

Investing in energy saving equipment,

- Free Subscription
- Read Now
- View Publications
- Back Issues



News and Information for Construction Executives

Read May's
Corporate Profiles



Home | Construction News | Market Sectors | Blog | Corporate Profiles | Newsletters | Other Industries

Join our Construction Newsletter

Network of high-speed trains could change US travel

DATE: 5/20/2009

President's plan would target densely-populated regions such as the Midwest, California and Florida for short-range high-speed service such as Amtrak's Boston-to-NYC Acela train



By Kevin Doyle

If **President Obama**' vision comes to fruition, others in the United States could be exposed to what they've known along the Boston-to-New York rail corridor for some time now: High-speed train travel is the way to go.

The gleaming steel **Amtrak Acela** is the nation's only high-speed service. Travel time from Boston's South Station to downtown New York is about three and one-half hours and, at \$124, it isn't cheap. But it is convenient and it eliminates the hassle of missed connections at the airport.

On April 16, Mr. Obama unveiled his vision for a high-speed rail system that would be the most radical shift in US travel infrastructure since **President Dwight Eisenhower set the Interstate Highway System** in motion.

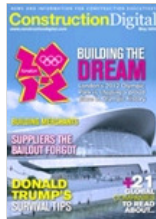
The Obama plan would zero in on densely populated regions such as the Midwest, California, and Florida, where short distances between cities would let fast trains compete with planes and cars. High-speed rails would cut US dependence on oil and stop 3 million tons of carbon emissions annually, according to the president's plan.

The Obama proposal would create construction jobs to upgrade the existing infrastructure of railbeds, signals and crossings and, in some instances, carve out dedicated high-speed corridors. To jump-start the process, the administration proposes using \$13 billion (\$8 billion from the stimulus fund last fall and \$1 billion a year for five years) to fund up to 10 high-speed-rail corridors.

Randal O'Toole, a transportation fellow at the Cato Institute, doubts that funding is sufficient. He calculates that the entire US system – if built for a "moderate speed" of 110 mph would cost about \$50 billion – and 10 times that amount if it was to be truly high-speed at 200 mph.

Two types of projects would get funding. One could create new dedicated corridors for high-speed trains like those in Europe and Japan that exceed 200 mph. Another type would improve existing lines to make them "incrementally faster," up to 110 mph. California, which is planning a 220-mph bullet-style service from Los Angeles to San Francisco, could receive

DIGITAL MAGAZINE



- Free Subscription
- Read Digital Magazine Now
- View Publications

RELATED NEWS

Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour wants more construction money

RELATED CASE STUDY

- NTDStichler
- Paragon Communities
- Winchester Homes
- Mountain Development Corp.
- Albert Kahn Associates
- Lauren Engineers & Constructors
- Fabcon
- Trend Homes
- Barton Malow
- NRP Group

STORY TOOLS

- print this story
- e-mail this story



- Free Subscription
- Read Now
- View Publications
- Back Issues

Nucor Steel: Buy American

- View Larger Video

Paying too much for auto insurance?

See how much you can save.

esurance
Quote. Buy. Print.

Associations and Events

BCSA: Steel in Construction

The British Constructional Steel Association explains why the steel industry is growing at a phenomenal rate

billions, observers say.

"One thing's clear, we're not going to see bullet trains running all over the country," says **Ross Capon, president of the National Association of Railroad Passengers**. "But this effort would lay the foundation so that those kinds of projects become more plausible."

Source: *The Christian Science Monitor*

Home Home	Construction News Construction News	
Market Sectors Home Builders & General Contractors Commercial Buildings Civil Construction & Engineering Construction Equipment and Materials Plant & Machinery		Blog Blog Corporate Profiles Corporate Profiles Newsletter Newsletter
Other Industries Construction Energy Manufacturing Supply Chain Healthcare Stock Market Retail Technology Food & Drink	Sister sites www.execdigital.com www.execdigital.co.uk www.execdigital.ca www.whitedm.com	