

Saturday, Aug. 13 –  
Monday, Aug. 15, 2011



Find more news online



Follow us on Twitter!

## Table of Contents

### **1. Measure M2 Environmental Program To Fund Improvements Along Crown Valley Parkway**

Friday, Aug. 12, Dana Point Times

A four-phase program to revamp medians along Crown Valley Parkway is planned to help reduce polluted runoff before it reaches the ocean.

### **2. Cities Argue Against Proposed High-Speed Rail**

Saturday, Aug. 13, Orange County Register

SACRAMENTO Cities on the peninsula south of San Francisco made their case Friday to halt the extension of a proposed high-speed rail line through the area.

### **3. Street Project: Fountain Valley**

Monday, Aug. 15, Orange County Register

The City Council on Tuesday will vote on a bid of \$517,517 from All American Asphalt for the rehabilitation and resurfacing of Newland Street between Garfield and Ellis avenues.

### **4. Summer Months = Teen Crashes, Fatalities**

Monday, Aug. 15, Orange County Register

TRABUCO CANYON – Valerie Beechler still can't get the cries for help out of her mind.

### **5. Hearings Will Explore Train And Bus Extensions To LAX**

Saturday, Aug. 13, Long Beach Press Telegram

LOS ANGELES - Local transit officials are planning public sessions about extending Metro Rail or bus service to Los Angeles International Airport, Metropolitan Transportation Authority officials said Saturday.

### **6. FRA Allocates \$55 Million To Caltrans For PTC, Capacity Improvements**

Monday, Aug. 15, Progressive Railroading

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has obtained \$55 million from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to implement positive train control (PTC) and expand capacity for intercity passenger-rail routes.

## **7. BART Anticipates More Cyber Attacks From 'Anonymous' Hackers**

Monday, Aug. 15, Los Angeles Times

Officials at the Bay Area Rapid Transit system, whose website was hit by a group of hackers known as Anonymous, say more cyber attacks are possible.

## **News Articles**

### **1. Measure M2 Environmental Program To Fund Improvements Along Crown Valley Parkway**

Dana Point Times (8/12/2011)

A four-phase program to revamp medians along Crown Valley Parkway is planned to help reduce polluted runoff before it reaches the ocean.

The \$791,447 project is part of Measure M2's environmental program that sets aside 2 percent of the half-cent sales tax to protect county waterways and beaches from transportation-generated pollution. Across the county, 34 projects received the first round of \$3 million to improve the quality of Orange County's waterways and beaches.

The overall program will provide approximately \$300 million during the next 30 years to help minimize urban runoff, according to a press release from the Orange County Transportation Authority.

Construction on the four projects in Laguna Niguel is scheduled to start in April and finish by mid-July. Nearby in San Juan Capistrano, two projects estimated at more than \$325,000 were approved. San Clemente's Linda Lane Park will receive \$113,000 for upgrades to sewers.

Visit [www.octa.net/water](http://www.octa.net/water) to learn more about the projects.

### **2. Cities Argue Against Proposed High-Speed Rail**

Orange County Register (8/13/2011)

SACRAMENTO Cities on the peninsula south of San Francisco made their case Friday to halt the extension of a proposed high-speed rail line through the area. If successful, the lawsuit by Palo Alto, Atherton and Menlo Park could jeopardize plans to bring high-speed rail into one of California's top destinations.

“There will be congestion on highways south of San Jose that people won't be aware of, and they should have been made aware,” said Stuart Flashman, attorney for the coalition.

Lawyers for the rail authority said it was too early for the kind of detailed analysis the plaintiffs demand.

With construction to start next year, a report issued earlier this week said the total cost of connecting San Francisco to Los Angeles and Anaheim by 2020, estimated earlier at \$43 billion, would rise sharply.

BART interrupts cell service

SAN FRANCISCO Transit officials said cellphone reception in four downtown stations was “interrupted” in a bid to disrupt planned demonstrations Thursday. Officials with the Bay Area Rapid Transit system said Friday that phone links were “interrupted” to thwart a demonstration over a fatal shooting by BART police of a knife-wielding homeless man last month. The planned protest failed to materialize. The ACLU called the interruption of cellphone access “the wrong response to political protests.”

New funds help search for life

MOUNTAIN VIEW An array of 42 radio telescopes seeking signs of intelligent life in the universe is to renew its efforts now that private donors raised enough money to keep them going.

The Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence, or SETI, Institute received more than \$200,000, including donations from actress Jodie Foster, the San Jose Mercury News reported.

The array was originally a joint effort of the SETI Institute and the UC Berkeley Astronomy Laboratory, which withdrew this year because of loss of funds. “But people still think this very fundamental question – is there somebody out there as intelligent or more so than us? – is important and worth doing,” said SETI Institute astronomer Seth Shostak.

