

**Subject:** Private Investors Very Interested in Ca HSR Now that it is funded!  
**From:** Rail Passenger Association of California (noelnoelt@cox.net)  
**To:** ntbraymer@yahoo.com;  
**Date:** Monday, July 21, 2014 9:30 AM

## **RailPAC Weekly E-Newsletter for July 21, 2014**

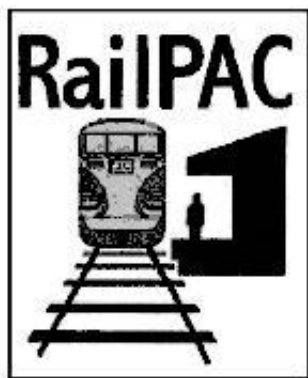
**Edited by Noel T. Braymer**

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



This is the main hall of the Sacramento Station now as the ceiling and upper walls are being restored.  
Photo by Noel T. Braymer

### [EDITORIAL: Fresno supervisors should back high-speed rail](#)

Fresno Bee - Jul 14, 2014

The supervisors have supported high-speed rail for seven years. Now the board majority is teetering. Shame on them if they lack the backbone to remain united so that Fresno County finally can break free from the shackles of double-digit unemployment and overreliance on bountiful rains to power its agriculture-based economy.

### [Fresno County supervisors make no decision on opposing high ...](#)

Fresno Bee-Jul 15, 2014

Fresno County supervisors pushed off a vote Tuesday on reversing their support for California's high-speed rail project, delaying a symbolic decision by two weeks to get more information.

### [Fresno supervisors reject call to renounce high-speed rail](#)

ABC30.com-Jul 16, 2014

FRESNO, Calif. (KFSN) A local attack on the California high-speed rail program fizzled in Fresno. An effort to get the Fresno County Board of Supervisors to renounce their support for the project died. It was backed by just one supervisor.

### [Former bar demolished as high-speed rail construction begins in Fresno](#)

ABC30.com-Jul 14, 2014

FRESNO, Calif. (KFSN) One of the biggest projects in state history is now underway in Central Fresno. Crews with the High-Speed Rail Authority began demolishing the "Annie's Hollywood Inn" bar on

Monday. It's on Golden State near Pine. The work will make way for the first phase of the multi-billion dollar project.

### [California bullet train: Interest from private investors revives shaky funding plan](#)

Contra Costa Times-Jul 18, 2014

Inking a deal that will send the project hundreds of millions of dollars a year in fees collected from polluters is the signal the private sector was waiting for, according to formal letters of interest the state received last month. With only a fraction of the project's funding in hand, the state needs private investment for about one-third of the final price tag to have any hope of completing the rail line.

"The new funding gives us confidence that as political leanings and priorities change, it won't be easy for the government to back out of its end of the deal," said Stephen Polechronis, senior vice president of Los Angeles-based AECOM, one of the world's largest engineering and construction firms. "We feel we have a partner now."

### [California High-Speed Rail No. 3—Let's Hear From the Chairman](#)

The Atlantic - Jul 14, 2014

Today, as installment No. 3, I give you Dan Richard, who as chairman of the California High-Speed Rail Authority is Jerry Brown's designate to oversee the project. He has a long background in finance, utilities, and public works.

"Politically, I've seen over the last two years, that urban lawmakers—of either party—simply don't want to spend money in the Valley. There will always be an insatiable need for local transportation projects and without forcing the construction of the project spine, I fear it would be a long time before anyone wanted to actually try to connect the whole state."

### [Dan Richard: High-Speed Rail and the Future of Transportation in California](#)

Address to Commonwealth Club 4/15/14 with link to audio podcast

## BOOKEND INVESTMENTS FURTHER IMPROVE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PUBLIC TRANSIT

- **Targets \$1 Billion in High-Speed Rail and Other Funds for Early Investment Projects**

- **Regional Projects** - Southern California Regional Interconnector Project (SCRIP) Benefits Regional Rail Including Metrolink and Amtrak

- **Local Projects** - Double Tracking, Grade Separations, etc. to Support Integrated Regional Rail Network

- **Promotes Interagency Approach to Development of an Integrated Rail Network**





From a PowerPoint presentation by the California High Speed Rail Authority created this year on the Burbank-Palmdale segment.

