



July 2021

Trolleyville seeks modelers to share their great ideas with t

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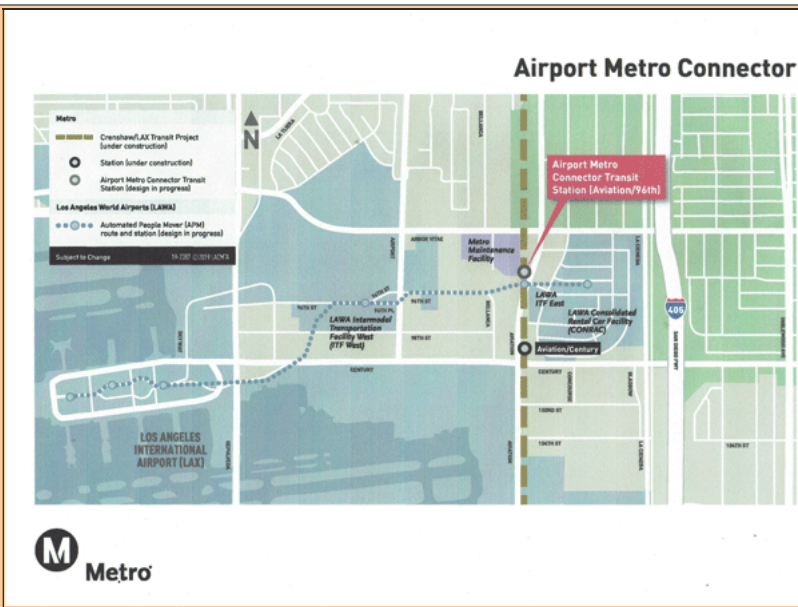
DENVER, CO - On June 13, the [Regional Transport District-Denver](#) (RTD) eliminated vehicle capacity limits that have been in place throughout the pandemic, a move that aligns service levels with available staff resources, and helps RTD prepare for additional increases in ridership with summer events and more people returning to the office.

RTD continues to follow a federal order requiring that passengers wear a mask while riding buses and trains, agency officials said in a press release.



Hopefully, we will see a lot of this as the US opens after the COVID-19 pandemic.

LOS ANGELES, CA - On Monday, June 21, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (L.A. Metro) held a groundbreaking ceremony to mark the start of construction on the \$898.6 million Airport Metro Connector project (AMC) that will connect L.A. Metro's system to Los Angeles International Airport (LAX).



