



## Amtrak R2R Changes

With the new COASTER schedule in October comes an updated agreement with Amtrak. As of October 8, COASTER passengers can now ride any Amtrak train between Santa Fe Depot (San Diego) and Oceanside with valid COASTER fare. Previously, customers could only utilize the Amtrak R2R trains listed on the COASTER schedule.



In order to streamline Amtrak Pacific Surfliner service, all Amtrak trains now stop only at the following stations: Santa Fe Depot, Old Town San Diego, Solana Beach, and Oceanside. Some blackout dates still apply so check the schedule for more information! R2R will be blacked out for Thanksgiving week (Wednesday, November 21, through Monday, November 26). [GoNCTD.com/amtrak-blackout-dates](http://GoNCTD.com/amtrak-blackout-dates). ■

## Poinsettia Station Improvements

In addition to the current platform construction at the Carlsbad Poinsettia COASTER station, NCTD has been working on some updates of its own! The Poinsettia Station Improvements project included the removal and replacement of the existing steel roof structures on the station's restroom building and ticket vending machine canopy. Due to the age of the structures and proximity to the ocean, the steel structures showed signifi-



cant rust damage. The project installed aluminum roof decking to replace the old steel decking, which will be less susceptible to corrosion. The project also installed new sidewalks and curb ramps at the station's entrance, which will improve pedestrian access to those visiting the station from the neighboring community. The project is almost complete now with the regular restrooms open and ticket vending machines both now available in their normal location. ■



## Civility Rules: **NO FEET ON THE SEATS**

Please respect seating for other passengers. No feet on the seats. Violations could result in dismissal from NCTD vehicles for the trip. Personal belongings must not block seats. Elderly and passengers with disabilities get first access to priority seats by law. ■

## UPDATE On-Time Performance

### On-Time Performance (OTP) (FY 2018, July 2017-June 2018)

Mode	Ridership	OTP/OTP Goal
COASTER	1,433,125	90.9%/95%

\* COASTER is considered on-time up to 5 minutes behind schedule.



## Del Mar Bluffs



NCTD is designated as the Federal Railroad of Record for the coastal tracks from the Orange County line to downtown San Diego which includes the Del Mar Bluffs. As such, NCTD is responsible for the operations, maintenance, and safety of the rail line. Additionally, NCTD has contractual agreements with BNSF and Amtrak that include specific obligations to ensure the safe and reliable movement of goods and people both locally and nationally. As a public agency, our top priorities are safety, meeting our regulatory and contractual obligations, and being strong stewards of public resources. The COASTER commuter train has operated on the Del Mar Bluffs since it began service in 1995. In addition to commuter rail services, the Bluffs have carried interstate freight for more than 100 years.

Recently, multiple erosion events have been observed on the Bluffs between 9th Street and 11th Street. While some erosion is natural and anticipated, it is imperative that NCTD protects the interstate rail right-of-way on the Bluffs by: improving the overall stability of the Bluffs, supporting the re-growth of vegetation, better managing storm and run-on water that traverses over and through the Bluffs from nearby neighborhoods, and preventing trespasser traffic in the area that may further weaken the Bluffs.

Work has been done, and continues to take place, to ensure greater stability of the Bluffs to safeguard the ongoing operations of freight and passenger movement. NCTD, in collaboration with the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), has developed and performed Bluff stabilization since 1998 that has resulted in the completion of three Bluff stabilization projects at a cost of approximately \$5 million. In areas that were deemed critical, NCTD and SANDAG have previously installed hundreds of concrete steel reinforced soldier piles to enhance Bluff stability—this covers the majority of track from Powerhouse Park to 11th Street, areas between 7th and 8th Street, and some areas further south toward Torrey Pines Bridge. These piles are approximately

3 feet in diameter and 50 feet deep with the majority being installed on the west side of the tracks. The piles are placed along the Bluffs at locations most vulnerable to impacts from erosion at and below the surface. Although the soldier piles are not readily visible, they protect the track bed.

NCTD and SANDAG are currently planning for future stabilization projects as the Bluffs naturally retreat and sea level rises. The projects are planned between 2019 and 2039 and are projected to cost up to \$90 million. NCTD and SANDAG are advancing stabilization phases based on the recommendations of engineers and geologists who have been working on Bluff stabilization since 2000. Each of the project phases will require engineering design, and various permitting prior to construction. Construction of new storm drain channels and repairs to underground pipes are currently in final design and under permitting, with \$3.1 million of work slated to begin in mid-2019. NCTD has requested additional funding via a federal BUILD Grant application to advance the *Del Mar Bluffs Stabilization – Preserving Track-Bed Support Project* for \$17.9 million.

In addition to these stabilization projects, the tracks on the Bluffs are inspected twice a week by Maintenance of Way personnel. NCTD also inspects the tracks any time an engineer reports an abnormality in the ride; if heavy rains occur; if there is an earthquake in the area; or an erosion event occurs. During inspections, train traffic may be halted until the tracks are cleared for regular rail activity. Additionally, should there be an event that breaks the rail, sensors located in the track will cause the nearby signals to turn red and prevent trains from entering the Del Mar Bluffs area.

NCTD continues to focus on ensuring the safety of current and future operations, which includes stabilization and maintenance of the Bluffs. We will continue to collaborate with SANDAG and the City of Del Mar to provide a safe, well-maintained rail line along the Del Mar Bluffs. ■

