decide, we took all three transportation modes to the on-the-cusp destination of Raleigh, N.C.

[Amtrak employee says company's negligence caused electrical shock](#)

The Pennsylvania Record-May 15, 2014

A former Amtrak employee injured three years ago from an electrical shock blames the incident on the company, saying that his managers did not follow the proper protocols that would have prevented the accident.

[Newly approved high-speed train route has 'unavoidable' effects on valley](#)

Bakersfield Californian-May 13, 2014

The latest section approved from Fresno to Bakersfield for California's proposed high-speed train project would displace hundreds of homes and businesses and take as much as 5,000 acres of farmland out of production on at least a temporary basis during construction....

The displacement of 376 homes and relocation of 1,144 residents to make way for the railroad right of way as well as related overpasses and other structures to support the tracks. Most of the displaced homes would be in the Bakersfield area.

[Hanford council won't pay for HSR work](#)

Hanford Sentinel-May 12, 2014

The Hanford City Council voted 4-1 last week to sign an agreement with the California High Speed Rail Authority that ensures the city will be reimbursed for thousands of dollars worth of preliminary work and research in for the Kings County segment of the project.

[Steinberg may leverage bullet train in budget talks](#)

SFGate (blog) - May 14, 2014

A day after Gov. Jerry Brown updated his \$107.8 billion general fund budget proposal, Senate Leader Darrell Steinberg made it clear he plans for fight for social services left out of the administration's proposal, including his own calls for universal preschool.

And the termed-out Democratic Senator made it clear he isn't above using the embattled High Speed Rail as leverage.

[Legislative analyst's budget outlook brighter than Brown's projections](#)

Los Angeles Times - May 16, 2014

California's tax revenues will rebound more strongly than Gov. Jerry Brown's spending plan predicts, according to the Legislature's top budget advisor, a finding Democratic lawmakers are expected to seize on to challenge the governor's continuing call for fiscal restraint.

[Thousands of Central Floridians oppose high-speed train from Orlando to Miami](#)

WESH Orlando- May 13, 2014

All along the Florida coast, thousands are gearing up to stop All Aboard Florida, the high-speed train that would link Orlando and Miami next year"[It comes] just a few feet from my bedroom," said Ginnie Bailey. "The glassware in the house shakes, and you know, it's pretty noisy."

[Richard Branson reveals East Coast high speed rail hopes](#)

The Journal-May 13, 2014

Sir Richard Branson has raised the prospect of Virgin Trains running high speed services on the East Coast.

Sir Richard is already in the bidding to take over the nationalised East Coast Trains service due back in private sector hands by February 2015.

The Government's plans to privatise the route is strongly opposed by many individual Labour MPs, especially in the North east where Labour has joined with unions in fighting the plans.

[Various High Speed Rail Routes from China to Europe](#)

Next Big Future-May 14, 2014

China is working on about 3 main high speed rail routes to Europe.

Within China most of the high speed routes will be done by 2017....

[China mulls building high-speed railway to the US](#)

WantChinaTimes - May 9, 2014

On May 5, he reaffirmed the merits of China's high-speed rail technology before African leaders at the

Conference Center of African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Behind this high-speed railway pitch is China's plan to go global with its high speed rail, which was first proposed in 2009.

The first of the three cross-border high-speed railway plans being constructed or promoted is the high-speed railway line connecting Europe and Asia, which starts from London, will pass through Paris, Berlin, Warsaw, Kiev, Moscow and then branch out to Kazakhstan, or Khabarovsk and then enter China's Manzhouli.

It is easy to dismiss Chinese proposals to build High Speed Rail to North American via the Bering Strait. But China is planning to build railroads around the world. And they intend to make money doing it. People may scoff at the idea of riding a train for 2 days at 220 miles per hour from the US to China. But the Chinese are planning also on high speed freight. A major part of their plan for service to Europe is for freight traffic. NB

[Keolis, a subsidiary of France's transportation giant SNCF, establishes beachhead in Canada](#)

Straight.com-May 15, 2014

When the Region of Waterloo in Ontario finalized an agreement on May 9 for a new light-rail project linking the cities of Kitchener and Waterloo, it marked a milestone for the government of France. ..

Six years ago, 15 percent of SNCF's revenues were generated outside of France; he said the objective is to reach 30 percent by 2017 to 2020.

"The U.S. is a real important market for them [Keolis]," Weber said. "Canada is also interesting."

[Foxx: 'We're heading for a cliff' without highway bill](#)

The Hill May 15, 2014

"We're headed for a cliff," Foxx said. "And as early as August of this year, the Highway Trust Fund, which funds our roads and bridges and transit systems across the country is headed towards insolvency, which means we can't meet our obligations to state and local governments and it will slow down contracts, 700,000 jobs are at risk. It's going to be a big deal."

[As U.S. trucks revved up amid train traffic jam, a capacity crisis revealed](#)

Reuters May 14, 2014

As a polar vortex snarled North America's railroads and upended freight flows this winter, everyone from agricultural giant Cargill to Dow Chemical rushed to secure the next-best form of hauling goods: trucks....

Few expect the frenzy to last, as emergency needs ebb and shippers return to more affordable rail. But the spike has shone a light on a critical capacity squeeze in the North American freight system, one that could mean higher transport costs as the trucking industry lags behind a pick-up in the economy.

Not noted in this story was the effect of heavy oil train traffic (and accidents) disrupting transportation this winter and spring. NB

[CEO hopes town where 47 died will OK oil trains](#)

Yahoo News-May 16, 2014

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) -- The company buying the assets of a railroad responsible for a fiery oil train derailment that claimed 47 lives in Quebec plans to resume oil shipments once track safety improvements are made, its top executive said Friday.