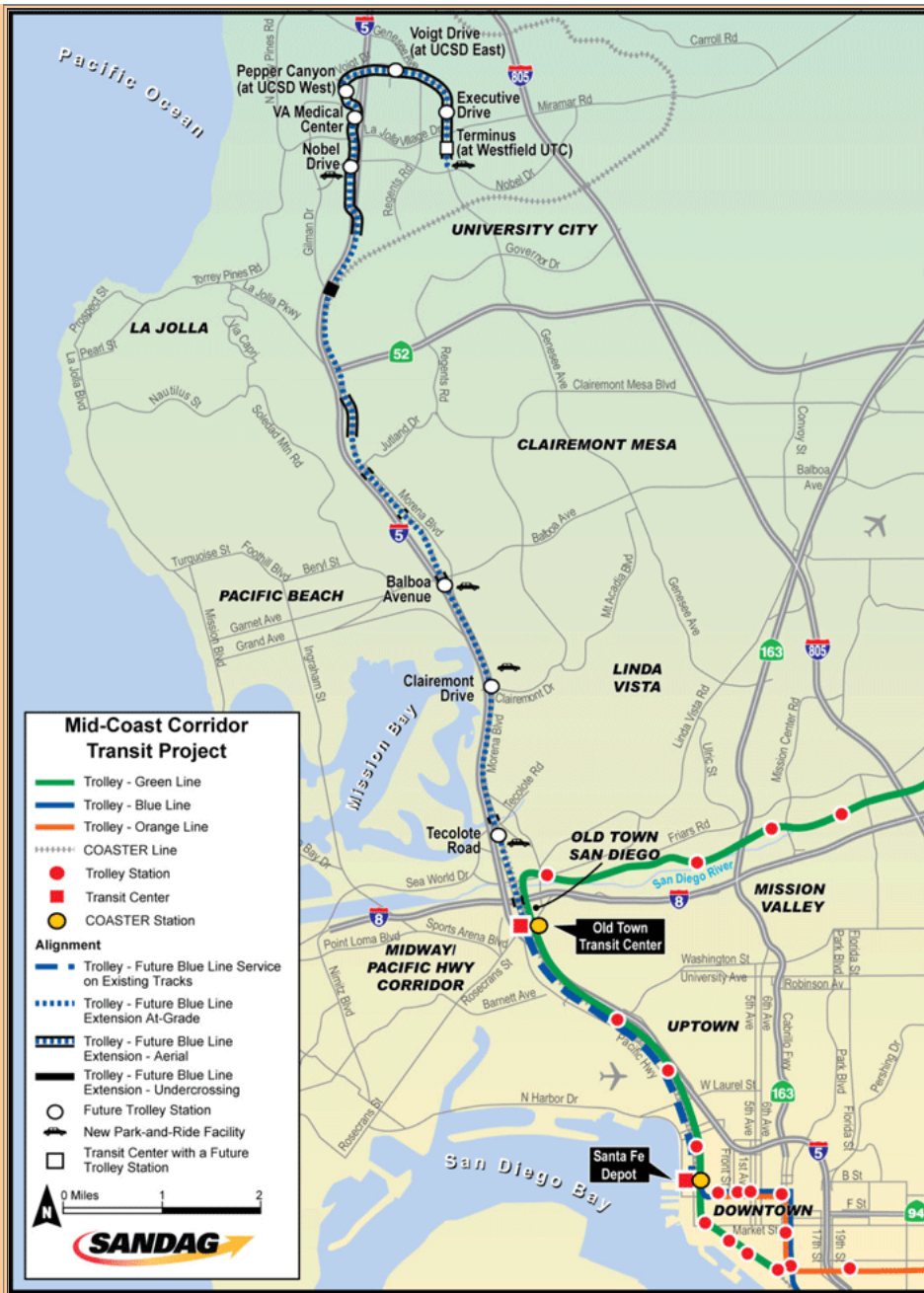
AMC is the ninth station along the Crenshaw/LAX Line that's under construction. It will connect directly with the Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) automated people mover project — which also is under construction — that will serve all passenger terminals.

The AMC project includes platforms to access L.A. Metro light-rail trains, and a 16-bay bus plaza for L.A. Metro and other municipal bus operators. The rail station portion of the project includes two light-rail platforms that can be accessed via escalators and elevators, new ADA-compliant swing door fare gates and a full roof covering.

In addition, the station will feature a bike hub, a private vehicle drop-off zone, interactive information kiosks, public restrooms and commercial space for tenants.

This is an exciting project that will serve as the 'gateway' to LAX for future generations — just as LAX has long served as the gateway to Southern California for so many millions of people," said L.A. Metro Chief Executive Officer Stephanie Wiggins in a press release. "The AMC station will also provide multiple connections to the Metro system, and will help airport-area employees and travelers easily get to wherever they need to go in our region."

SAN DIEGO, CA - The first new vehicles are being tested on the Mid-Coast extension of the University of California San Diego Blue Line. The Mid-Coast Trolley extension route extends the UC San Diego Blue Line Trolley service from the Santa Fe Depot in downtown San Diego to the heart of UCSD. The project creates a one-seat (no transfer) ride from South San Diego county to the university, allowing for individuals as far south as the US-Mexico border to arrive in La Jolla in a maximum time of 70 minutes. The Mid-Coast Trolley is expected to begin service in late 2021.



The milestone signifies that train testing is beginning and that the San Diego Association of Governments is officially transferring responsibility for trolley operations to the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (SDMTS), according to a news release.

The Mid-Coast extension will expand the current trolley network to provide a one-seat ride from the U.S.-Mexico border north to the UC San Diego community. Major construction on the 11-mile trolley extension began in 2016. The project remains on schedule to begin passenger service in November 2021.



SDMTS has added 45 new vehicles (series 5001-5045) built by [Siemens Mobility](#) and partially funded by TransNet, the region's half-cent sales tax for transportation projects. Car 501 and mate are shown above. SDMTS has also added 128 new positions to manage the extension.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - The F-line returned to the streets of San Francisco beginning Friday, May 14 with this ceremonial car, Blackpool tram #228 carrying many dignitaries including SFMTA boss, Jeff Turmin (waving at the camera), Market Street Railway President, Rick Laubscher and Mayor London Breed (about to take the controls).



