



O'Toole to speak on economic realities of high-speed rail

September 24, 2014

ROCHESTER – On Monday, September 29, at 7 p.m. Randal O’Toole will be speaking at the Rochester International Event Center (7333 Airport Drive SW—Highway 63 South and Airport Exit) on the economic realities of high-speed rail developments. The event is free.

The high-speed, electric train (ZipRail) proposed and brought forward by a coalition of government and non-government entities is part of Mayo Clinic’s \$5 billion Destination Medical Center initiative. The citizens of southeast Minnesota just last month learned of the proposal and the two routes being considered, both of which dissect Goodhue County. The September 29 program aims to share the research around high-speed rail, its true costs, how it compares to roads, and the impact on the families, farms, businesses, and communities it runs through.

Randal O’Toole is an American policy analyst, a senior fellow with the Cato Institute, and a national expert on the economic realities of high-speed rail developments over the past 20 years. He is the author of five books on land use and transportation issues, including “Gridlock: Why We’re Stuck in Traffic and What to Do About It.” Prior to working for Cato Institute, O’Toole taught environmental economics at Yale University, University of California-Berkley, and Utah State University. He currently resides in central Oregon.