### **3. Street Project: Fountain Valley**

**By Curt Seeden**

Orange County Register (8/15/2011)

The City Council on Tuesday will vote on a bid of \$517,517 from All American Asphalt for the rehabilitation and resurfacing of Newland Street between Garfield and Ellis avenues. The meeting starts at 6 p.m. at City Hall, 10200 Slater Ave. Information: 714-593-4410.

## **4. Summer Months = Teen Crashes, Fatalities**

**By Erika I. Ritchie And Alejandra Molina**  
Orange County Register

TRABUCO CANYON – Valerie Beechler still can't get the cries for help out of her mind.

On a quiet July night around 1 a.m. the 43-year-old mother first heard the swerve of screeching tires then saw the lights flash across her ceiling twice – the reflection of a car's headlight as it rolled over and over. Then, she heard the sound of steel colliding with an electrical pole and everything turned dark. Power had been knocked out in the neighborhood.

"Out of the dead silence I heard this guy screaming, 'Help me, will somebody please help me,'" Beechler recalled. "He had an incredible fear and desperation in his voice. He kept calling out for help screaming that 'his friend was still trapped in the car.'" She would learn the driver – a 17-year-old Lake Forest teen rescued from the gnarled mass by 15 firefighters and the Jaws of Life — would eventually lie in a coma following the crash where his 2007 Honda smashed and bent around the electrical pole. His passenger, also a 17-year-old Lake Forest teen, suffered minor injuries.

Summer is the deadliest time of year for teen drivers and their passengers with seven of the top 10 deadliest days of the year occurring between the Memorial Day and Labor Day holidays, according to an analysis of crash data completed by AAA. Police and transportation officials say rural, winding roads are go-to spots for teens using cars for entertainment and thrills. Officials say teen driving almost doubles during June, July and August when school vacations and relaxed curfews combine to create an often- deadly combination

### **LURING ROADS**

Live Oak Canyon Road, better fit for a leisurely drive, is a tempting setting for exhibitions of speed. The 6-mile road connecting Lake Forest to Rancho Santa Margarita, Dove Canyon and Coto De Caza has become a place for drivers – many excitement seekers and teens - to test the limits of their cars.

As the summer driving months get underway, CHP Officer Chris Goodwin and partner Officer Eric Barnard scour social networking sites advertising race challenges on Live Oak and surrounding rural roads. YouTube videos have

popularized Live Oak attracting drivers from across Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego and Los Angeles counties.

"The two-lane road attracts teens. It makes them feel like it's exciting and challenging to drive at high rates of speed," Goodwin said.

Crash investigations show all of the 24 teens killed on that road between 2005 and 2010 were speeding over the posted speed limit of 35 miles-per-hour. This year, there have been 19 crashes on Live Oak Canyon Road, more than half involving drivers aged 15 – 22 years old.

"There's a spike in the summertime because there are more kids driving," said Sheriff's Deputy Wayne Howard. "They tend to go there and out-drive their abilities. They are low-performance drivers, driving high-performance cars."

According to AAA, more than 7,300 teen drivers nationwide and passengers ages 13-19 died in traffic crashes between the Memorial Day and Labor Day holidays from 2005-2009.

An average of 422 teens die in traffic crashes during each of the deadly summer months as compared to a monthly average of 363 teen deaths during the non-summer months.

"Life feels more care-free when school's out and teens have more opportunities to drive or ride in cars late at night with other teens — a deadly mix," said Kathleen Marvaso, vice president of public affairs for AAA.

Nationwide, car accidents remain the leading cause of death for teens, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In 2009, about 3,000 teens ages 15 -19 were killed in car accidents and an additional 350,000 were injured.

## **STRONGER PROGRAMS, ENFORCEMENT**

When fatal crashes on Live Oak Canyon Road spiked to 10 in 2006 and emergency personnel responded to 60 crashes, CHP cranked up enforcement. More patrols were added and teams deployed with radar guns to nab speeders. Since 2006, teen fatalities declined significantly from 10 to one in 2010.

Across all south county cities, from Lake Forest to San Clemente the number of fatal crashes involving teens also fell. In 2006, 343 teen drivers were involved in crashes and four died.

In 2010, there were 148 crashes and one driver died. Statewide the numbers are also decreasing, CHP data shows. In 2005, 155 teens died in crashes. In 2010, 70 died.

Goodwin said a statewide education emphasis by CHP and other law enforcement agencies has helped. For years, police placed mangled vehicles in front of schools during prom season to show the dangers of drinking and driving. Now, police, schools and organizations reach out year-round, addressing other topics such as distracted driving, using driving simulators and special programs.

Goodwin points to the "Every 15 Minute" program at high schools and to "Start Smart," a program CHP started in 2007 to make recently-licensed drivers more aware of dangers and responsibility of driving. In five years more than 7,000 parents and teens attended the monthly courses offered by the CHP in South County. The program draws parents' attention to roads such as Live Oak and discusses restrictions of the provisional driver's license.

## **HOPEFUL FUTURE**

For Beechler, the canyon resident, the sounds of emergency vehicles and the grinding whine of firefighters using the Jaws of Life to pull the 17-year-old driver from the car stays with her.

