



News

ALAMEDA CORRIDOR TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

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MAJOR MILESTONE REACHED AS 100,000th TRAIN USES ALAMEDA CORRIDOR

Alameda Corridor Produces Significant Air Quality, Congestion Relief Benefits During First Six Years of Operation

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY – The Alameda Corridor, one of the nation’s most important freight rail and environmental mitigation projects, reached an important milestone this week when the 100,000th train used the Alameda Corridor to connect between the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach and the transcontinental rail yards near downtown Los Angeles. Since its opening in 2002, the Alameda Corridor has produced significant air quality benefits for Southern California while accommodating nearly one-third of the increasing trade volumes generated by the ports, according to the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority (ACTA). The Alameda Corridor reached the milestone as it approaches the sixth anniversary of its opening on April 15, 2008.

“Reaching 100,000 trains in less than six years of operation represents a major achievement for the Alameda Corridor, demonstrating the project’s continued success in terms of how it has strengthened our economy, improved the air we breathe and relieved traffic congestion throughout Southern California,” said Long Beach Vice Mayor and ACTA Chair Bonnie Lowenthal. “As the usage of the Alameda Corridor continues to increase, the significant air quality and other environmental benefits for our region will increase as well.”

“Despite those who have doubted the success of the Alameda Corridor, it is a great model for government and industry working together,” said Los Angeles City Councilwoman and ACTA Vice-Chair Janice Hahn. “Now, it’s time to build on this success and look forward to the future by moving onto other projects like the Schuyler Heim Bridge Replacement and SR-47 project, which will further enhance the efficient, secure movement of goods at America’s Port while relieving congestion and traffic on our freeways.”

Designed to improve the efficiency of cargo transportation between the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach and the rest of the nation, the Alameda Corridor's operation has also resulted in significant air emission reductions. According to ACTA, more than 8,000 tons of total emission reductions have resulted from the consolidation of freight rail operations and the alleviation of traffic congestion at the more than 200 rail crossings in the Southland. The air quality benefits resulting from the Alameda Corridor's operation will continue to increase as usage of the Alameda Corridor grows, because trains generate significantly less pollution than the number of trucks (280-300) needed to move an equivalent volume of cargo. In other words, without the Alameda Corridor, millions of additional truck trips would have been needed over the last six years to handle the cargo that the Alameda Corridor has accommodated, producing significantly more traffic congestion and air pollution throughout the region.

The number of trains using the Alameda Corridor has steadily increased since its opening. While slightly more than 14,000 trains used the Alameda Corridor during the first full year of operation in 2003, 18,000 trains utilized the facility in 2007, an average of nearly 50 trains each day. More than 12 million containers – 21 million Twenty-foot Equivalent Units (TEUs) – have been transported via the Alameda Corridor during its first six years. Each day, more than 7,200 containers (13,000 TEUs) are now transported on the Alameda Corridor, almost one-third of the ports' average daily volume.

A comprehensive study recently conducted by ACTA and the two ports illustrates the impact that Southern California trade activity has on the regional, state and national economies. In 2005, more than \$256 billion of trade value and 3.3 million jobs across the country were directly associated with the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. Nearly 900,000 jobs in California are directly or indirectly related to activities at the ports, as well as more than \$6.7 billion in state and local tax revenues.

(Editor's Note: For more information about the Alameda Corridor, please contact Jeff Lustgarten of Cerrell Associates at 323-466-3445, or visit the ACTA Web site at www.acta.org.)