

Ohio Passenger Rail News

Special Edition

A Publication of the Ohio Association of Railroad Passengers

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New Passenger Rail Service To Ohio Could Begin in 1997

Route to link Toledo, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, East Coast

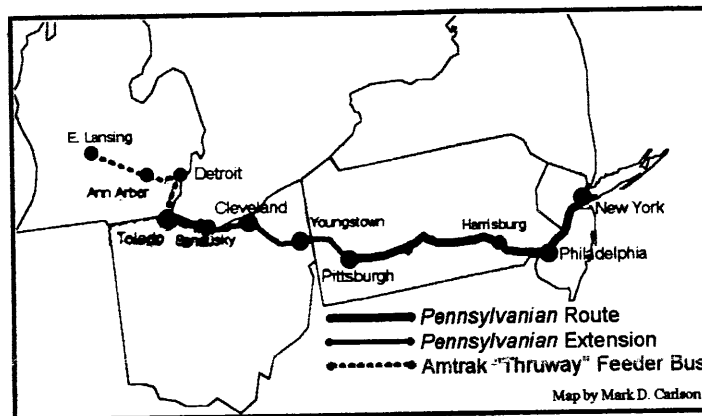
by Kenneth Prendergast
OARP Executive Director

An existing New York City-Pittsburgh Amtrak service could be extended west to Cleveland and Toledo within a year, say Amtrak officials. Their interest in extending service to this route during daylight hours is based on strong ridership and mail revenues generated by existing night-time trains.

The "*Pennsylvanian* extension", as it is called, was first proposed by the Ohio Association of Railroad Passengers more than a decade ago. In 1988, OARP began the Cleveland-Pittsburgh Special Project to stir up interest in the proposal in northeast Ohio communities. Several years ago, Amtrak and OARP realized that the train should not only be extended from Pittsburgh to Cleveland, but all the way to Toledo.

While the *Pennsylvanian* would use existing railroad lines, some state funding is needed to make the project a reality. Depending on legal negotiations between Amtrak, the Ohio Railroad Development Commission, and track-owning railroads Conrail and CSX, start-up costs would be as little as \$5 million.

The first leg of the extended *Pennsylvanian* service would use the same rail line you are traveling today. Between Toledo and Cleveland, freight train congestion would be mitigated by building at least one new siding. Similarly, congested rail traffic conditions exist east of Cleveland to Ravenna. Here, a new electronic traffic control system may be



added. For trains to serve Youngstown, a new track connection at Ravenna is needed. Also, stations do not exist for proposed, daily stops in Bedford, Hudson, and Ravenna.

Eastbound, the *Pennsylvanian* would depart Toledo's Central Union Plaza shortly before 8 a.m., stopping in Sandusky, Elyria, Hopkins International Airport vicinity, downtown Cleveland, Bedford, Hudson, Ravenna, Youngstown, and Pittsburgh.

The Amtrak stations in both Cleveland and Pittsburgh are served by their city's rail rapid transit systems, permitting easy access to destinations downtown and elsewhere. Such access negates the need to fight downtown traffic or to hunt for costly parking.

From Pittsburgh eastward to mid-town Manhattan's Penn Station, the train would follow its current route via 19 stations in cities as small as Tyrone, PA (pop. 6,000) and as large as Philadelphia (see proposed schedule on page four). The eastbound train would continue to arrive the end of the line in New York City every evening.

Westbound, the *Pennsylvanian* would continue to depart Manhattan just after 7 a.m., stopping in cities in New Jersey and across Pennsylvania, before pausing in downtown Pittsburgh just after 5 p.m. The train would continue west, stopping in northern Ohio cities before arriving Toledo about 10:30 p.m.

The train must then be cleaned, turned, refueled, restocked with food and drink, and readied for its eastbound trek in the morning.

OARP, state officials and community leaders along the line are interested in the *Pennsylvanian* extension for numerous reasons. One of the biggest reasons is the train's tourism potential.