Jeremy Menzies photo for SFMTA

In the next photo, Mayor London Breed is just about to take control of the Blackpool Tram. She requested it for this special event. She also ran the tram when she celebrated the removal of private automobiles from Market Street just before the COVID-19 pandemic.



Rick Laubscher photo

On Saturday morning, May 15, the first of twelve F-line cars, 1059, painted for the Boston Elevated Railway, left Cameron Beach yard for the 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM current period of F-Line operation. The operators now have a safer environment since 18 of the cars have already been fitted with an almost invisible protective barrier around the operators station. The original purpose of the barriers was to stem the spread of the COVID-19 virus but they will be effective in protecting against physical attacks on operators which have increased in recent years, especially in evenings by members of the "sludge" contingent, which is growing in many urban areas.



In the above two photos, Car 1076, dressed for D.C. Transit (left) and 1075 (Toronto), 1058 (Chicago) and 1072 (Mexico City) (right) are at Fisherman's Wharf at Jones & Beach) on May 26th. Both photos taken by Rick Laubscher.

More Good News: Limited Cable Car service may begin in September 2021, so look for a grand celebration around that time.

SAN JOSE, CA - Progressive Railroading reported on June 2nd that the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, more commonly known simply as the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), a special district responsible for public transit services, congestion management, specific highway improvement projects, and county-wide transportation planning for Santa Clara County, California, has suspended light-rail service indefinitely, following the May 26th deadly shooting at the agency's Guadalupe rail yard in San Jose, California. There is **no estimate** as to when light-rail service will resume, VTA officials said in a statement. On May 26, a VTA employee opened gunfire on coworkers at the Guadalupe Light Rail Yard. Nine VTA employees were killed. The shooter died by suicide.

The light rail service is currently provided by 100 KinkiSharyo 70% low floor vehicles, two of which are shown below:



"As the VTA family grieves, attends funerals and supports each other, we have less staff available to operate reliable transit service," they said. In addition, because of the limited staffing, the authority will no longer offer substitute bus service along light-rail routes.

VTA is directing all its resources to the regular bus network that serves the majority of riders. Limited operator availability means that service will be less frequent, VTA officials said.

MODELING ACTIVITIES.....

One Effect Of COVID -19 On Model Railroading!! GATS is back!

The COVID-19 crisis has devastated many businesses, forcing many to close their doors forever. Unfortunately Train Show Inc. was one of those businesses. It simply could not survive over 12 months with almost zero revenue. Randy Bachmann, the owner of Train Show Inc. has embarked on a new career in the transportation industry.

Dave Swanson has formed a new corporation to assume operation of model train shows nationwide. This new parent corporation will be called the **Great American Train Shows Inc. (GATS)**.



The acronym 'GATS' was familiar to almost all railfans in the country during the 1990s and early 2000s. It was selected to honor the legacy that dates back to the first Great Midwest Train Show in 1971. The name is also meant to honor the other founders of the show who are no longer with us: Bob Brush, and Bob Olsen.

Dave has an immense experience in the model train show business. In the early 1970s he was one of the founders of the **Great Midwest Train Show**, which started in the Fireman's hall in Bensenville, IL. He was the founder of the **Great American Train Show** in the 1980s. Dave was instrumental in priding incentive for the founding of the **Southern California Traction Club** in Los Angeles in 1995 and founded the **World's Greatest Hobby on Tour** in the early 2000s. By 2010 he had sold the various shows and focused on his other business ventures. He has 50 years of experience in the train show business and has personally managed over 1000 train shows. Dave is a devoted train enthusiast and is active as a volunteer Executive Director of the non-profit **World's Greatest Hobby** program.

He has made sufficient investment in this new organization to ensure the various train show brands continue to

serve the hobby as a vital event and community. Joining him in this new organization will be **Bill Grove**, former General Manager of Great Train Shows. Bill brings over 30 years of experience in and knowledge of the train show business. (Shown below left):



Also on the new team is **Frank Hicks**, (shown above center) former General Manager of Greenberg Shows, who brings over 20 years experience in train show management. **Dillon Goble**, a former employee of Train Show Inc., (shown above right) will also be joining the **new GATS** organization's management. Remember these faces as you will be seeing a lot of them in 2021/2022. We showed their faces because these are the people that you will be dealing with at future shows, which will continue as before with the same familiar brands:

Greenberg's Train & Toy Shows will resume operation on **July 24th!**
The Great Midwest Train Shows will resume operation on **August 8th!**
Great Train Shows will resume operation on **August 14th!**
World's Greatest Hobby on Tour Shows will resume in **January 2022!**
The **TrainShow.com** website will remain the **primary website for all the shows!**

Once they have resumed shows we are looking to improve both the exhibitor and attendee experience. They will be looking to expand operations to many metropolitan areas that have not had a national train show for many years.

