



Los Angeles Union Station today. Photo by Noel T. Braymer

### [Amtrak to Celebrate Seventh Annual National Train Day](#)

Mother Earth News-May 1, 2014

As spring chugs along, Amtrak will soon be celebrating the seventh annual National Train Day on May 10, 2014. Started as a way to spread information about trains and the role that they still play in America's transportation system, National Train Day is expected to be celebrated in 210 locations throughout 43 states as well as the District of Columbia. Los Angeles's historic Union station will begin its celebration earlier, on May 3, as part of the historic passenger terminal's 75th anniversary.

## [May Day means Amtrak Day #1](#)

Commentary By Bruce Richardson, URPA

Once again, for the 43rd time, here we are on May Day, the anniversary of the official day of Amtrak operations beginning on May 1, 1971. It was the day most of the still-operating passenger trains in the country disappeared, and the freight railroads breathed a sigh of relief because the heavy hand of the ICC was no longer upon them forcing them to run trains they didn't want to run "in the public interest."

## [Amtrak train partially derailed in NE Montana](#)

Uniontown Herald Standard Apr 28, 2014

BAINVILLE, Mont. (AP) — Amtrak says a train carrying 117 passengers has partially derailed in northeastern Montana, causing minor injuries to one passenger.

## [Southern Colorado raises cash in effort to save Southwest Chief](#)

The Denver Post - Apr 29, 2014

An effort to help retain Amtrak's Southwest Chief route through southern Colorado received a small symbolic boost on Tuesday with the announcement that local communities committed about \$250,000 in matching donations toward a federal grant.

About a dozen southern Colorado stakeholders, including Pueblo and Otero counties and the Trinidad Tourism Board, committed the mix of tax and private dollars.

## [Govts. support Southwest Chief](#)

Pueblo Chieftain - Apr 30, 2014

LA JUNTA — The Otero County Commission and La Junta City Council have joined ranks to pitch in on the \$24 million effort to save Amtrak's Southwest Chief.

## [Entities come together to save the Southwest Chief](#)

KRDO - Apr 29, 2014

Monday (4/28), eleven Southern Colorado entities joined with Kansas officials, the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad (BNSF), and Amtrak to submit a Transportation Infrastructure Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) VI grant for \$24.5 million. Local officials are providing \$9.3 Million in local matching dollars to seek \$15 Million in Federal grant funds. Of the \$9.3 Million in local match, \$254,000 was generated from 11 local entities in Southern Colorado.

## [Kansas towns file federal grant application in hopes of saving Amtrak service](#)

KAKE-May 2, 2014

This week, a coalition of Colorado and Kansas communities, including Hutchinson, Dodge City and Garden City, filed an application under Garden City's name for a competitive TIGER grant through the U.S. Department of Transportation. A similar application last year was denied.

This time around they are seeking \$15 million in federal funds. That money would go toward the \$24 million in track upgrades Amtrak says are necessary moving forward to support modern passenger train speeds.

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

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 jpeg rail photos to Russ Jackson, RailPAC Photo Editor, at [info@railpac.org](mailto:info@railpac.org).

## [Amtrak Service Restored Between Philadelphia and Baltimore](#)

NBC4 Washington-Apr 29, 2014

Amtrak service has been restored between Philadelphia and Baltimore following overhead wire problems Tuesday morning.

Service along that stretch was suspended for about an hour and a half Tuesday; limited service then resumed. Full service was restored around 8 a.m., but riders were told to expect residual delays.

### [Amtrak train towed out of NYC tunnel](#)

Washington Post - Apr 30, 2014

Amtrak says a Massachusetts-bound train carrying 137 people needed a tug from a diesel locomotive after getting stuck in a New York City tunnel. Amtrak spokeswoman Vernae Graham says a downed overhead wire halted the electric-powered train in an East River tunnel around 7 p.m. Wednesday.

### [Future on hold for 30th Street Station](#)

Philly.com-May 2, 2014

A \$60 million restoration project, to repair the 81-year-old station's limestone, clean its facade, and waterproof the exterior, is included in Amtrak's nationwide five-year plan for construction and repairs. But Congress has not authorized the money, and there is no indication when - or if - it will, Amtrak's chief of Northeast Corridor planning and performance, Drew Galloway, said Friday.

**So what is the local match for this project? Why can't the cities on the NEC own, develop and operate their stations like cities in California? NB**

### [Chicago will be testing ground for Amtrak's pets-on-board program](#)

Chicago Sun-Times-Apr 29, 2014

Amtrak travelers between Chicago and Quincy will be allowed to take small cats and dogs with them for \$25 in the first test in the nation of what could become a systemwide pets-on-board Amtrak policy.

### [Amtrak to International Property Developers: You can't turn those ..](#)

.RailwayAge Magazine-May 2, 2014

Cutting back on the ventilation fans' operating hours poses a safety and security risk to Amtrak and Metra customers, Amtrak said.

### [Amtrak ready for rail projects](#)

Albany Times Union-Apr 29, 2014

The work includes a fourth platform track and expansion of platforms at the Rensselaer station, a second track between Albany and Schenectady to alleviate a longtime bottleneck along the Empire Corridor and signal and crossing improvements on the line between Rensselaer and Poughkeepsie.

### [Rail agency wants to make Amtrak an option for commuters in Modesto, Turlock, Merced](#)

Modesto Bee-Apr 28, 2014

Rigid current schedules have trains arriving in Sacramento and Bakersfield after noon, and in Oakland at 11 a.m., too late for most jobs. Commuters could reach those stations by 8 a.m. with seemingly simple changes, suggests a draft business plan being circulated by the recently created San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority.

The agency wants to hear what people think at a May 28 meeting in Modesto, and will take written comments through June 9.

### [Merced is key to Amtrak commuter plan](#)

Merced Sun-Star-Apr 30, 2014

Merced is the key to an emerging plan for Amtrak trains to carry Valley commuters to jobs near Oakland, Sacramento and the Southern San Joaquin Valley....

Starting instead from Merced at 5:38 a.m. would have a northbound pulling into Oakland at 8 a.m. and not long after in Sacramento. People catching a 5:38 a.m. train in Merced heading south could reach Fresno an hour later and Bakersfield by 8 a.m.

The San Joaquins also stop in Denair, Stockton and other depots, with two round trips linking Sacramento and Bakersfield and four between Oakland and Bakersfield, for a total of six round trips each day. The California Department of Transportation's rail administration, which technically still oversees the San Joaquins, expects to bump to seven round trips next year. That will be the line's first addition since 2002.

### [Editorial: Central Valley's dire dirty air distinction](#)

Sacramento Bee-May 1, 2014

There's no shortage of ideas on how to spend California's anticipated "cap and trade" billions. But two recent reports lay out a compelling case for where a serious dose of that money, from the state's program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, needs to go.

Last week, in an eye-opening map of communities most wracked by pollution, the California Environmental Protection Agency left no doubt that the Central Valley is by far the state's biggest and most vulnerable environmental challenge.

### [Southern California Air Still Among Most Polluted -](#)

Westside Today-Apr 30, 2014

The American Lung Association's "State of the Air 2014" report says the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Riverside region has the worst ozone pollution problem in the nation, even though Southern California as a whole has seen a sharp improvement in battling ozone over the past 14 years.



Map of LA Union Station for its 75th anniversary festivities. Photo by Noel T. Braymer