The *Pennsylvanian* would bring people from Toledo, Youngstown, and out-of-state cities into two of Ohio's most popular and congested tourism destinations: Sandusky and downtown Cleveland. Attractions in Toledo, Youngstown, and elsewhere would be served.

Of course, Sandusky is home to Cedar Point Amusement Park, and the ferries to Lake Erie's popular islands. In downtown Cleveland, there is the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, Great Lakes Science Center, Flats entertainment district, Tower City Center, and much more (see inside pages for more Cleveland destinations and information).

In the meantime, enjoy today's trip and your brief stay in Cleveland. If you think this type of travel experience should be a daily event, let your opinions be known. OARP believes modern passenger trains should have a larger role in Ohio's transportation system. Your elected officials can do something about it, but you must tell them your opinions first.

Tell your state and local officials about today's trip and take a moment to fill-out and mail the OARP membership form in this newsletter. The Ohio Association of Railroad Passengers is working to bring the *Pennsylvanian* and other rail services to Toledo. Together, with your help, it will happen!

What's Inside...

- Where To Go and What To Do While in Cleveland
- A Proposed Schedule for the *Pennsylvanian*
- An OARP Membership Application

A Few Things You Can Do To Keep

A code is used in these listings to indicate the Rapid line(s), station(s), distance (in street blocks) and direction from the station toward a particular attraction. For example: Rock-n-Roll Hall of Fame, "B&G-North Coast-2/N" means it can be reached by, Blue and Green Line trains from the North Coast station by walking two blocks northward.

"NO RAPID ACCESS" means a given attraction is more than nine blocks away from a rail station. RTA bus connections, if available, are noted.

Downtown

Tower City/Public Square/Gateway

The Arcade between Euclid and Superior Aves. at East 4th St.: The world's first "shopping mall", built in 1890, has a glass-topped, five-level atrium surrounded by stores, cafes, apartments, and offices. R&B&G-Tower City-5E.

Gateway Walkway Climate-controlled foot access from Tower City Center rail station to Gund Arena (including its restaurants and nightclubs) and to Jacobs' Field. Walkway is open during all events at Gateway. R&B&G-Tower City-0 (foot access is from inside Tower City).

Gateway vicinity Dozens of restaurants, nightclubs, sports bars, and sports-related shops are in and near the Gateway complex. R&B&G-Tower City-7E.

Jacobs' Field One-hour tours of this beautiful major league baseball stadium, including areas normally off-limits to the public. Call 420-4200 for information. R&B&G-Tower City-7E.

Terminal Tower Observation Deck Tower City Center: Panoramic views from the 42nd

For maps, brochures, and information, call or visit one of four Cleveland Visitor Information Centers:

- > Tower City Center, 621-7981
- > Hopkins Airport, 265-3729
- > Powerhouse at Nautica/Flats West Bank, 623-4494
- > Nautica Boardwalk/Flats West Bank, 623-4442

You may also call the Convention and Visitors Bureau of Greater Cleveland at (800) 321-1004.

floor of this historic building. Weekends only 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Adults-\$2; Children-\$1 (Under 5-Free). R&B&G-Tower City-0 (foot access in Tower City).

Tower City Center The former Cleveland Union Terminal railroad station underwent a \$400 million rebuilding in 1990, featuring scores of shops, restaurants, offices, two opulent hotels, a food court, Dillard's department store. This is RTA's principal downtown hub. All of RTA's Rapid Transit rail lines converge at Tower City's new subway station. Many RTA buses converge at Tower City on either Prospect Avenue or at Public Square.

Playhouse Square

NOTE: There is no rail access, but very frequent, 24-hour bus services on Euclid Ave. link Playhouse Square to RTA's Tower City Center rail station at Public Square.



Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and Science Center are new additions to Cleveland's skyline.

Mark Carlson photo

Star Plaza intersection of Euclid Ave., Huron Ave., and East 14th St: This new public commons is where talented musicians and other artisans perform alongside sidewalk cafes.

