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Steve Carmody (2009-08-24)

ANN ARBOR, MI (MICHIGAN RADIO) -



Amtrak Acela train (courtesy of Amtrak)

Governor Granholm will take a ride on an Amtrak train Monday to promote a campaign to bring high speed passenger rail service to Michigan.

Granholm has joined with 7 other Midwest governors to ask for billions of dollars in federal aid for high speed rail projects including a link connecting Detroit to Chicago.

But one economist says it's a waste of money.

Randal O'Toole is a senior fellow with the conservative Cato Institute. He says high speed rail services in Asia and Europe have proven to be expensive and ineffective.

"The ticket fares aren't going to cover the costs," says O'Toole, "Amtrak loses money on its operations between Boston and Washington. That's the densest population in the country. If they lose money there, they'll lose money everywhere."

The Obama administration is making \$8 billion available for high speed rail projects in the coming years. © Copyright 2009, [Michigan Radio](#)



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