[Public Transportation Increases America's Growth Potential](#)

apta.com - May 15, 2014

Transportation Investment, demonstrates that investment in public transportation will lead to 50,700 jobs per \$1 billion invested, with 28,900 jobs per \$1 billion attributed to the productivity gains enjoyed by

households and businesses...

Public transportation investment provides increased productivity in two areas, according to the study. First, the savings achieved to households, from reduced congestion and less reliance on automobile use. This changes purchasing power, by at least \$18.4 billion per year. Second, savings to businesses, by improving employers' access to the labor market with more efficient commutes for its current and potential employees, along with reducing congestion costs and logistics, results in contributing an additional \$10.1 billion to the U.S. economy.



Between May 13 through 17th there were several fires in San Diego County. This is the view on the train at Camp Pendleton which had several fires last week. Photo by Noel T. Braymer

[Capitol Corridor Monthly Report \(April, 2014\)](#)

from David B. Kutrosky, Managing Director

Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority

Service Performance Overview For April 2014, both ridership and revenue for the Capitol Corridor were above last year's April results, with 3.2% and 1.5% growth respectively. Capitol Corridor trains carried a total of 126,831 passengers in April, 2014, with revenues of \$2.44 million.

[How to Increase Rail Ridership to Sacramento](#)

By Noel T. Braymer

The Sacramento station is already one of the busiest Amtrak Station in California. There is excellent ridership from the Capitol Corridor, Coast Starlight and California Zephyr trains. The same however can't be said about the 2 round trips a day on the San Joaquin trains to and from Bakersfield. Why is that?

[Clipper Card Upgrade Could Bring Seamless Regional Travel, Or Not](#)

Streetsblog San Francisco (blog)-May 14, 2014

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission will soon renew its contract for Clipper, the Bay Area's "all-in-one transit card." Transit advocates are urging MTC to use the opportunity to create a more

seamless fare system, and remove barriers that could allow Clipper payments on both the region's transit agencies and "first-and-last-mile" trip services.

[Proposal features 599 units by San Mateo's Hayward Park Caltrain Station](#)

Daily Journal May 15, 2014

A second round of plans for Station Park Green are underway as the San Mateo Planning Commission provided feedback Tuesday night on the pre-application to turn the 12-acre site near the Hayward Park Caltrain Station into a transit-oriented residential development.

[Monticello Village Project Sent Back to the Drawing Board for More Family-Friendly Amenities](#)

Santa Clara Weekly May 14, 2014

The plan has a lot going for it. It's close to the Lawrence Caltrain station - a "quintessential transit-oriented community" Irvine representative Carlene Matchniff called it - a full-service grocery store, and varied architecture to create an interesting streetscape. It will also create around 1,700 construction jobs and 200 permanent jobs.

[Sunnyvale: Plans submitted to develop mixed-use project at El Camino/Pastoria](#)

San Jose Mercury News-May 14, 2014

A preliminary review application was submitted for the site at 803 W. El Camino Real for a mixed-use development that would consist of 32,500 square feet of retail and office space and 112 residential condominiums.

[Transbay Transit Center's construction costs keep soaring](#)

SFGate-May 18, 2014

Now comes word that the project's costs have grown another \$150 million - prompting the Transbay Joint Powers Authority to strip \$53 million in "cosmetics" from the building to keep a lid on the overall budget.

"We're taking responsible and appropriate actions to manage and deliver the program on the \$1.9 billion budget," says project spokesman Adam Alberti.

[Bridge program's last three grade separations begin in Southern California](#)

Progressive Rail Roding-May 14, 2014

Orange County Transportation Authority officials and leaders from the cities of Fullerton, Placentia and Anaheim, Calif., on May 9 held a groundbreaking ceremony to mark the start of construction on the final three grade separations in the authority's O.C. Bridges program.

[Rail accident in Corona kills truck driver, delays commuter trains](#)

Los Angeles Times - May 16, 2014

A collision with a freight train in Corona on Friday afternoon killed the driver of a cement truck and triggered hours of delays for Metrolink service to the Inland Empire, authorities said. An eastbound Burlington Northern Santa Fe freight train struck the truck ...

[Upgrades to amenities at Metrolink station are en route](#)

OCRegister-May 13, 2014

Additional upgrades are coming to the Laguna Niguel/Mission Viejo Metrolink station, including new amenities and improved handicap accessibility. They'll be the latest in a series of changes aimed at enhancing the station, where an average of 350 riders board Metrolink trains every weekday.

[New light-rail car makes its first public appearance](#)

pets in an enclosed carrier; some charge pets a fare and have limitations during peak hours. Most airlines also allow pets for a fee and accommodate not only service animals but also comfort animals.

Alfred Twu

Re: Dumbarton Rail Bridge

Fyi, concerning the Green Caltrain comment on Dumbarton referred to MTC staff's explanation of why the Dumbarton project was not moving forward. A large chunk of the funding was expected to come from the Alameda County ballot measure. When that failed, there was not enough money to move Dumbarton Rail at this time. But that doesn't explain why Dumbarton Rail is not included in the next version of the Alameda County ballot measure!

Adina Levin

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

The RailPAC Mission: Passenger Rail advocacy, Publications...both print and electronic, Representation at regional meetings, and Rail education.

Join us! More memberships increase our strength in presenting the case for rail to policymakers at all levels!

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

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