She is hopeful those sounds will end one day, leaving her with nights of chirping crickets and croaking frogs. So far, there have been four crashes at the location in the past year and a half — two on the same day, she said.

CHP officers say teens driving cars can be like 5,000 pound weapons with inexperienced pilots. Add to the mix their teen passengers — friends texting, reaching for a soda or adjusting radio buttons and you can have a disastrous result.

Beechler said she vows not to let her son, Trevor, 16, get his driving permit until he's 18. She's heard too many crashes and seen too many lives disrupted in the canyon. "They should limit the activity there at night especially in the summer months. Between the drinking at Cook's Corner and kids partying in the canyon, it's really bad. I don't think teenagers know or respect the power of a car. Driving is a huge responsibility and a privilege," she said. "Every time we hear a siren or a cop shooting up the canyon, we say 'I wonder who got hurt this time?'"

Contact the writer: 949-454-7307 or [eritchie@ocregister.com](mailto:eritchie@ocregister.com) or [twitter.com/lagunaini](https://twitter.com/lagunaini)

## **5. Hearings Will Explore Train And Bus Extensions To LAX**

Long Beach Press Telegram (8/13/2011)

LOS ANGELES - Local transit officials are planning public sessions about extending Metro Rail or bus service to Los Angeles International Airport, Metropolitan Transportation Authority officials said Saturday.

The agency has scheduled public hearings, starting later this month, to determine how it will connect two light-rail passenger train lines to the airport terminals. The public will be asked whether to extend Metro Rail's Green Line and the proposed Crenshaw Line to the airport or tie in to a proposed airport people-mover system instead. Bus Rapid Transit ramps are also being considered.

More than 20 years ago, airport commissioners blocked plans to bring the Green Line onto the airport itself over concerns about parking revenue and potential interference between electric train lines and airport radar.

Since the train line was built, travelers have had to use shuttle buses for the 1.3-mile gap, and a trip from downtown to the airport by rail involves transfers.

The meetings will introduce the concepts of a direct Metro Rail airport connection, construction of a people mover link between Metro Rail and the airport, and the Bus Rapid Transit lane alternatives.

They will be held by Metro and Los Angeles World Airports.

The meetings will be Aug. 23 at Flight Path Learning Center, 6661 W. Imperial Highway.; Aug. 25 at Metropolitan Transportation Authority headquarters next to Union Station; and Aug. 30 at the Culver City Veterans Memorial Complex, 4117 Overland Ave. All three meetings start at 7p.m.

## **6.FRA Allocates \$55 Million To Caltrans For PTC, Capacity Improvements**

Progressive Railroading (8/15/2011)

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has obtained \$55 million from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to implement positive train control (PTC) and expand capacity for intercity passenger-rail routes.

A \$38 million grant will fund construction of a third track between Los Angeles and Fullerton, Calif., and supplement previous work aimed at reducing train delays, Caltrans officials said in a prepared statement.

In addition, a \$3.4 million grant will be used for a new track at the Oceanside station on the L.A.-to-San Diego (LOSSAN) corridor, which would enable Metrolink commuter trains to move off the mainline to reduce congestion and delays.

Caltrans also will use a \$13.5 million grant to implement PTC between San Onofre and Moorpark, building on previous funding received from the U.S. Department of Transportation for PTC implementation along the LOSSAN corridor, according to Caltrans.

## 7. BART Anticipates More Cyber Attacks From 'Anonymous' Hackers

Los Angeles Times (8/15/2011)

Officials at the Bay Area Rapid Transit system, whose website was hit by a group of hackers known as Anonymous, say more cyber attacks are possible.

BART spokesman Jim Allison said the agency anticipated further attempts to disrupt its online presence and that it had brought in experts from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for assistance. The FBI was also investigating.

BART was attempting to contact more than 2,400 customers Sunday afternoon to inform them that their personal information had been obtained and published by a group of hackers.

The security breach was perpetrated by the hacker-activist group Anonymous, which launched cyber attacks Sunday against BART and the Fullerton Police Department in retaliation for deadly confrontations between police and homeless men.

The cyber attack against the Fullerton police did not appear to be successful, but officials at the San Francisco-area mass transit authority were forced to shut down MyBART.org, a marketing website designed to encourage riders to use the system for travel to leisure events.

The hacker group posted the names, home addresses, email addresses and phone numbers of thousands of Bay Area residents, but a BART spokesman said the website held no sensitive financial information.

"We are in the process of contacting our customers to offer advice and extend regrets that this has happened," said Allison.

Allison said the FBI was investigating the breach, and Department of Homeland Security experts were advising the agency during the crisis.

The group targeted BART after the fatal shooting of a homeless man last month and because the agency shut down cellphone service in its trains and stations during a demonstration last week over the incident.

The threat to hack the Fullerton police website was in response to the death of Kelly Thomas during a confrontation with officers last month. The city deployed its information technology staff to secure computers and electronic communications and to monitor the systems for intrusions.

