

New Rail Operator Gets On Board with Metrolink

On November 12, 2004, Metrolink's board of directors awarded a contract to Connex Railroad LLC to provide train operations services beginning July 1, 2005 for five years with a five-year option. The train operations contractor provides engineers and conductors to operate your trains; those personnel are currently provided by Amtrak.

Although you may not have heard of Connex, the company has been in existence for over one hundred years. Connex and its subsidiaries provide services to bus and rail operators in 22 countries throughout Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and the Americas. A consortium led by Connex was recently awarded the contract to provide operations services to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, operator of the Boston-area commuter-train service.

From the day Metrolink was created, our business approach has been based on contracting with private sector firms for most services. This is a proven method to keep costs down and provide business opportunities to private sector firms. In order to acquire services, Metrolink uses a competitive bidding process and solicits

vendors to bid on projects. For each project, Metrolink outlines the scope of the work needed, the technical requirements, and the evaluation criteria in a "Request for Proposal."

For this project, Metrolink carefully evaluated each technical proposal and its costs, conducted site visits and interviews, and scored the proposals using evaluation criteria approved by the Metrolink board of directors. Connex received the highest technical score, while offering the lowest cost for its services. Under the new contract with Connex, Metrolink benefits from cost savings while maintaining the high level of service provided by Amtrak crews. These savings are especially important at times of rising fuel and insurance costs.

In order to prepare for a new contractor, Metrolink, Connex, and Amtrak have already begun work to ensure that the transition on July 1 will be almost invisible to our passengers. Connex employees will be required to meet the

Inside

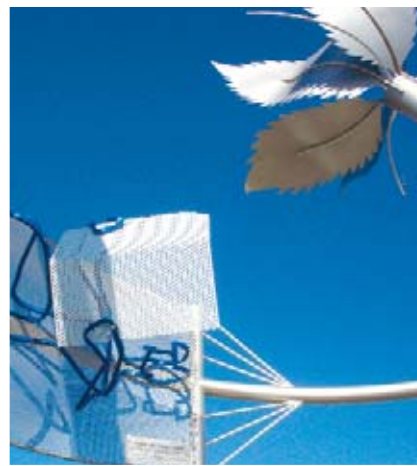


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The Santa Ana Winds Find a Permanent Home—in Burbank



The Santa Ana winds are well known to Southern Californians with sensitive allergies. The dry desert wind has been blamed for everything from the sniffles to break-outs of violence. Now the infamous Santa Anas have a permanent place in Burbank in the form of a public sculpture called *Santa Ana Winds, Again*.

Antelope Valley Line commuters may have caught a glimpse of the sculpture while traveling between Burbank and Sun Valley stations.

The 20-foot-high stainless steel sculpture features two life-sized palm trees being blown by the famed Santa Anas and a human figure casually reading the newspaper in a tossing hammock. Designed by artist Greg Rutter, the sculpture stands in front of the newly renovated headquarters of Senior Aerospace at 2980 North San Fernando Road, west of Buena Vista Avenue.

The sculpture is one of many pieces of public art displayed in the city of Burbank. In 1992, the city passed an ordinance requiring all commercial developments to include public art. Since then, more than 30 pieces of public art have become permanent fixtures in the community; many of the pieces are not part of the ordinance requirement.

The City of Burbank's commitment to public art has revitalized the community. The arts program continues to grow stronger with collaboration between the community, the city, and business and commercial developers.

Construction Corner



Santa Ana Pedestrian Bridge

The Santa Ana Station Pedestrian Bridge Improvement Project will eliminate the need for passengers to cross tracks to reach a boarding platform. The existing center platform will be removed and replaced with a new side-boarding platform. In addition, a new pedestrian bridge will be constructed to provide direct access to the new side platform from the station building.

Construction will start in February 2005 and is scheduled to be completed in about 14 months.

The \$8 million project is funded by the Orange County Transportation Authority and the State of California.