### [China High-Speed Rail Juggernaut, while Most of US Stands By and ...](#)

Forbes-Jul 17, 2014

In the future, high-speed rail (HSR) will connect not only cities, states and countries, but also far-reaching continents. One could, about 15 to 20 years from now, travel seamlessly from London, UK to Beijing, China and even have a detour within the Gulf countries using the global high-speed rail network. In the next 15 years, while UK would have built its new HSR2 that covers 332 kilometers, China will have completed over 25,631 kilometers of high speed track to seamlessly move people in its country.

### [Why China can build high-speed rail so cheaply](#)

Global Construction Review-Jul 14, 2014

According to a World Bank paper published last week, China's high-speed rail so far has cost between \$17m and \$21m per kilometre, even though it has a high ratio of big-ticket viaducts and tunnels. In Europe that figure is \$25m-\$39m per kilometre, while in California, the only US state currently planning a high-speed line, it's more like \$56m/km. Some of the reasons are not surprising. For instance, in a country where according to the World Bank 978 million people lived on less than \$5 a day in 2008, labour has been cheap....

Assured of very high volumes, companies and state institutions ramped up capacity quickly and invested in innovative techniques.

"This," writes Gerald Ollivier, a World Bank senior transport specialist and paper co-author, "has led to lower unit costs as a result of the development of competitive multiple local sources for construction (earthworks, bridges, tunnels, EMU trains etc.) that adopted mechanization in construction and manufacturing. "Further, large volumes and the ability to amortize capital investment in high-cost construction equipment over a number of projects contributed to the lowering of unit costs."

### [High speed train crash in France injures 25](#)

Telegraph.co.uk-Jul 17, 2014

At least 25 people were injured, four of them seriously, when a high-speed TGV train collided with a regional express train in southern France on Thursday. ...

The high-speed train carrying 178 people collided with the regional express, which had 70 passengers, near the town of Denguin, on the line between Pau and Bayonne in the south-west of the country, local officials said. The crash happened about 17 kilometres (10 miles) from Pau.

**This accident happened on the older conventional tracks where TGV and local trains are "blended". There have been fewer accidents on the dedicated high speed rail lines. Even in mixed traffic, light weight high speed rail equipment can protect passengers in an accident. NB**

### [Amtrak CEO 'committed' to keeping train in Raton](#)

Sangre de Cristo Chronicle-Jul 17, 2014

RATON – Nearly 150 Southwest Chief supporters greeted Amtrak President and CEO Joe Boardman with signs that said “Save Our City – Don’t Take Our Southwest Chief; It’s Our Blood!” during Boardman’s “Whistle-stop” in Raton Saturday (July 12). The stop was part of a tour meant to drum up support to preserve a 636-mile stretch of the route route between Newton, Kansas and Albuquerque.

### [Task force wants to restore Amtrak service in Emporia](#)

Topeka Capital Journal-Jul 19, 2015

It is that nostalgia as well as the potential for economic development that is fueling McHenry's — and others' — desire to bring Amtrak service back to Emporia and build a new train depot to serve as a passenger stop.

## [Amtrak route to N. Texas closes during construction](#)

mySanAntonio.com-Jul 15, 2014

SAN ANTONIO — A \$104 million construction project in Fort Worth has disrupted Amtrak's Texas Eagle service, causing the shutdown of train service between San Antonio and Dallas-Fort Worth for about two months.

During that time, Amtrak is using buses to transport passengers through Central Texas to their destinations.

Construction on Tower 55 in Fort Worth is necessary to help solve one of the city's most annoying traffic congestion issues and is directly related to the track Amtrak uses for the route, officials said.

## [Amtrak moves to fix diesel concerns](#)

Albany Times Union Jul 16, 2014

With financial support from a not-for-profit environmental group, Amtrak is upgrading its diesel locomotives to reduce hours of idling time around the Rensselaer station and repair facility after air tests by a citizens group found unsafe levels of diesel emissions. Seven locomotives already have been retrofitted to connect to ground power at the repair shop, conserving fuel and reducing emissions, with a total of 18 locomotives expected to be modified by September, said Amtrak spokesman Craig Schulz on Tuesday.

