
Subject: High Speed Rail LA to SF by 2029 maybe?

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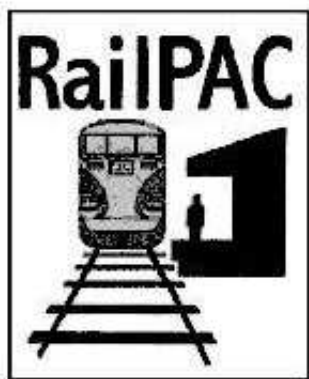
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RailPAC Weekly E-Newsletter for January 14, 2013

Edited by Noel T. Braymer

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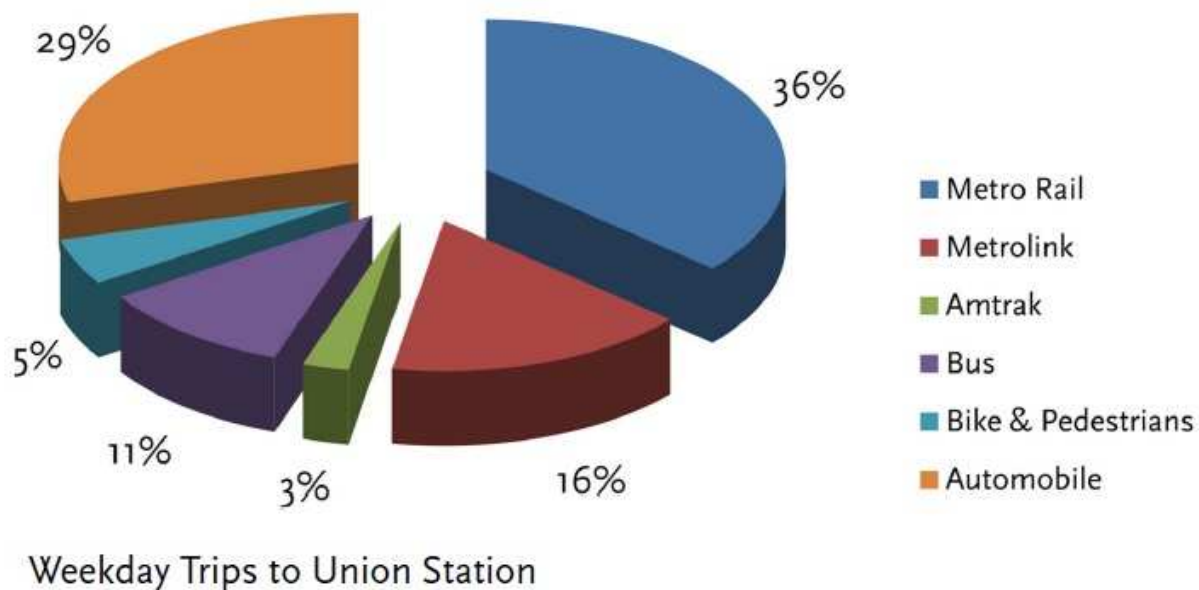
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Rail Passenger Association of California

www.railpac.org

Traffic? Gas Pains? We need more Trains!



Metro

How do passengers arrive?

[California high-speed rail official discusses project during San ...](#)

San Francisco Examiner- Jan 10, 2012

Ben Tripousis, regional director for Northern California, told a packed auditorium at the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association that the under-three-hour trip from San Francisco to Los Angeles could be a reality by 2029, but that a host of political, financial and logistical obstacles must be overcome before high-speed trains reach the Bay Area...

Construction on the first operating phase of the rail system — a 130-mile stretch between the Central Valley cities of Madera and Bakersfield — is expected to start in July.

[LaHood: "We're Not Giving Up On High-Speed Rail" In California](#)

StreetsBlog DC Dec 7, 2013

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood, testifying before Congress on his 67th birthday, rushed to the defense of the proposed rail line.

The high-speed rail authority is seeking \$38 billion in additional federal funds to fill in some of the gaping difference between the full cost and the \$11.5 billion in state and federal funds already pledged.

[Las Vegas luxury train agrees refurbishment deal](#)

Rail.co- Jan 11, 2013

The operators of a proposed luxury train service between Las Vegas and Los Angeles have signed a deal with Rail Enterprises to refurbish the company's 12-car fleet.

[Officials to take a ride on deteriorating Amtrak route through Kansas](#)

Lawrence Journal World-Jan 9, 2013

An Amtrak engine will pull specially equipped BNSF Railway cars from Topeka to La Junta, Colo., with

“theater seating,” allowing officials to view the track as the train passes over it, said Amtrak spokesman Marc Magliari.

[How important is passenger rail service?](#)

Dodge City Daily Globe- Jan 11, 2013

A special train stopped in Dodge City Thursday afternoon. The train was carrying representatives of Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad (BNSF), AMTRAK and the Kansas state government....

Dave Webb, assistant director at the Kansas Heritage Center and a train enthusiast, uncovered some interesting information. "When the dieselized Super Chief was inaugurated in May of 1937, it was scheduled to cover the 202 miles between Dodge and La Junta at an average speed of 87.2 mph (stops included).

