

Subject:	Fwd: Test Run RailPAC Enewsletter
From:	Noel Braymer (ntbraymer@gmail.com)
To:	ntbraymer@yahoo.com;
Date:	Friday, May 30, 2014 2:39 PM

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Date: Fri, May 30, 2014 at 2:36 PM  
Subject: Test Run RailPAC Enewsletter  
To: [ntbraymer@gmail.com](mailto:ntbraymer@gmail.com)

## **RailPAC Weekly E-Newsletter for May 27, 2014**

**Edited by Noel T. Braymer**

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



A Metrolink reverse commute from Oceanside to Los Angeles arriving on a late Friday afternoon. There is a big underserved market for non-traditional travel. With Memorial Day just past, another year goes by with fewer not more trains on a very busy travel weekend. Photo by Noel T. Braymer

### [Rock slide near Moffat Tunnel detours Amtrak passengers heading to Colorado](#)

The Denver Channel-May 20, 2014

Rail closure expected through Memorial Day

DENVER - Passenger and freight trains are being rerouted from Colorado through Wyoming after a series of rockslides west of the Moffat Tunnel buried railroad tracks for nearly two miles, including one rockslide that was 10 feet deep.

### [Train Day brought out the Chief's supporters](#)

Albuquerque Journal - May 22, 2014

Among the supporters who greeted us were the mayors of the towns of La Junta, Lamar and Trinidad in southern Colorado, as well as the mayor of Las Vegas, New Mexico. The Chief is these towns' only form of public transit, and they make good use of it. Several folks were there to advocate for a Chief stop in Pueblo, Colorado, and Santa Fe, and some reminded us that tourism flows there on the Chief via the Lamy station.

### [Op-Ed Trains and crude oil are too often an accident waiting to happen](#)

Los Angeles Times-May 20, 2014

California is in the cross hairs of this dangerous situation. The state is projected to receive up to 150 million barrels of oil by rail by 2016, compared with just 2 million barrels in 2011, and much of that oil will be volatile crude from the Bakken region of North Dakota and Canada.

## [US officials cut estimate of recoverable Monterey Shale oil by 96%](#)

Los Angeles Times - May 21, 2014

Federal energy authorities have slashed by 96% the estimated amount of recoverable oil buried in California's vast Monterey Shale deposits, deflating its potential as a national "black gold mine" of petroleum. Just 600 million barrels of oil can be extracted with existing technology, far below the 13.7 billion barrels once thought recoverable from the jumbled layers of subterranean rock spread across much of Central California, the U.S. Energy Information Administration said.

**This pops the bubble on the future of US shale oil production. Two-thirds of the assumed US shale oil reserves were in the Monterey Shale deposit. This was more than all the shale oil in North Dakota and Texas combined. NB**

## [Scenic Train Rides Around the World](#)

Bloomberg-May 19, 2014

Amtrak's Empire Builder

Cars may symbolize freedom, and air travel might still cling to its once-glam reputation, but no mode of transportation captures the romance of travel quite like a long-distance train ride.

## [All Aboard](#)

Santa Fe Reporter-May 21, 2014

Michael Bosbonis says he doesn't need the Travel Channel. It was Thursday, May 8, and Bosbonis sipped on a bourbon-soda mix in the observation car of Amtrak's Southwest Chief. As he stared out the windows while the train shot alongside red mesas near Gallup on the storied route, he said the Travel Channel was already passing him by.

## [Taking the train? Here's how to avoid annoying everyone else on ...](#)

Philadelphia Magazine (blog)-May 22, 2014

Were you on that train? Well, you snore. And also, please, out of respect for me and all the other 31.5 million fellow passengers, I hope you follow these 10 rules of etiquette.

## [Conductor: Ejected Amtrak passenger threatened to fight elderly woman](#)

Albuquerque Journal- May 23, 2014

An Amtrak passenger who taken off a train at the Lamy Amtrak train station on Wednesday and jailed for disorderly conduct, had threatened to fight two elderly woman passengers on the train, according to court documents.

## [Plans are in the works to add local commuter runs on Amtrak ...](#)

MassLive.com-May 22, 2014

Amtrak's Vermonter is scheduled to begin zipping through Western Massachusetts on its way from Washington, D.C. to St. Albans, Vermont early next year after an absence of 25 years. The run will provide another option for commuters along the corridor.

## [Seattle-to-Portland Amtrak alarm goes haywire:](#)

The Oregonian-May 23, 2014

The incessant electronic beeping that flooded Amtrak Cascades 513 on Friday afternoon was more suited for a bad 1970s sci-fi movie than a leisurely train commute through the rainy Northwest.

