

Call for Papers
TRB 90th Annual Meeting: January, 2011
Washington, DC

AP070 COMMITTEE ON COMMUTER RAIL TRANSPORTATION
AR010 COMMITTEE ON INTERCITY PASSENGER RAIL

The TRB **Committee on Commuter Rail Transportation (AP070)** and **Committee on Intercity Passenger Rail (AR010)** jointly invite you to submit papers for the upcoming TRB Annual Meeting in 2011. The committee is planning on sponsoring a session on **Higher Speed Rail Access to the Downtown Core: A Shared Investment Opportunity for Commuter and Intercity Passenger Services.**

An issue facing intercity high speed rail system developers worldwide is the lack of suitable existing rights-of-way (ROWs), or prohibitive cost of assembling new ROWs, to enable high speed trains to serve the downtown core directly and provide regional connections. Commuter rail services generally have direct access to the urban cores of their service areas but these existing corridors have comparatively lower operating speeds. The lower operating speeds may result from a combination of stopping pattern and infrastructure constraints.

Advances in signal and dispatching technologies, evolution of social norms, and availability of rail funding has created an opportunity that may lead to synergistic investment opportunities in urban corridors. As commuter-sheds expand into the exurbs in large metropolitan areas and less-than-daily commute patterns become more common with flexible work arrangements, the distinction between commuter rail, regional rail, and short-haul intercity rail has been blurred. Investment in urban rail corridors could serve the dual purpose of offering intercity trains a faster path to the downtown core while allowing limited-stop commuter trains to shave precious minutes off their daily schedules. This allows many more passengers to benefit from travel time reductions compared to investment in line-haul segments of intercity services alone.

This paper or group of papers should focus on these essential questions:

1. Which existing high speed rail systems have been successful in leveraging synergies with local train services by sharing corridor or tracks and why?
2. What are the technical, operational, and institutional challenges for track sharing between high speed intercity and commuter trains in urban corridors?
3. Has commuter rail and high speed rail both seen increased ridership in all market segments (commutation, business, leisure) as a result of upgrading the “last mile” tracks?
4. Are costs of upgrading urban trackage prohibitive compared to line-haul segments? How should costs, benefits, risks, and track capacity be allocated on joint urban infrastructure?

The paper would be very useful if case studies are provided with lessons learned. Examples covering both North America and the rest of the world are particularly welcome.

Please indicate **AP070/AR010** on the Submission Review form to indicate that the paper is being submitted in response to this call for papers.

In addition, authors who have submitted papers are requested to send the paper number and title to the **TRB Committee on Commuter Rail Transportation (AP070)** by August 1, 2010.

Questions? Please contact the chair:

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Chair, AP070

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