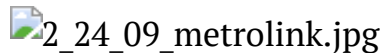




Your Measure R Dollars at Work: Safer Metrolink

By Damien Newton | Feb 24, 2009 | [COMMENT HERE](#)



As the debate over how Measure R funds will be spent continues to be a hot topic amongst transit advocates, we continue to get specifics on how funds will be doled out piecemeal. First we heard that the state transit crisis would endanger the promised bus expansion and now we're hearing that a small portion of the rail funds, [about 3% of the \\$1.2 billion set aside for "commuter rail"](#) will be spent on making Metrolink trains more safe by installing the Positive Train Control (PTC) system. Many rail safety experts believe that a PTC system would have prevented the horrific Metrolink crash from last September.

Metro's share of the Metrolink funding pie is about 50% and because the total cost of the PTC system is estimated at \$210 million; Metro is on the hook for just over \$100 million if Metrolink is unable to secure federal funds. In its report to the Metro Board, staff estimates that Metrolink could receive up to \$135 million in federal funds.

Metro, and especially Board Chair Villaraigosa, are eager to get funds for PTC allocated as soon as possible and is [willing to loan](#) the rest of the funds to Metrolink so that the new safety measures can be put in place as quickly as possible. While the federal government is now requiring all rail lines to have PTC by 2015, that time table was a little to slow for Metrolink which as an agency has received a lot of heat since the crash last fall.

For those of you who don't follow train safety news, a good description of what a PTC is can be found [here](#).

Photo: [The Metro Library/Flickr](#)



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By Damien Newton | Jul 10, 2012

(High Speed Rail is a hot topic on the Streetsblogs. For more check out CA Senate Approves Funds for High-Speed Rail, Commuter Rail Upgrades at Streetsblog San Francisco, A Victory for CA High Speed Rail but Still a Long Fight Ahead by “Streetsblog.net” director Angie Schmitt) Last week, the State Senate and Assembly passed legislation [...]

The latest Metrolink TAP solution

By Dana Gabbard | Oct 11, 2012

When you look over the list of 90 some posts I have contributed to this blog over the past few years, certain recurrent topics become apparent like the Wilshire bus lanes and the statewide bullet train



project. Recently I have been quite involved in covering the effort by local agencies to assume management of the [...]



Shakeup at Metrolink Board: Najarian Out. Ridley-Thomas In?

By Damien Newton | Jul 19, 2012

One of the powers of the Chair of the Metro Board of Directors, is the right to appoint three members to the Board of the Southern California Regional Rail Authority, commonly known as Metrolink. Supervisor Mike Antonovich, who took over as Metro Board Chair on July 1, wasted no time in exercising that power, replacing [...]

Boxer Reminds Metrolink: Train Crew Members Shouldn't Ride Solo

By Elana Schor | Sep 21, 2009

The transportation spending bill passed by the Senate this week includes \$50 million in rail safety grants sought in June by environment committee chairman Barbara Boxer (D-CA) — but the bill may not become law for months, and today Boxer told California's Metrolink commuter rail that interim safety protections would have to stay in place. Flickr photo: ProKelly This [...]

LaHood Talks TIGERS and Stimulus, While Boxer Pledges Support for "30 in 10"

By Damien Newton | Feb 19, 2010

Barbara Boxer, flanked by Metro bus repair staff, Ray LaHood and Metro Board Chair Ara Najarian, promotes the Stimulus earlier today. Photo: LA Streetsblog/Flickr It was billed as a day to discuss the reauthorization of the Federal Transportation Trust Fund, it turned in to a stirring defense of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, and [...]

The Transit Coalition's "Simplified Network" Could Create Millions for Metrolink

By Damien Newton | Dec 17, 2009

The Transit Coalition has big plans for Metrolink. For larger versions of the current Metrolink Map and a map with the proposed changes for the regional rail system, click the embedded links in the text above. Last week, the Metrolink Board of Directors punted on the decision on how to balance their budget through either [...]

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