But that didn't make it any less unnerving for a couple hundred riders taking what was reportedly one of the Oregon Department of Transportation's new Talgo 8 trains from Seattle to Portland.

## [San Juan Capistrano: A Great Rail Destination](#)

By Noel T. Braymer

A great rail destination is one where the station is a destination and a short walking distance to places to see with plenty to do. If you like a place that is different, with lots of history, scenery, places to shop and eat: then San Juan Capistrano is a great place to visit. The Spanish first colonize San Juan Capistrano back in 1776. But the area has been inhabited for thousands of years. And the local train station is in the heart of it all.

### [Big plans in works for NYC's gritty 'Wild West'](#)

WIS-May 22, 2014

When fully completed in 2024, the two projects will offer more than 22 million square feet of space, including about 6,000 residential units - more footage than the rebuilt World Trade Center in lower Manhattan.

That is being accomplished, in part, through a feat of engineering: the construction of massive concrete platforms that allow the buildings to rise above and around active railroad tracks and rail yards. Amtrak and New Jersey Transit trains will keep running from New Jersey and other locations to Penn Station, used by about 700,000 people daily.

**Such development can't function without rail passenger service., New York can't function without rail passenger service. NB**

### [San Leandro teen's death highlights dangers of distraction](#)

SFGate-May 20, 2014

But a growing problem that has caught the attention of federal safety officials and train operators played out Monday evening in San Leandro, where 18-year-old Britney Silva - a college-bound high school senior - was struck by an Amtrak train as she spoke on her phone, just yards from her home.

### [Huge Union Pacific train complex to open Wednesday in Santa Teresa](#)

Las Cruces Sun-News-May 24, 2014

open doors for companies to locate there to speed distribution of goods, said Bill Allen, president and CEO of the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce. Big-box stores will be attracted by direct-line access to California ports as well as the convenience of border access to imported goods from Mexico. Goods, from auto parts to tennis shoes can be brought to the intermodal facility via rail and can be taken to nearby warehouses and shipped by truck to stores across the region. Containers trucked in can be placed on trains to move to another destination.

### [High-Speed Rail Authority will hold hearings in Los Angeles, San Fernando](#)

San Gabriel Valley Tribune-May 19, 2014

The California High-Speed Rail Authority will be holding a series of public meetings in Southern California this week to talk about the alignment of the future Los Angeles-to-San Francisco train. These will be the first public meetings hosted by the Authority in two years.

In particular, the Authority is trying to figure out the route of the train along the 60-mile Palmdale to Los Angeles segment.

### [Local community meeting set on high-speed rail](#)

Santa Clarita Valley Signal-May 22, 2104

A community meeting to discuss the proposed California high-speed rail system is scheduled for Thursday, June 5 in Newhall.

It is one of five meetings being conducted by the California High-Speed Rail Authority to discuss the route for the Palmdale to Los Angeles project section, which includes potential routes through the Santa Clarita Valley.

### [California's \\$68 Billion Train Seeks Bond Sale Approval](#)



Businessweek-May 23, 2014

The California High-Speed Rail Authority will seek to get its plans for the first U.S. bullet-train back on track today when it asks an appeals court for approval to issue \$8 billion in bonds to finance the project.

### [State argues right to sell high-speed rail bonds](#)

Fresno Bee-May 23, 2014

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Two lower court rulings that have complicated efforts to begin construction on California's \$68 billion high-speed rail system are premature and should be overturned, attorneys for the state argued before an appellate court panel Friday.

### [City Council votes to sue high-speed rail agency to stop train ...](#)

Bakersfield Californian-May 22, 2014

Nineteen months after authorizing a lawsuit against the California High-Speed Rail Authority, the Bakersfield City Council reaffirmed that plan late Wednesday, authorizing the City Attorney to sue to stop the multibillion-dollar bullet train....

### [High speed rail wins Kings County court case](#)

Visalia Times-Delta - May 23, 2014

On Friday, visiting Kings County Superior Court Judge Leslie Nichols sided with the California High Speed Rail Authority in a dispute with Kings County. The county last year denied access to HSR engineers wanting to do soil testing at 58 sites along the proposed HSR route.

### [Brown doubles down on high-speed rail amid calls for restraint](#)

SFGate-May 16, 2014

Preparing for looming budget battles with the Democratic-controlled Legislature, Gov. Jerry Brown warned Friday that lawmakers must balance "desire and need" for expensive social programs - even as he defiantly doubled down on support for the increasingly unpopular high-speed rail system, saying it remains emblematic of his passion to "build great things" in his final term as governor.

