

Cleveland — Youngstown — Pittsburgh "Tech Belt Tracks" Passenger Rail Talking Points

In your talks with friends, family or colleagues, and in letters to newspaper editors, state and federal legislators and metropolitan planning organizations (NOACA, AMATS, Eastgate, SPC), kindly emphasize the following points...

<u>Fares</u> on CYP trains are one-fifth the cost of driving. Low cost is the first priority for most travelers followed by convenient departures, reliability and then speed. Trains are the least expensive way to travel in the CYP Tech Belt but there is only one nightly train – for now:

TRAVEL COSTS for Cleveland – Youngstown – Pittsburgh Sample round-trip costs for travel in the CYP Corridor (2-week to 2-month advance booking):

CYP travel market	Miles (one- way)	Train*	Bus**	Air***	Car***
Cleveland, OH – Pittsburgh, OH	135	\$24-\$47	\$49-\$70	\$438 to \$1,020	\$153
Cleveland, OH – Youngstown, OH	70	\$13-\$24	\$24-\$54	No service	\$79
Youngstown, OH –	65	\$12-\$23	\$20-\$45	No service	\$74

- * Amtrak's existing CLE-PGH fares published in May 2010. Fares to Youngstown are estimated.
- ** Range of Greyhound bus fares. Greyhound has \$5 pre-boarding fee at CLE & PGH to guarantee seating.
- *** Continental Airlines fares published in May 2010.
- **** AAA and IRS data.

<u>Frequency of departures</u> will likely be modest at the outset. An introductory service would offer several daily trains in each direction and increase in frequency with incremental investment in additional tracks, more advanced signal systems and further negotiations with host railroads.

<u>Train speeds</u> will be competitive; top speeds will start at 79 mph and rise to 90-110 mph with more advanced signal systems and new tracks. Even at 79 mph, trains will be faster, less stressful and more reliable than driving in/out of downtown Pittsburgh or Cleveland at rush hours. Train speeds will increase with investment while travel in cars will only slow as congestion worsens:

TRAVEL TIME for Cleveland – Youngstown – Pittsburgh

Travel times shown in hours:minutes in the CYP Corridor (most rail times are estimated):

CYP travel market	Rail*	Bus**	Air***	Car***
Cleveland – Pittsburgh	2:54-1:55	2:25-3:30	50 mins	2:25
SE Cleveland – NW Pittsburgh	2:20-1:30	No Service	No Service	1:55
Cleveland – Youngstown	1:30-1:00	1:55-2:10	No Service	1:10
Youngstown – Pittsburgh	1:24-0:55	1:20	No Service	1:05

- Rail travel times are based on a 47-mph average speed with existing/introductory service, accelerating to a 70-mph average speed after 10 years of progressive investment in improved rail infrastructure.
- ** Greyhound schedules in May 2010. Greyhound no longer has suburban stops in Cleveland and Pittsburgh. These and other stops were discontinued as Greyhound abandoned the short-distance travel market.
- *** Continental Airlines schedules in May 2010 (not including airport security checks).
- **** Car travel assumes an average driving speed of 60 mph, plus a 10-minute break every 100 miles.

Train travel is the most comfortable and productive way to go. You can eat, drink, recline, put up your feet, sleep, work, study, text, surf the Web, conduct a meeting, walk around, visit the café car, socialize, listen to music, watch a DVD or just stare out the window at 79 mph -- additional track and signal improvements will yield passenger train speeds of 90 mph or better!





Trains are very accessible. Many rail systems allow you to bring your bicycle and secure it in a rack on the train. Stations will also have racks if you don't need to take your bike with you. If you're a passenger using a wheelchair, all stations will

have lifts and every train car has a spot by the window where passengers can enjoy the scenery. Bathrooms on the train are designed with enough space to maneuver a wheelchair.





CYP stations will be served by local transit: Existing and proposed rail station sites are already served by local bus and/or rail transit. There will also likely be taxis, pay-by-hour station cars and bike rentals while many destinations are within walking distance of train station sites.