The 4 goals of the new organization are:

1. **Improve the content** of the shows to improve the attendee experience
2. **Increase the attendance** of the shows with improved advertising
3. **Execute shows in a manner** that results in outstanding customer satisfaction
4. **Ensure the business model of the shows** is responsive and sustainable.

For additional information contact info@gats.email



Great American Train Shows is the nation's only coast-to-coast train show company. Their train shows are designed for the general public, modelers, hobbyists, families, and the just plain curious. Each show features hundreds of tables of trains and accessories for sale, huge operating exhibits, activities for kids, and more. **All scales are welcome as are books, videos, and railroadians.** Don't miss your chance to be a part of what has been called the best train shows in America.

Summer 2021 Train Show Schedule:

- July 24-25, 2021 - **Greenberg's Train & Toy Show** – Monroeville, PA - Monroeville Convention Center
- August 7-8, 2021 - **Greenberg's Train & Toy Show** – Fredericksburg, VA - Fredericksburg Expo & Conference Center
- August 8, 2021 - **Great Midwest Train Show** – Wheaton, IL - DuPage County Fairgrounds
- August 14-15, 2021 - **Great Train Show** – Dayton, OH – Montgomery County Fairgrounds
- August 14-15, 2021 - **Greenberg's Train & Toy Show** – Edison, NJ - New Jersey Expo Center
- August 21-22, 2021 - **Greenberg's Train & Toy Show** – Oaks, PA - Greater Philadelphia Expo Center
- September 12, 2021 - **Great Midwest Train Show** – Wheaton, IL - DuPage County Fairgrounds

Fourth-Quarter 2021 One-Day Train Show Schedule:

- October 10, 2021 - **Great Midwest Train Show** – Wheaton, IL - DuPage County Fairgrounds
- November 14, 2021 - **Great Midwest Train Show** – Wheaton, IL - DuPage County Fairgrounds
- December 12, 2021 - **Great Midwest Train Show** – Wheaton, IL - DuPage County Fairgrounds

Selling at the train show is easy and affordable. There are no hidden fees: just send in a check for the cost of the table or pay on-line with your credit card and you're paid up. They will provide the table, chairs, and of course the expo center and crowd. You need only bring a table cover, your trains and covers for your stock when the show is closed (...On Saturday nights...).

Any questions? They are here to help. Their staff has over 80 years of combined experience running model train shows and they work hard to make sure that your experience selling at their shows is a positive one. Please don't hesitate to call them at (224) 500-4159 or email info@gats.email

How to sign up: The easiest and quickest way is to sign up on-line at www.TrainShow.com. You should receive a confirmation email or letter within a few days and you should receive the show information packet about 2-3 weeks prior to the show.

The East Penn Traction Club Meet Returns Later This Year!

by Richard Allman

After more than one year of physical isolation because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the East Penn Traction Club National Trolley Meet, postponed from May 2021 will be held at the Agriplex at the Allentown Fairgrounds October 8-9, 2021! Set up for modules will be on Thursday, October 7, 2021. Self-guided home layout tours will be offered on Sunday, October 10, 2021. The venue is open without space restrictions, though wearing of masks will be strongly recommended for those who have not been immunized against COVID-19.

The Meet will have its usual features, including Manufacturer and Dealer Tables. Awards for Modules and Displays, Operating Layouts (All Scales), pop-up Clinics, Model Contests, and silent auctions. Because of restrictions in host facilities, we will not have evening entertainment programming though we anticipate that it will resume in 2023. Nonetheless, the Meet will be open until 1030 PM on Friday and 8 PM on Saturday. After a long season of isolation, this will be a wonderful opportunity for traction fans-prototype and modeling fans to reconnect and get the pole back on the wire!

For registration information, including advance registration and inquiries about dealer space and bringing layouts and modules, refer to www.eastpenn.org.

The regularly scheduled 2023 East Penn Meet will resume its usual Springtime schedule, the specific location, and dates of which will be announced at a later time.

[Trolleyville](#) | [Trolleyville Times](#) | [School](#) | [Library](#) | [Clubhouse](#)

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