Jim Webb is thrown a surprise birthday bash by his train buddies. Ring leader and fellow commuter Judy Mora states, "Thanks to Metrolink we have met the greatest bunch of friends and we actually look forward to going to work and going home so we can visit with our great train friends!!!"



Limited Train Service on Presidents' Day

Due to the Presidents' Day holiday, Metrolink trains will operate on a reduced schedule on Monday, February 21. Historically, ridership has been significantly lower than normal on this day. We anticipate that this schedule will have a minimal impact on your commute.

The following trains will not operate on February 21, 2005:

Antelope Valley Line

- Trains 203 and 213 – departing Los Angeles at 7:37 a.m. and 4:14 p.m., respectively
- Train 210 – departing Via Princessa at 8:47 a.m.
- Train 220 – departing Santa Clarita at 5:18 p.m.

Orange County Line

- Trains 682, 686, and 606 – departing Los Angeles at 6:44 a.m., 3:55 p.m., and 5:40 p.m., respectively.
- Train 603 – departing Oceanside at 5:22 a.m.
- Trains 685 and 689 – departing Irvine at 8:07 a.m. and 5:12 p.m., respectively

Riverside Line

- Train 408 – departing Los Angeles at 5:25 p.m.
- Train 403 – departing Riverside-Downtown at 5:42 a.m.

San Bernardino Line

- Trains 306 and 318 – departing Los Angeles at 12:20 p.m. and 4:40 p.m., respectively.
- Trains 307 and 323 – departing San Bernardino at 5:54 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., respectively

Ventura County Line

- Trains 107 and 115 – departing Los Angeles at 9:50 a.m. and 5:10 p.m., respectively
- Train 102 – departing Montalvo at 5:27 a.m.
- Train 112 – departing Chatsworth at 10:45 a.m.

While Metrolink's administrative offices will be closed in observance of the holiday, customer service representatives will be available by telephone on Presidents' Day from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; the customer service phone number is 800-371-LINK (5465). The Metrolink ticket windows at Los Angeles Union Station will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on that day.

NASCAR Revs Up the California Speedway

Looking to get to NASCAR at the California Speedway? On February 27, San Bernardino Associated Governments will charter special Metrolink trains on all lines to get you to the races. For tickets, schedules, and other information, please visit <http://www.californiaspeedway.com/fans/Metrolink.jsp> or call (800) 944-RACE (7223).

R 2 R Passengers Please Note: Amtrak Now Requires Picture I.D

As part of a security directive issued by the federal Transportation Security Administration (TSA), Amtrak now requires passengers to have a valid photo I.D. available for inspection at any time. Adult passengers (18 and over) will be randomly asked to produce valid photo identification by conductors on all trains.

Metrolink passengers who use Amtrak as part of the Rail 2 Rail program must be prepared to show identification at any time while riding an Amtrak train. In addition, passengers who purchase Amtrak tickets must be at least 15 years of age and be prepared to show a valid form of I.D. in order to purchase a ticket. A list of acceptable forms of I.D. is outlined below.

Federal TSA guidelines for acceptable forms of passenger identification:

- **Photo identification issued by a government authority, or**
- **Two other forms of identification, at least one of which is issued by a government authority**

Acceptable forms of identification to purchase Amtrak tickets:

- **Driver's license**
- **Valid passport**
- **Official government-issued identification (federal, state, county, or foreign government)**
- **Military identification**
- **Student identification (e.g., university, college, or high-school photo identification)**
- **Job Corps photo identification**
- **Canadian federal or provincial identification**
- **Mexican government-issued identification or papers**



SAFETY MATTERS

Question: What would you do if your vehicle stalled on railroad tracks?

Answer: Decide now what you *will* do so that you won't panic if this situation ever occurs.