## [Track work to cause delays in key Amtrak route](#)

The State Journal-Register-Jul 16, 2014

Faster trains in the long run will mean delays of up to an hour this summer and fall for Amtrak passengers between St. Louis and Chicago.

## [All aboard? Latest delay bogs Grand Rapids' new Amtrak station's opening](#)

The Grand Rapids Press Jul 16, 2014

GRAND RAPIDS, MI — The city's largely completed Amtrak station named after a former West Michigan congressman now isn't expected to open for passengers until early fall....

The station originally was to open in 2013, then spring or summer 2014.

## [Pedestrian killed Sunday at Salinas Amtrak station](#)

The Salinas Californian-Jul 15, 2014

Police, fire and ambulance were dispatched about 6:30 p.m. Sunday following the wreck, which involved Amtrak's Coast Starlight northbound train No. 14, said Vernae Graham, Amtrak spokesperson.

Although the maximum speed is 60 mph on that line, Graham said the Coast Starlight wasn't moving that fast at the time of the accident.

**The train was delayed for over 3 hours. Most of that time was likely from waiting for the coroner. NB**

## [Indianapolis may pull out of Amtrak funding deal](#)

WTHR-4 Jul 18, 2014

INDIANAPOLIS -Amtrak service from Indianapolis to Chicago is in jeopardy as Indianapolis moves to pull out of a funding deal to keep the Hoosier State Line going.

The mayor's chief Ryan Vaughn told Eyewitness News the deal doesn't make financial sense for the city. Vaughn said the city's participation hinged on improvements for Union Station, which is in desperate need of repairs. But without Indy's support, backers worry the Hoosier Line will be derailed.

## [The San Joaquins: California's Overnight Trains?](#)

By Noel T. Braymer

Many would love to be able to catch a train in the evening and wake up near their destination from one end of California to the next. This isn't likely to happen anytime soon. There has been talk for years about extending a round trip San Joaquin over the Tehachapis overnight with with sleepers and lots of padding in the schedule. This is going nowhere as far as the UP is concerned. So what is the next best thing?

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

Reported by David B. Kutrosky, Managing Director

Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority

### Service Performance Overview

For the third consecutive month, ridership increased on the Capitol Corridor over 2013. In June 2014, a total of 116,605 passengers rode Capitol Corridor trains, representing a 1.7% increase compared to June 2013. Revenues continue to be above prior year-month results, with a 1.9% increase over June 2013.

## Proposed meeting, San Luis Obispo - Wednesday 13 August

The LOSSAN and CRCC Boards will be having their joint meeting in San Luis Obispo on Thursday 14th, details to follow. We are wondering if RailPAC members and friends would be interested in an informal gathering on the Wednesday evening at the new San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum adjacent to the depot. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are interested. We are looking for sponsors for refreshments. There will be a minimum \$10 donation.

Please respond to [pdyson@railpac.org](mailto:pdyson@railpac.org).

## [Rock slide between Garrison and Peekskill halts Metro-North, Amtrak trains ...](#)

Kingston Daily Freeman - Jul 20, 2014

Rocks rained down on the tracks Saturday afternoon as crews were fixing a retaining wall. No trains were damaged and no one was hurt, but both tracks were left impassible.

Amtrak service also was affected....

The rock slide is the latest headache for a railroad recovering from two major accidents and myriad service disruptions.

## [LIRR Strike Is Averted After Cuomo Intervenes in Labor Talks](#)

New York Times-Jul 17, 2014

Travelers on the Long Island Rail Road were spared a debilitating midsummer strike on Thursday, when the railroad and its unions reached an agreement three days before a planned walkout.

## [Shabby Road- Jon Stewart and the Daily Show on the Highway Trust Fund](#)

Jul 17, 2014

Video

## [10 Most Energy Efficient States in America](#)

Wall St. Cheat Sheet-Jul 17, 2014

### 2. California

Sunny California has hovered among the top two spots of the ACEEE rankings since the Council first began publishing the report seven years ago, and in addition to ranking highly on measures of energy efficiency, California also dominates the solar energy business, with six of its cities ranking in the top 10 for solar energy.

## [Caltrain to Go Electric Starting in 2019](#)

The Potrero View-Jul 16, 2014

There'll be more construction-related impacts when Caltrain begins the second part of its modernization program: electrification. Electric infrastructure, including substations, overhead wires, and poles will be

installed starting in 2016. The community will be kept abreast of the timing and work locations via mailers and fliers as well.