Theaters: Four beautifully-restored major theaters—the **Allen, Ohio, Palace, State**—in addition to smaller venues nearby, comprise the nation's third-largest performing arts district. For box office information, call 771-8403.

North Coast Harbor/Erievue

Amtrak Station 200 South Marginal Road: Train station and ticket window is open Mon.-Sat. midnight-3 p.m. and Sun. midnight-8 a.m. Call 696-5115 or (800) USA-RAIL. B&G-North Coast-1/W.

Galleria at Erievue 100 Erievue Plaza: one of Cleveland's more recent downtown shopping malls. It has many cafes and shops. B&G-North Coast-2/S.

Goodtime III East Ninth Street Pier: Cruise ship provides sight-seeing from the lake and Cuyahoga River several times daily. Ticket prices range from \$6-\$10. Call 861-5110. B&G-North Coast-2/N.

Great Lakes Science Center 601 Erieside Ave.: Over 350 interactive exhibits and **OMNIMAX**, one of the world's largest theaters. Open daily 9:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. 45-minute film shown on the hour. Admission prices for the center and theater each range from \$4.50 to \$6.75. Both are packaged from \$7 to \$9.95. Call 694-2000. B&G-North Coast-2/N.

Hornblower's Barge & Grill North Marginal Road dock: Floating seafood restaurant & bar with sun/moon deck. Moderately priced. Call 363-1151. B&G-North Coast-4/N.

Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and Museum 1 Key Plaza: Sensory exhibits, archives, theaters, gift shop, and cafe. Open Wed.-Sat. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. and Mon.-Tue. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Call (800) 493-ROLL. Adult-\$12.95 (12-55), Children and seniors-\$9.50. B&G-North Coast-1/N.

Steamship William G. Mather Museum East 9th St. Pier: A floating, 600-foot-long retired iron ore carrier. Open Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sun. noon-5 p.m. Call 574-6262 for admission fees. B&G-North Coast-2/N.

Trolley Tours of Cleveland

Burke Lakefront Airport: Trolley-style buses provide guided tours of downtown Cleveland and historic neighborhoods nearby. Call 771-4484 for prices and tour options. B&G-North Coast-5/N.

U.S.S. Cod North Marginal Rd. dock: Tour a floating World War II submarine that sank 12 Japanese ships. Open daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 621-4110 for admission prices. B&G-North Coast-3/N.

The Flats/Historic Warehouse District

** Direct rail access to The Flats is via the Blue/Green trains' Waterfront Line. Two rail stations—Settlers Landing and Flats East Bank—serve the area. At the top of the hill is a district of 19th-Century warehouses restored as loft-style apartments, art galleries, jazz clubs, cafes, and offices. Divided among The Flats' East and West Banks are over 50 nightclubs and restaurants, plus riverside boardwalks, shops, concert clubs, stages, and parks.

You Busy While Visiting Cleveland...

Holy Moses Water Taxi shuttles passengers between the east and west banks of The Flats. Evening departures are every 10 minutes from the Powerhouse's and Shooters' docks on the west bank, and from a dock located between the Beach Club and Longhorn's Steak House on the east bank. B&G-Flats East Bank-1/W. One-way fare is \$3 per person.

Nautica Queen at the Powerhouse dock at 1153 Main Ave. (west bank of Flats): offers

Cleveland Zoo/Rainforest 3900 Brookside Park Drive (4 miles south of downtown Cleveland near I- 71): This 165-acre zoo has 3,300 animals. The Rainforest is a new 2-acre, exact replica of a tropical jungle with all sorts of creatures. Open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 661-6500 for admission prices.



Riding Cleveland's new RTA Waterfront rail line

The Regional Transit Authority (RTA) new Waterfront Line runs through Amtrak's Lakefront Station, between the platform and the depot. The nearest RTA Waterfront station, North Coast Station (East 9th Street), is one block away.

To accommodate a group of your size, RTA plans to have an operations supervisor on duty at the Amtrak station to assist passengers unfamiliar with Cleveland's rapid transit system.