If for any reason your car stalls or is trapped at a highway-rail grade crossing, there is only one thing to do: GET OUT. Get yourself and your passengers out immediately, even if you do not see a train approaching. If a train is approaching the crossing, run toward the train at a 45-degree angle. Do not run in the direction the train is traveling, because if the train strikes your car you could be injured by flying debris.

Please put your safety first. We do and you should too.

EVITA



Evita Conquers LA

Evita, the Broadway show that won seven Tony Awards and became one of the most celebrated musicals of all time, will return to Los Angeles for a strictly limited two-week engagement at the Pantages Theatre, March 1–13, 2005.

Evita brings to life the dynamic, larger-than-life persona of Eva Peron, wife of former Argentine dictator Juan Peron. Eva Peron, blessed with charisma, captivated a nation by championing the working class. The epic story of the rise and fall of Eva Peron is told in a sweeping pop opera featuring one of Broadway's most dynamic and lush melodies, *Don't Cry for Me, Argentina*.

Enter now for a chance to win one of five pairs of free tickets to the opening night of *Evita*. Simply fill out the form below and

mail it to *Metrolink Matters*, *Evita* Contest, 700 S. Flower Street, Suite 2600, Los Angeles, CA, 90017 by February 17.

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone Number: _____

All winners will be contacted by phone.



Station City News

Pomona—The finest professional performers of music and dance are showcased in the Fourth Saturday Concerts in downtown Pomona. Exciting downtown clubs make Pomona a national venue for jazz, blues, and rock. This diverse offering creates a charming and festive environment for the whole family. On Saturday, February 26, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Spice will be playing jazz at the Cal Poly Pomona Downtown Center Stage, located at 300 W. Second Street. Steel Rod will be performing classic rock and top-40 tunes at the Thomas Plaza Stage, located at the corner of Thomas and Second Street. Both stages are located off of Garey Avenue. These free concerts are a great way to spend a fun Saturday evening. For more information and a map of downtown Pomona, please call (909) 629-3592.

Lancaster—Country legend Ronnie Milsap, a romantic evening of music and dance, and an Irish extravaganza await you this February at the Lancaster Performing Arts Center. Ronnie Milsap is the final performer in the 103.1 KTI Country Concert Series, with a concert February 9. On February 13, celebrate Valentine's Day early as the Antelope Valley Jazz Ensemble returns for the sixth annual Big



Ronnie Milsap

Band Night at LPAC. Tony Kenny's Ireland will bring an all-star cast from the Emerald Isle to the LPAC Mainstage on February 18. Joining Ireland's 1998 Entertainer of the Year, Tony Kenny, are Mac & O, the dynamic duo of laughter and song; comedian Al Banim; Louise Bowden, an unforgettable dancing and singing Irish talent; renowned dancer and choreographer Edna Dunne; the Dublin City Musicians; and the Dublin City Dancers. Tickets for all shows may be obtained by calling the LPAC box office at (661) 723-5950, visiting the box office between noon and 6:00 p.m. on weekdays, or logging on to www.lpac.org. The Lancaster Performing Arts Center is located at 750 W. Lancaster Boulevard in downtown Lancaster.

New Rail Operator Gets On Board...*(continued from page 1)*

same strict safety, training, and experience standards that Amtrak employees have met. You may be wondering what will happen to the Amtrak conductors and engineers that have been part of the Metrolink family for so long. Connex's proposal includes a plan to offer positions to many current Amtrak employees. However, any employment-related offers will be handled through negotiations with the unions representing Amtrak employees.

Although Amtrak will no longer provide operating services after June 30, Metrolink will continue to work with Amtrak on other projects such as the Rail 2 Rail program. The Rail 2 Rail program will not be affected by this change and will continue to be available to our monthly-pass holders. Future enhancements to the Rail 2 Rail program such as those for 10-trip-ticket holders are also unaffected. Rail 2 Rail is a separate partnership between Metrolink, Caltrans, Amtrak, and our member-county transportation commissions.

Look for future articles with more information about the transition from Amtrak to Connex.

METROLINK MATTERS

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