The third part of the modernization program entails replacing Caltrain's diesel trains with high-performance electric trains, called "electric multiple units." The first electric trains are scheduled to be in operation by 2019. "Because these are electric, there will be considerably less noise, dramatically reduced air pollution [by between 56 and 84 percent], and that will be a positive benefit for the community whether they take the train or not," Dunn said. "We'll also be able to offer more service, and the reason we'll be able to do that is because it takes less time to stop and start an electric train, so we'll be able to operate more trains, and we won't need to have as much time and distance between trains."

### [Bay Area Bike Riders Upset About Getting 'Bumped' Off Caltrain](#)

CBS Local-Jul 16, 2014

Kristin Smith with the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition said they are hoping Caltrain can come up with a suitable solution. "What we're really asking Caltrain is, get more capacity, whether that means having a new bike car design that would accommodate more bikes, or adding an extra bike car to it," said Smith. "It's clear that more and more people want to be combining bikes and transit."

### [DICK SPOTSWOOD: I recently wrote that Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit District's](#)

Marin Independent Journal Jul 15, 2014

board of directors need to accelerate planning for the day in 2016 when its trains start running. One decision that hasn't been resolved is who will actually run the trains.

Will SMART hire and manage its own employees, or will it contact with a private operator to manage its commuter service?

Hopefully the latter is the outcome.

### [\\$1.2 billion contract OKd for new Muni Metro light-rail cars](#)

SFGate-Jul 15, 2014

The Municipal Transportation Agency on Tuesday approved a \$1.2 billion contract with Siemens Corp. to replace and expand the 155-car fleet of light-rail vehicles that ply the Muni Metro lines - the backbone of San Francisco's transit system...

The contract approved Tuesday calls for the German company, which manufactures light-rail vehicles in Sacramento, to build 260 cars.

### [San Francisco Sets Bond Vote for Aging Transit System](#)

Bloomberg-Jul 18, 2014

San Francisco lawmakers are asking voters to approve a \$500 million bond measure as a population surge stoked by technology-industry growth strains the transit network in California's fourth-largest city.

### [Report warns of diesel fumes' risks](#)

Sacramento Bee-Jul 17, 2014

For generations, the yard has been the lifeblood of this economically challenged Kansas City, Kan., neighborhood, providing jobs and attracting industry. The trains rolling by make a constant, even reassuring sound.

But DeCaigny knows neighbors who regularly smell the diesel exhaust from the locomotives and the trucks that pick up and drop off cargo. She knows neighbors who can't go outside for long without risking an asthma attack.

And she knows about the growing body of research that links diesel exhaust to a host of health problems - lung diseases, cancer, heart attacks and premature births.

### [Metrolink to cut service on San Bernardino line](#)

## San Gabriel Valley Tribune Jul 14, 2014

**Starting Oct. 1, two mid-day trains and two late-night trains will be removed from the commuter rail's most popular service, said Jeff Lustgarten, chief spokesperson for Metrolink and its parent, the Southern California Regional Rail Authority.**

### [SAN BERNARDINO: Funding feud means end of the line for four Metrolink Trains](#)

Press-Enterprise-Jul 18, 2014

The commuter rail service approved the changes July 11 after San Bernardino Associated Governments denied Metrolink's request for an 8.8 percent increase in local funding subsidies and would only grant 3 percent, Lustgarten said.

### [Take Metrolink to see the races at Del Mar for \\$28 round-trip](#)

The Source Jul 18, 2014

Starting July 23, Southern Californians will have a new safe, affordable, convenient, reliable way to get to the horse races at the Del Mar Racetrack. Metrolink, in partnership with the North County Transit District (NCTD), will offer round-trip train service to the Del Mar Racetrack Saturdays and Sundays between July 23 and Sept. 4 for a special round-trip fare of only \$28. The Race Train will leave Union Station at 10:40 a.m. and arrive in Solana Beach at 12:47 p.m. The return train will depart from the Solana Beach station at 6:45 p.m.