Running every 12 minutes, Waterfront Line trains will take you to The Flats, a district featuring 50 riverside restaurants, shops, and nightclubs. A little farther down the line is Tower City Center which has 100 shops and eateries, a department store, two opulent hotels, six office towers, an eleven screen movie theater, and an enclosed walkway to Gund Arena and Jacobs Field.

RTA Rapid Fare is \$1.50 (exact change) per person, but an All-Day multi-ride discount card may be purchased for \$4.00.

brunch/lunch and late-dinner meals cocktails while cruising the Cuyahoga River and Lake Erie. Call 696-8888 for reservations. B&G-Flats East Bank-1/W (to water taxi).

Thrillseekers Marine Adventures Shooters' Dock (west bank): offers offshore hi-speed (60-70 m.p.h.) rides aboard a 32' power boat. 10 a.m.-dusk daily. \$35 per person. Call 861-2628 for reservations. B&G-Flats East Bank-1/W (to water taxi).

Other Attractions

NASA Lewis Research Center-Visitors Center 21000 Brookpark Road (next to Hopkins Intl. Airport): Experience outer space at the only active NASA research complex north of the Mason-Dixon Line. Open Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., and Sun. 1-5 p.m. Call 433-4000. Free. NO RAPID ACCESS.

Waterfront Line Riders To Get Merchant Discounts Too!

If you plan to ride the Waterfront Line to visit attractions along the new rail line, make sure you request a transfer slip when you pay your fare. That transfer is a proof-of-purchase form that will enable you to enjoy \$1 off admissions to museums and tours.

Sieve Bitto, RTA's marketing director, says the transit agency has made agreements for the \$1 discount with the U.S.S. Cod submarine exhibit, the Steamship William G. Mather Museum, and Goodtime III ship that tours Lake Erie and Cuyahoga River.

In addition, Mr. Bitto says that RTA is negotiating with several large restaurants in the Flats to expand the discount program.

The duration of the discount program is open-ended, and discounts are available for each Waterfront Line rider. A single transfer slip can be used at more than one participating attraction.

Photos below and above by Mark Carlson



Attention

The mention of any attraction or establishment on these pages is for information only and does not imply endorsement by OARP.

Every effort has been made to provide reliable information. We assume no responsibility for any errors or omissions.

Waterfront Line Ridership Exceeds Expectations

GCRTA projected that the new rail line—which links its Tower City Center rail hub to The Flats entertainment district, tourist attractions at North Coast Harbor, and office towers around Erieview Plaza—would carry 600,000 riders in its first year of operation.

In just the first three weeks of service, 250,000 riders were carried on the Waterfront Line.

Additional trains had to be added to handle the crowds, as the Waterfront Line has created a third rush hour for GCRTA. During the lunch hour, downtown workers from office buildings at Erieview and at Tower City Center stream on to the new rail line, heading to The Flats for lunch.

Restaurant and business owners in The Flats are reporting a 20 percent increase in lunchtime business since the \$55 million Waterfront Line opened.

While The Flats, with more than 50 riverside nightclubs and restaurants, has typically been a hot spot for younger crowds, business owners in the area are seeing more senior customers. On a local TV news segment, a number of senior citizens visiting the Flats said that this was the first time they had ventured there. They used the Rapid, and noted that they had avoided The Flats in the past because they did not want to drive into it.

