
Subject: Future looks bright for Rail Service in California

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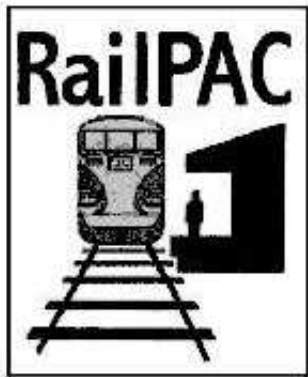
Date: Monday, December 31, 2012 9:29 AM

RailPAC Weekly E-Newsletter for December 31, 2012

Edited by Noel T. Braymer

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Rail Passenger Association of California

www.railpac.org

Traffic? Gas Pains? We need more Trains!



The old Fred Harvey Restaurant at LAUS today. We are on track to see not just the return of Rail Passenger Service but a new and greater era. In the next few years LAUS will be largely redone while restoring the best of the past such as the Harvey Restaurant. As Train Stations/Transportation Centers grow the economic value generated from them will create the political will and funding to expand service in California and around the country. Photo by Noel T. Braymer

[Bike Nation Announces 2013 Rollout Plan for Downtown Los Angeles](#)

December 20, 2012 (Los Angeles, CA) – Bike Nation announced today its plans for its 2013 rollout of Los Angeles' first major bike share program. The system will officially launch in Downtown in April 2013. Last week, the LA City Council unanimously passed a motion that directs staff to create a permit process for Bike...

Bike Nation is a Bicycle Rental Company which often uses train stations as part of serving a downtown area for short trips . Renters can drop off bikes near their destination downtown at a Bike Nation bike rack, then pick up another bike to get back to the train station. This is a start up operation in California. As well as at LAUS, Bike Nation is setting up bike racks around Anaheim, Fullerton and Long Beach. If this service catches on it will help move people in and out of train stations to near by areas while reducing the need to store bikes on trains. NB

[MTA considers public-private partnership for Sepulveda Pass ...](#)

Contra Costa Times-Dec 26, 2012

The Sepulveda Pass Corridor is intended to add another connection between the San Fernando Valley and the Westside. For now, Metro has not decided whether to merely add lanes on the 405 freeway for a rapid bus transit system, or build a nearly 60-foot diameter tunnel beneath the Sepulveda Pass that could fit a highway, a railway, or both.

[MTS to expand trolley service during Holiday Bowl](#)

KFMB News 8- Dec 26, 2012

MTS expects to provide almost 20,000 fans a ride to and from Qualcomm Stadium and urges fans to be patient.

[SF Muni celebrates 100 years with free rides](#)

Fresno Bee- Dec 28, 2012

Service on Muni buses, light-rail trains, cable cars and streetcars will be free all day Friday and until 5 a.m. on Saturday.

[Caltrain To Give Free Rides on New Year's Eve](#)

Patch.com - Dec 28, 2012

Caltrain will be giving free rides to people starting 11 p.m. on New Year's Eve, in an effort to encourage Bay Area residents to party responsibly. Post New Year's ...

[Take Caltrain to Kraft 'Fight Hunger' Bowl on Dec. 29](#)

December 28, 2012

College football fans can leave the driving to Caltrain as they head to the 3 rd annual Kraft Fight Hunger Bowl at AT&T Park in San Francisco Saturday, Dec. 29

[Transect China in Half the Time Aboard the World's Longest High ...](#)

Gizmodo-Dec 26, 2012

While not nearly as fast as the Tokyo-Nagoya mag-lev line Japan is working on, the high speed line running from, Beijing, the capital city of the People's Republic of China to Guangzhou, a provincial capital 1,428 miles (2,298 kilometers) to the South, is nearly five times as long. What's more, the line's trains reach speeds of 186 MPH (300 KPH) which shaves an astounding 12 hours off the trip. What was once a 20 hour-plus trek, now takes only eight.

[Newsmakers 2012: Long wait for Santa Cruz County's Branch Rail ...](#)

Contra Costa Times- Dec 25, 2012

Once escrow closed in October, things shifted fast. Iowa Pacific was chosen to operate the line, and it immediately established the Santa Cruz & Monterey Bay Railway. The Train to Christmas town now runs five days a week, joining Roaring Camp Railroad's Holiday Lights Train and Holiday out with Thomas as popular seasonal rail offerings. A dinner train could be in the works, too.

[What America Could Do With \\$150 Billion Lost to Offshore Tax Havens](#)

State PIRGs-Dec 6, 2012

Transportation

Bring transportation into the 21st century by funding construction of 15 commuter rail lines, 50 light rail transit lines, and more than 800 bus rapid transit lines.

Create world-class passenger rail systems on the major travel corridors of both coasts—building a high-speed rail line from San Francisco to Los Angeles and making major improvements to the heavily traveled Amtrak rail system between Boston and Washington, D.C.

Provide the federal share of funding for every high-speed rail project proposed by state governments in 2009.

[Millions needed to save San Clemente's vanishing beach](#)

OCRegister- Dec 27, 2012

City Manager George Scarborough says it's unlikely the city could fund the project with current resources, but failure of Congress to fund it in this budget year or next doesn't mean the federal