[Efforts To Bring Amtrak To Wichita Proceeds](#)

WIBW-Jan 7, 2013

The transportation department says an initial planning study for expanded service is a good first step toward Amtrak expanding its rail service to Wichita on a route from Dallas to Oklahoma City.

[Amtrak's annual operating loss last year was lowest since 1975, ..](#)

Washington Post-Jan 10, 2013

The \$361 million loss for the year ending Sept. 30 was down 19 percent from the previous year. The last time Amtrak losses were less was 1975.

What is significant about the year 1976 is that is when Amtrak was given the NEC by Congress to get it off the back of the bankrupt PennCentral. By 1980 Amtrak's losses went over a billion dollars (in 1980 dollars). With the help of rising gas prices, higher fares and subsidy from States such as California Amtrak has made progress improving its revenues. But Amtrak was well on its way to breaking even back in 1993 after then retiring Amtrak President Claytor made modest expansion of Long Distance services. Had Mr. Claytor's policies been continued Amtrak would have become self supporting years ago. NB

[What has Amtrak President Joseph Boardman accomplished ?](#)

Opinion by Noel T. Braymer

In over 4 years Mr. Boardman has often failed to finish what he has started.

[Amtrak expands Acela Express high-speed service](#)

Progressive Rail Roading-Jan 8, 2013

Amtrak will expand its Northeast Corridor high-speed rail service with an additional weekday Acela Express round trip between New York City ...

[Amtrak upgrades Wi-Fi service to 4-G](#)

ABC7Chicago.com-Jan 10, 2013

[Why New Amtrak's Wi-Fi Upgrade Won't Fix Amtrak's Terrible Wi-Fi](#)

The Atlantic Wire-Jan 11, 2013

Amtrak has announced plans to test an upgrade of its notoriously inconsistent onboard Wi-Fi to faster 4G networks, but because the fix still uses Wi-Fi from a ...

[PHOTOS: 30th Street Station Restrooms Are Disgusting](#)

Philadelphia Magazine (blog)-Jan 8, 2013

Every time I walk through 30th Street Station after a trip to New York or D.C., I feel giddy. The cavernous Art Deco interior, the classical columns, ...

[Happy 150th Birthday, London Tube!](#)

The Atlantic: Cities Jan 9, 2013

The London Underground celebrates its 150th birthday today, marking the anniversary of the first trip on the tube, between Paddington and Farringdon.

[Event celebrates 150 years of first transcontinental railroad](#)

KCRA Sacramento-Jan 8, 2013

The California State Railroad Museum hung the sign at the corner of Front and K streets to mark the spot where on Jan. 8, 1863, California Gov. Leland Stanford turned a ceremonial shovel of dirt, marking the start of the project.

[California region's rail expansion keeps rolling with \\$135 million ...](#)

Sacramento Bee-Jan 8, 2013

President Barack Obama's point men on rail, U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood and Federal Transit Administration head Peter Rogoff, came to town Monday to present Sacramento with \$135 million to expand light rail to Cosumnes River College, marking the culmination of a half-dozen years of local lobbying.

[New proposed budget would reorganize California transportation](#)

Los Angeles Daily News-by Lauren Gold- Jan 11, 2013

The governor's budget proposal, released Thursday, includes a government reorganization plan that creates a new Transportation Agency, that will centralize Caltrans, the Department of Motor Vehicles, the High-Speed Rail Authority, the Highway Patrol, the California Transportation Commission and the Board of Pilot Commissioners under one roof.

[California Gov. Jerry Brown to roll out a less painful budget](#)

By Steven Harmon

Bay Area News Group

SACRAMENTO -- When Gov. Jerry Brown rolls out his spending blueprint Thursday, for the first time in years the announcement won't bear any resemblance to a funeral procession.

Yes, Brown will ask for about \$2 billion in cuts to balance a general fund budget of more than \$90 billion, but the level of pain will be a far cry from the devastating \$25 billion in cuts he had to make two years ago and the \$16 billion made just a year ago that sent many families reliant on state help to the edge of despair.

"It's not like we're flush with lots of cash to spend," said Sen. Mark DeSaulnier, D-Concord, a member of the Senate budget committee. "But it would be nice to think about how we can help California grow out of this and start rebuilding."

[The breakdown on the state budget proposal's transportation funds](#)

The Source Jan 10, 2013

Gov. Jerry Brown released his budget proposal on Thursday for the 2013-14 budget year. As far as I can tell, there were no major surprises and it sounds like transportation funding is similar to last year's budget.

[Bay Area Transportation Officials Support Lowering Sales Tax Threshold To 55%](#)

Silicon Valley Mercury News Jan 7, 2013

Faced with a potential \$296 billion shortfall over the next decade to maintain and expand California's aging highway and transit systems, Bay Area leaders are throwing their full support behind an attempt to reduce the voter-approval threshold from two-thirds to 55 percent for transportation sales taxes.