**California's passenger trains have plenty of seats that need filling when business is slow. What is lacking is aggressive marketing to get more people riding and bringing in more money. That means discounting tickets when necessary, improving connections to more markets and better packaged deals where there are seats that need filling. NB**

### [A new way to get to and from Dodger Stadium](#)

Santa Clarita Valley Signal- Jul 15, 2014

As for rail options, one can take the train to Union Station and the Dodger Stadium Express bus to the stadium and back to Union Station, but the last train back to the SCV generally leaves too early to stay for the entire game.

One might say, then, there's potential for a company that takes fans directly to games and brings them back after they're over.

A New York-based startup wants to fill that niche by arranging round trips to Dodger Stadium for residents of Santa Clarita and other Southern California locations during an eight-game home stand after the All-Star break — and for longer if the service catches on.

### [Dodger Stadium Express: Metro nightmare or game day savior?](#)

Neon Tommy Jul 17, 2014

As most city-wide negotiations regarding light rail and metro extensions continue to move at the rate of rush-hour traffic, the Los Angeles Dodgers teamed up with L.A. Metro to try to provide a quick, efficient public transportation answer to Dodger fans: the Dodger Stadium Express. The Express service has been in existence since 2010, yet traffic still seems just as heavy getting in and out of the game. It begged several questions: Is the Express any faster? Do people actually use the service?

We sent two writers to a Friday night Dodgers game. Both started at Union Station—one took the Express, the other drove. Here are their stories:

### [Metro considering rail link from Valley to Bob Hope to Pas](#)

Curbed LA Jul 17, 2014

Metro's been moving fast to explore major transit improvements along the wildly popular Orange Line busway and in the Valley in general. It's now considering some very big-deal projects: a conversion of the Orange Line to light rail, and then a connection from the Orange Line to Bob Hope Airport in Burbank and



on to the Gold Line to Pasadena (and eventually Azusa, and maybe Montclair), as well as a Red Line connection to Bob Hope

### [Work Begins on Metro's NoHo Tunnel and Universal Ped Bridge](#)

CURBED LA Jul 16, 2014

It's gonna be an exciting time for LA transit in early 2016: the Expo Line will arrive in Santa Monica and two other much-anticipated projects, the Universal City pedestrian bridge and the North Hollywood Red/Orange Line tunnel will be arriving too. Metro reps tell Curbed construction has finally begun on both Valley projects—one of which is adored and the other contentious.

### [Gold Line Extension to Azusa is Three-Quarters Finished](#)

CURBED LA Jul 18, 2014

It was only this past February that the Gold Line Construction Authority, which is building the 11.5-mile light rail extension from east Pasadena to Azusa, reported that the project was half complete. Fast-forward six months and the GLCA says the line is now nearly 75 percent done.

### [Santa Ana Fretting That Public Transit Will Be Traffic Nightmare](#)

Curbed LA-Jul 15, 2014

Orange County is about 25 years behind LA County when it comes to public transportation but damn it they're trying to catch up: there's the huge ARTIC train station being built in Anaheim, a proposed streetcar near Disneyland, and now a possible streetcar in downtown Santa Ana. But this wouldn't be Orange County (or LA for that matter) if people weren't bitching about the train's effect on traffic and parking.

### [New York can't afford to build the Second Avenue Subway, and it can't afford not to](#)

CityLab Jul 17, 2014

It will cost \$4.45 billion and deliver three new stations to accompany roughly 2 miles of new tunnels. The other four phases—one north to 125th Street, and two south through Midtown to the tip of Manhattan—could bring the total cost to \$20 billion and may take decades to see through to completion.



**Confused?** This is on the path between the Sacramento Station and Old Sacramento. The signs are an attempt to point to a zig-zagging detour due to construction in the station parking lot. Much the same is true of the new platforms at Sacramento which are not only further from the station than the old ones, but the route to them is less direct making the distance even further. The result has been loss of ridership at Sacramento. Photo by Noel T. Braymer

## We Get Emails

### Re: Sacramento Depot parking ticket machine problem

I've used these machines about two or three times a year ever since they've been installed. There are incredibly difficult and frustrating to use. My most recent episode was a few months ago. I intended to pay for one day, \$10. I wound up paying \$20 for two days. But I wasn't going to let it go. With some difficulty I found the place to send my complaint and request for a refund. It took some effort but I finally got a \$10 refund credit on my credit card.

Michael Snyder

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