

### **13 Reasons We Need Passenger Rail**

- A modern small automobile with two passengers generates almost 25 times the air pollution, per passenger mile, as a four car commuter train at 35% capacity.
- Two sets of commuter rail tracks will handle the passenger traffic of at least six lanes of highway.
- The tracks for a commuter train already exist here; those for a light rail system can be laid within existing infrastructure, preserving open space and minimizing land and business condemnation.
- A new light-rail line costs about a third of a new highway or loop road, and recent developments in track-laying technology can shave 60% to 70% off that cost.
- Trains are faster, quieter, and smoother than buses. In addition, they avoid traffic jams and most accident scenes.
- Modern commuter and light-rail trains are built to run forward or backward, eliminating the need for huge turnaround loops.
- Rail deaths and injuries are almost nothing compared to those in automobiles.
- Rail cars and locomotives have been known to last up to 100 years with decent maintenance.
- Railroad tracks are cheaper and easier to maintain than roads and highways.
- There is no rubber tire disposal problem with trains (a much bigger issue than many people realize).
- Most skeptical commuters who try trains are converted within a trip or two.
- Commuter and light rail lines have triggered a boom, revitalizing rundown neighborhoods and buildings in areas where they have been located. Land values in older communities are rising, a dent is being made in suburban sprawl and even some long-abandoned hazardous waste sites are slated for clean-up, having become more attractive to housing, retail, and office developers.
- Railroad transit is a big part of the “intermodal”- or many modes of transportation-thinking that has become more popular nationally and worldwide every year-not to mention mandated by federal law since 1991.

[Oh so you're one of those bottom line type of people.](#)

**[Hey, so are we!](#)**

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