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| **Subject:** | Oh No! Surfliner/Coasters start Oct 7th! |
| **From:** | Rail Passenger Association of California (noelnoelt@cox.net) |
| **To:** | ntbraymer@yahoo.com; |
| **Date:** | Monday, September 16, 2013 9:30 AM |

# RailPAC Weekly E-Newsletter for September 16, 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!**

Recent construction of the Anaheim Regional Transportation Intermodal Center (ARTIC) opening next year. To the right of the yellow crane is construction of the pedestrian bridge from the station building to the platforms. Photo by Noel T. Braymer

## Six Select Amtrak Trains to Serve ALL COASTER Stations

From NCTD September 2013

Six new trips every day* will beef up the COASTER schedule when Amtrak Pacific Surfliner® trains begin serving all COASTER stations (see schedule below).

This exciting new service begins Monday, October 7

**This sounds like a great deal for the North County Transit District allowing them to add 3 additional round trips trains to their commuter train service for a fraction of the cost of adding more commuter trains. But it is a terrible deal for intercity rail passengers. In the 1970's passengers trains ran between Los Angles and San Diego in 2 hours and 35 minutes. Plans long in the making have called for running times by now of under 2 hours and 20 minutes. The long term goal is still to bring running times under 2 hours. With over $1.5 billion dollars spent for better equipment and major track improvements built since 1979 the current running time of train 567 from San Diego to Los Angeles is 2 hours and 52 minutes. This is without 4 additional Coaster station stops being added to the mix.**

**It takes train 567 now just over an hour to travel the 41 rail miles between San Diego and Oceanside which is the same running time for the Coasters. But Surfliner equipment is heavier than the Coaster equipment and the locomotives are not geared for the faster acceleration needed for commuter trains. One of the trains southbound in the evening is coming from Santa Barbara with bus connections from San Luis Obispo while a second evening southbound train will leave from San Luis Obispo. These longer distance trains with bus connections are the cash cows of the Surflines despite their current slow schedules. Revenue from longer distance passengers is**

**why despite declining ridership the Surfliners revenues continued to grow. These longer distance passengers are the ones who should be encouraged to ride with better service not penalized. NB**

## What's the Plan for LOSSAN?

By Noel T. Braymer

LOSSAN's goal should be to increase ridership by providing better rail passenger service with faster trains serving more destinations.This is done with coordination of the different services to feed both local and express trains. By doing so all the trains on LOSSAN will improve their efficiency and be more economical for passengers to use. This is a tall order but one that is doable and depends on expanding service and faster running times.

## Getting California's bullet train back on track

Los Angeles Times- Sep 10, 2013

The bullet train could be good for California, but not if the state continues to mismanage the project as it has so far.

**This is an opinion article by USC Professor Lisa Schweitzer at the Price School of Public Policy. While this article has a great title it is mostly a rehash of the same old anti-HSR talking points. The main advice from Professor Schweitzer is California should forget future Federal Funding and build something primarily with State funding. NB**

## Sacramento judge has a full plate of rail lawsuits

www.fresnobee.com - The same Sacramento County judge who last month was critical of the California High-Speed Rail Authority's 2011 funding plan will soon decide the agency's request to approve the sale of Proposition...

## Farmer compares CA high-speed rail plans to Holocaust, then apologizes

Fresno Bee - Sep 10, 2013

That's when board chairman Dan Richard, visibly agitated, interrupted Tos.

"Hold on a second," Richard said. "You have a right to challenge and criticize our actions, to make recommendations and to tell us that our policies, our procedures, our decisions are wrong. It is our job to listen.

"But I will say to you, sir, that that last comment is inappropriate and unacceptable," he added.

## California high-speed rail board to vote on additional spending

McClatchy Washington Bureau-Sep 9, 2013

FRESNO, Calif. — California High-Speed Rail Authority board members will be asked to approve up to $268 million in additional spending for work on the first segment of a statewide bullet-train program.

The board's agenda Tuesday in Sacramento includes three different items related to work on the 29-mile stretch of the rail line from east of Madera to the south end of Fresno.

## High-Speed Rail CEO Getting $11000 Raise On Top Of $365000 ...

CBS Local-Sep 10, 2013

SACRAMENTO (AP) – The board that oversees California's High Speed Rail Authority has approved a raise for its chief executive, who makes ...

## California, Amtrak team up for electric train bids

Fresno Bee- Sep 14, 2013

The California High-Speed Rail Authority and Amtrak have been in talks since January to team up on their purchase of electric trains that will be ...

**Is it just me, but shouldn't you worry about building the railroad first before planning on buying**

**the trains? NB**

## Transbay: Gondolas and redwoods and concrete, oh my!

San Francisco Chronicle (blog)Sep 11, 2013

The transit center's subterranean train level is being designed in such a way that in the unlikely event that we get a second transbay rail tube, Amtrak's Capital Corridor line will be able to pull up in S.F.

**That could happen if we rebuilt the old Dumbarton Rail Bridge crossing between Redwood City and Fremont. Faster and cheaper than a new tunnel. NB**

## S'pore, M'sia high-speed rail technical teams to meet in Oct

Channel News Asia-Sep 11, 2013

The Singapore and Malaysia technical teams looking into the high-speed rail link between Kuala Lumpur and Singapore will meet in October.

## Amtrak's Coast Starlight detour takes riders via Tehachapi Loop

Los Angeles Times- Sep 10, 2013

For Amtrak, this Saturday's re-route of the Coast Starlight from the coast to the Central Valley provides a chance to work on tunnels and tracks. For rail fans, it's a chance to ride rarely used tracks through Palmdale, Mojave and the famous Tehachapi Loop.

## New Orleans-bound Amtrak train collides with 18-wheeler in Holmes ...

Mississippi Press (blog)-Sep 10, 2013

TCHULA, Mississpipi -- Officials are investigating an accident Tuesday involving Amtrak's City of New Orleans train and an 18-wheeler in Mississippi.

## On-time trains a rarity for Amtrak passengers heading east from Fargo

Dickinson Press- Sep 14, 2013

Amtrak passengers watch as the westbound train pulls into the Fargo station late on Sept. 6. Less than one in four Amtrak trains have made it to ...

## Shutdown of Amtrak line threatens to derail business at repair facility

Post-Tribune-Sep 14, 2013

Congress in 2008 passed a law requiring states to provide financial support for Amtrak routes shorter than 750 miles.

So now, the Indiana Department of Transportation must decide if it will chip in at least $3 million annually, and it must decide by the end of September. Without that support, the Hoosier State, which runs four days a week between Indianapolis and Chicago, will be shut down.

## 1 Killed After Amtrak Train Plows Into Car

NBC 7 San Diego-by Monica Garske-Sep 9, 2013

One person was killed Sunday night after an Amtrak train plowed into a vehicle that veered off Interstate 5 and onto train tracks in the North ...

## Driver Killed After Honda Flies Off California Freeway, Hits Amtrak ...

Auto World News-Sep 9, 2013

"Train 1790, the Pacific Surfliner from San Luis Obispo to San Diego, struck a vehicle at about 9:13 p.m.," Amtrak spokeswoman Christina ...

**These last two stories are about the same incident but have very different headlines. The second one got it right: the car got in the way of the train. This person was driving at least 100 miles per hour and almost hit a car before running off the freeway at Camp Pendleton and on to the**