

Readers:

We have some important regional and equally important national material for you all this time. We're hoping to up the frequency of our Newsletters, but we're still slow, for the reasons cited a month or two ago.

Our money situation is decent; our time and health situations are not so wonderful, but we think they're improving. Cross your fingers.

Exciting Rail Runner update:

New Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF)

(You will hopefully have seen our articles and pictures about the giant red carport that serves as the OMF. Here's some great news from the Rio Metro Transit Development District.)

" During the last year, Rio Metro completed the preliminary engineering, environmental clearance and fiscal planning for the New Mexico Rail Runner Express Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF). The OMF will include near-term improvements that address Rio Metro's most urgent needs - a maintenance shop with required tracks and turnouts, work areas for maintenance staff, and a fuel and lubricants station. When complete, the improved facility will provide a range of short and long-term benefits for Rio Metro – increased efficiency in daily operations and maintenance, greatly improved working conditions (indoors. --Ed.) for the hard-working staff at the facility, and the ability to accommodate service expansion. "

As an important step forward, Rio Metro sought and was awarded \$20.3 million in federal funding for the OMF through a

Congressionally Directed Spending request and the Carbon Reduction Program funds. While assembling the remaining funds, Rio Metro will continue land acquisition activities (currently underway) and advanced design.

Work is underway to construct new passing sidings (double track sections) near Alameda Blvd NW and the confluence of Broadway SE and I-25. This is big news, folks, and we'll keep you up to date on these **(see photo on next page)**. To Learn More:

Rio Metro RTD
www.riometro.org
505-724-3635

Rail Users Network Virtual Conference, October 21

See Below.

Rails Inc needs some help

Are you handy with social media? Please contact us.

Photo: Rio Metro TDD



On the national level

You will hopefully also recall that for about 13 years, Rails Inc has felt that the only long-term solution to the outrageously bad condition(s) of our passenger and freight trains at the national level is to convert our major tracks and infrastructure **from private to public ownership**.

Many people don't realize that the RR tracks snaking all over the country (including those running through New Mexico from Chicago, Los Angeles and other points, **ARE NOT** a public entity like the Interstate and US highway systems. They're in the hands of a few (and getting fewer) private railroads we call Big Freight. This, and a system run for Wall Street investors and major executives, rather than for business, workers, and the public, has created a climate of poor maintenance, poor performance in general, and disasters of which East Palestine is by no means the worst.

Although Rails Inc has been chipping away at these, well, evils for many years, the Railroad Workers United (RWU), a national caucus of Rail workers and support personel, has taken this issue in both hands and run with it.

Spend some time on these: It will be well worth it.

<https://www.railroadworkersunited.org>

<https://www.labornotes.org>

And don't forget:

<https://www.nmrails.org>

What can you do? Contact your US Senators, your Congressperson, and Transportation Secretary Buttegeig expressing your desire for some common sense control over the gross excesses of Big Freight and their "Enough Money is Never Enough" allies on Wall Street. And for the

restoration of something like a true national passenger Rail system. We used to have one, people.

Don't leave out publicly-owned tracks, like the highways, airports, and waterways. We call this revolution "**The Rail Interstate**".

Contact:

<https://www.heinrich.senate.gov>

<https://www.lujan.senate.gov>

<https://www.house.gov> (For your local Congress Person)

Also of great interest in the attached RUN Newsletter (we think) to New Mexico readers is the article on **page 6**. It refers to a long-time effort of Rails Inc to establish the beginning of a very worthwhile Rail transit system for Albuquerque.

RUN Virtual Conference in October

Check this out, folks. You're invited.

(**RUN's Web Site:** <https://www.railusers.net>)

SAVE THE DATE FOR RUN'S OCTOBER 21 ANNUAL MEETING / VIRTUAL MINI-CONFERENCE

“Passenger Rail & the Environment - Natural Allies:
Environmental benefits of passenger rail /rail transit in North
America.”

Saturday, October 21 from 1:00 PM - 4:45 PM.

Details inside this month's *Short Runs* or visit: [https://
www.railusers.net/annual-conference/](https://www.railusers.net/annual-conference/)

Train people and "Environmentalists"

The above-mentioned RUN conference is, as usual, an important event for modern-Rail advocacy. This conference will stand out, however, for its attempt to find common cause with the Sierra Club and other major environmental groups. That common cause should be deep. One major fact out of many: Passenger trains do a hell of a lot of work for very little fuel or energy. Consider the benefits of almost unbelievable fuel economy compared to gas guzzling, **multiplied by millions of vehicles.**

Despite this no-brainer, "environmental" groups have steadfastly refused to work with us train people. They have their fad, or even counter-productive, love objects like Rails to Trails (without the Rails) and electric cars by the millions, just to name two.

If you're a member of an official environmental group:

- Attend this conference
- Check out the Web sites of Rails Inc, RUN, and the RWU, to learn what the other outfits are not paying attention to
- Ask your groups why they're ignoring this major addition to their goals. An addition— —an anchor— — that would even make their pet projects easier to achieve. Trunk, limbs, and branches, readers.