DIV@CENT-LS-100

**New York...Philadelphia...Harrisburg...Pittsburgh...
Youngstown...Cleveland...Elyria...Sandusky...Toledo**

43	◀ Train Number ▶		44
Daily	◀ Days of Operation ▶		Daily
Read Down ▼		Mile	▲ Read Up
7 15A	Dp New York, NY—Penn Sta. (ET)	0	Ar 10 15P
R 7 30A	Newark, NJ	10	▲ D 9 53P
7 45A	Metropark, NJ	25	9 40P
7 53A	New Brunswick, NJ	33	
8 06A	Princeton Jct., NJ	49	
8 16A	Trenton, NJ	58	9 20P
8 38A	▼ North Philadelphia, PA	86	
8 50A	Ar Philadelphia, PA—30th St. Sta.	91	Dp 8 50P
66	Connecting Train at Philadelphia		165 (M-F)
6 15A	Dp Washington, DC (ET)	0	Ar 10 45P
6 55A	Baltimore, MD—Penn Sta.	40	10 08P
8 04A	Ar Philadelphia, PA—30th St. Sta.	135	Dp 8 57P
9 15A	Dp Philadelphia, PA—30th St. Sta.	91	Ar 8 35P
9 29A	Ardmore, PA	99	▲ 8 16P
9 44A	Paoli, PA	110	8 02P
9 58A	Downington, PA	123	7 46P
10 32A	Lancaster, PA	159	7 13P
	▼ Elizabethtown, PA	177	6 53P
11 11A	Ar Harrisburg, PA	195	Dp 6 30P
11 21A	Dp (Scranton/Reading)		Ar 6 16P
12 33P	Lewistown, PA	256	▲ 4 57P
1 10P	Huntingdon, PA	293	4 18P
1 36P	Tyrone, PA	313	3 50P
1 57P	Altoona, PA	327	3 35P
2 55P	Johnstown, PA	366	2 35P
3 34P	Latrobe, PA	403	1 53P
3 46P	▼ Greensburg, PA	413	1 42P
4 54P	Ar Pittsburgh, PA—Amtrak Sta.	444	Dp 1 00P
5 15P	Dp		Ar 12 40P
5 50P	Beaver Falls, PA	474	▲ 12 00N
6 30P	New Castle, PA	492	11 20A
6 55P	Youngstown, OH (Warren)	510	10 55A
7 30P	Ravenna, OH (Kent State Univ.)	544	10 20A
7 45P	Hudson, OH (Akron)	557	10 05A
8 05P	▼ Bedford, OH	572	9 45A
8 30P	Ar Cleveland, OH—Lakefront Sta.	582	Dp 9 25A
8 35P	Dp RTA Waterfront Line		Ar 9 20A
8 50P	Hopkins Airport, OH	595	▲ 9 00A
9 10P	Elyria, OH (Lorain)	607	8 40A
9 45P	▼ Sandusky, OH	642	8 05A
10 35P	Ar Toledo, OH (ET)	689	Dp 7 20A

The above timetable, made by the Ohio Association of Railroad Passengers, is conceptual. It is based on Amtrak train schedules and analysis from URS Consultants and LTK Engineering Services.

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OARP's Statement of Purpose

The Ohio Association of Railroad Passengers exists to encourage and coordinate the efforts of Ohio transportation consumers in developing rail passenger service in Ohio.

As a consumer group, we regard the public rail transportation mode as essential for many reasons. Rail has a superior potential for congestion relief, comfort, resource conservation, and compatibility with the newest technologies.

OARP seeks to preserve, expand, and improve existing Amtrak services as well as urban rail transit by educating the general public, interested groups, plus federal, state, and local officials.

We also support improvements to non-rail forms of transportation. OARP agrees they too should be enhanced to improve their safety and connectivity with a developed rail passenger system.

The Ohio Association of Railroad Passengers is incorporated in Ohio as a non-profit association and exempt from federal income tax under the IRS Code, Section 501(c)(3) as a publicly supported educational organization. Dues and donations to OARP may be tax-deductible in accordance with the IRS Code.

YES! I WANT BETTER RAIL PASSENGER SERVICES TOO!

An introductory one-year membership in the Ohio Association of Railroad Passengers includes a subscription to the *Ohio Passenger Rail News*, plus: action alerts, notice of rail-oriented events, and local meetings. Contributions to OARP may be tax deductible.

Send this membership application to:

Ohio Association of Railroad Passengers
c/o Tom Allen, Treasurer
752 Braumiller Road
Delaware OH 43015



- Bill me at \$15.00 for an Individual Membership.
- Bill my company \$100.00 for a Corporate Membership. Send me ___ copies of the newsletter (up to 10).
- Bill me at \$10.00 for a Retired/Student Membership.

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