### [Steinberg: CA Cap-and-Trade Must Fund Transit-Oriented Affordable Housing](#)

Streetsblog Los Angeles (blog)-May 21, 2014

While Governor Jerry Brown continues to call for a third of the cap-and-trade funds to go to CA high-speed rail, Senate President ProTem Darrell Steinberg last week expanded upon his alternative proposal to spend a larger share of the revenue on affordable housing and transit at the local and regional level.

### [Cap and Trade Funds](#)

Paul Dyson

You know that a program has established itself when it sports an acronym. Cap and Trade is now CnT (or CapnTrade to others) and has everyone at the State Capitol excited as it appears to represent a way to pay for a lot of people's favorite environmental programs. As I write in mid-May there is some arm wrestling going on in the Senate Budget Committee as to how much may be reserved for intercity passenger rail, for transit, and for High Speed Rail.

### [All Aboard Florida: High-Speed Rail Will Create Jobs, Help Economy](#)

Sunshine State News (blog) - May 21, 2014

Washington Economics Group (WEG) released a study on Wednesday which shows All Aboard Florida's plan to link Miami and Orlando by high-speed rail will add almost \$3.5 billion to Florida's economy, add \$2 billion in labor income and generate \$600 million in tax revenue. The study also shows All Aboard Florida will create more than 10,000 jobs during its first two years of operation.

“As two mutually reinforcing businesses – passenger rail and transit-oriented development – with direct

benefits from each made possible through private investment, All Aboard Florida leads to a cycle of additional investment and economic opportunity,” said Mike Reininger, the president and chief development officer of All Aboard Florida, on Wednesday.

### [French trains 'too wide' to fit in some stations](#)

CNN May 21, 2014

Measurements were taken from more modern stations, but neglected to include older facilities where the gap between platforms is narrower.

RFF and SNCF both released statements saying the new trains were part of a network upgrade to cope with a 40% increase in passengers over the next decade.

They said 50 million euros were being spent on upgrading 1,300 platforms to accommodate the new trains.

### [LA To Receive \\$2.1 Billion To Extend Subway Into Beverly Hills](#)

CBS Local-May 20, 2014

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Federal transportation officials are promising another big dose of cash to help expand Los Angeles’ growing public transit network — this time, \$2.1 billion in grants and loans to extend a subway line into Beverly Hills....

Construction of the three new stations and 4 miles of tracks from the Koreatown neighborhood to the eastern edge of Beverly Hills should be complete in 2023, Metro projects.

### [Union Station 75th anniversary merchandise now available in Metro store](#)

The Source May 23, 2014

The above three items can be all yours. Please visit the online Metro Store to peruse and/or purchase.

### [Endangered Shrimp May Delay Trolley](#)

The UCSD Guardian Online-May 19, 2014

A plan to connect the Metropolitan Transit System’s trolley network to UCSD has stalled after the discovery of vernal pools containing an endangered species of shrimp along the planned route.

San Diego Association of Governments’ plan to build several MTS Blue Line light rail train stations on campus, as part of the SANDAG Mid-Coast Corridor Transit Project, is currently in a period of environmental planning and surveying. The planned 11-mile light rail extension from Old Town to La Jolla is currently routed to inadvertently cross through several regional vernal pools that house a tiny species of “fairy” shrimp.

### [RIVERSIDE: Caltrans probing cause of fatal bridge collapse over Hwy 91](#)

Press-Enterprise (blog)-May 18, 2014

A fatal bridge accident on one of the Inland region’s busiest freeways wasn’t expected to slow commuters Monday, May 19, or the ongoing widening of Highway 91 through Riverside.

But officials investigating why a section of railroad bridge collapsed early Sunday, killing 59-year-old Okesene Faasalele, of Long Beach, will pause to make sure appropriate safety precautions are being taken, a transportation official said.

### [RFQ issued for San Francisco – San Jose electrification](#)

International Railway Journal-May 20, 2014

CALIFORNIAN commuter rail operator Caltrain has issued a Request for Qualification (RFQ) for a design-build contract to electrify the 82km San Francisco – San Jose line, a key component of its Modernisation Programme, which is due to be completed by 2019.

### [Palo Alto: Countywide sales tax measure would need to benefit ...](#)

San Jose Mercury News-May 20, 2014

Voter support in northern Santa Clara County for a possible sales tax increase to fund transportation projects will hinge on Caltrain receiving its fair share of the proceeds, the Palo Alto City Council stressed Monday.

### [Caltrain Seeking Advisory Board Members](#)

The San Francisco Appeal-May 19, 2014

Caltrain is seeking volunteers for its Citizens Advisory Committee to represent San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

According to Caltrain, the CAC serves in an advisory capacity to the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers board of directors, providing input on the needs of current and potential rail customers, and reviewing and commenting on reports and presentations from Caltrain staff.

### [Caltrain Eyes Razor Wire, Fences To Prevent Future Tagging Of SJ Bridge](#)

KPIX 5 May 23, 2014

SAN JOSE (KPIX 5) — One of the Bay Area's ugliest bridges just received a facelift. It has a fresh coat of paint, and it looks decent, for now. But graffiti is already creeping in, and soon taggers will be back with a vengeance.

### [Levi's Stadium: Hotels, public transportation options for 49ers games](#)

Niners Nation - May 20, 2014

It is not exactly surprising to see a hotel next door to the stadium get sold out so quickly. I decided to do a little more research, and it's not the only one. The Hyatt Regency in Santa Clara is also sold out during that period. Given how big a deal that first game is, hotels will be filling up fairly quickly. And I'd imagine hotels will be booked fairly solid for most 49ers game.

Given this sudden information, I thought it made sense to put together some helpful information for people planning on going to Levi's Stadium for a game this season. Immediately below I've embedded a Google Map featuring hotels in the vicinity of the stadium. I couldn't figure out how to add a pin for Levi's stadium, so for your orientation, the stadium is directly south of the Hyatt Regency Santa Clara, which is labeled at the top center of the map.

### [SMART leaves businesses out of loop](#)

Petaluma Argus Courier-May 21, 2014

Lagunitas Brewing Company of Petaluma receives three train cars per week full of malted barley from Canada to make its popular IPA, Little Sumpin' Sumpin' and Imperial Stout beers....

The Lagunitas Brewing line is one of a handful of rail spurs that have been shut off as SMART builds the tracks for commuter service. Businesses along the line are upset at losing direct access to freight service, which can increase property values and save shipping costs.



[www.capitolcorridor.org](http://www.capitolcorridor.org)



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Joint Powers Authority

[www.sjca.org](http://www.sjca.org)



[www.lossan.org](http://www.lossan.org)



[www.crrcc.org](http://www.crrcc.org)



[www.pcv.org](http://www.pcv.org)

## We Get Emails

### Re: What's taking so long to finish the Expo Line?

I spent the last few days visiting in the Westwood area, and got a good look at the Expo line between the I-10 and I-405. The trackwork appears to be complete, as is the station platform at Westwood Blvd, and the foundations for the overhead supports are in place. I have trouble understanding why it will take nearly two years to get the line running; what am I missing?

Thank you,



Gordon Glattenberg  
Santa Clarita, CA

**From my experience watching Light Rail construction starting with the San Diego Trolley in 1980-81, there is plenty of work to do even after the track is laid. There is of course getting the overhead catenary strung. But what can be time consuming is installing and testing the signal system. It isn't much to see but it is time consuming to get right. Also the new service needs to be finished before final testing and training can start. This last phase can take many months. But a service needs to have everything signed off as safe by the PUC before they can get liability insurance so they can carry passengers. NB**

### **Re: What's wrong with the proposed LAX People Mover**

After studying LAWA's plan for its People Mover, there are numerous flaws that are quite obvious. To create a true Inter-Connective Transportation System that is World Class, LAWA needs to consider some additional options. One possibility for the People Mover Tram that I've come up with involves the following alignment/stations:

-Start at Parking Lot B & establish the Consolidated Rent-A-Car Center (CONRAC) there due to its very close proximity to 2 Major Freeways. From Parking Lot B/CONRAC head out & North along La Cienega Blvd. to Century Blvd w/a stop at the Holiday Inn/Crown Plaza Hotels. Then proceed West along Century Blvd. to the Century/Aviation-Metro LAX Transit Center. Continue West to Airport Blvd. then turn North with a Stop around 98th/Hotel St. to serve the Airport Hotels clustered in that area. Continue North then turn West into Parking Lot C w/stop at "ITF" location. From there head into the LAX Terminals.

-LAX Terminal Stops: b/w Terminals 1-2, Terminal 3-TBIT. b/w Terminals 7-6, Terminals 5-4.

I'm sure there are multiple proposals for the People Mover-Tram alignment & stations that are better than what LAWA has come up with, obviously my proposal listed above would increase the overall cost of construction, but if they are going to build a fixed guideway Tram system to interconnect other Transportation services, then build it right, that will benefit everyone!

Kelly Walton-Harper

**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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**You can send your comments to me at [nbraymer@railpac.org](mailto:nbraymer@railpac.org)**

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