Making the Connection: Moving Forward On Regional Rail

The Case for Regional Rail

presented by
IRUM The Institute for Rational Urban Mobility, Inc.
Making the Connection:  
Moving Forward on Regional Rail

Q: Why are we, IRUM, here today?

A: We want NYMTC staff & the executive directors of NYMTC & their New Jersey sister agency, NJTPA, to come see & discuss the Making the Connection show at Conde Nast.
Making the Connection
Moving Forward on Regional Rail

Goal:

*Improve our region's mobility, sustainability, & competitiveness by recasting the region’s commuter rail lines into a Regional Rail System.*
MAKING THE CONNECTION
MOVING FORWARD ON REGIONAL RAIL

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4 passenger railroads
3 Serving 3 States
2 Operating from 2 great stations
1 Can be forged into 1 regional rail network

IRUM Presentation to NYMTC BB
02/21/06
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Making the Connection
Moving Forward on Regional Rail

Features of Regional Rail:

• Frequent service
• Integrated fares
• Thru running
Why Connect Penn Station and Grand Central?
Connecting the Terminals

The Last Mile: Penn – Grand Central
Connecting the Terminals

Key Gains from the Connection:

• **Access to East Midtown for NJT commuters**
• **Avoid time-consuming access to Deep Cavern station under 34th St**
• **Increase train capacity at GCT**
• **Access to West Midtown for Metro-North commuters**
Connecting the Terminals

Additional Gains from the Connection:

• **Ease travel between west of Hudson & north of GCT communities**

• **Attract travelers to NEC High Speed service routed via GCT**

• **Attract travelers to upstate service routed through GCT & on to Phila/DC**

• **Improve access to Newark/Liberty Airport**

• **Reduce capital & operating costs of new Hudson river tunnel plan**
Out of the Depths
Out of the Depths

Why not bring LIRR into existing Grand Central tracks & platforms?
A Ticket to Anywhere

Designing a New Penn Station and Regional Rail Operating Plan

Three thru services at Penn Station

• NJ – Penn – Long Island thru service; possible today
• Hoboken – Penn – GCT; new tunnel thru service
• West Side Line – Penn – Hell Gate; new thru service via new Penn-West Side connection
A Ticket to Anywhere

Designing a New Penn Station and Regional Rail Operating Plan

Other Regional Rail services

- Long Island – GCT
- Long Island – Brooklyn
- Rail Freight – off-peak Penn Station
One City, One Fare!

15 mile radius Central Zone
Enhanced service at 60 new or existing stations
One City, One Fare!

Special Features of Central Zone:
- **Midtown-JFK one-seat ride**
- **Includes JFK & Newark Airports**
- **Carrots & Sticks: Regional Rail and Congestion Pricing**
Regional Rail and Real Estate

With frequent service and thru operation for Regional Rail, the need for close-in real estate to store rail cars, midday, diminishes.
Regional Rail & Real Estate

Five Yards: Released From Midday Storage
Regional Rail & Real Estate

Hoboken: No longer a stub-end terminal & great access all the way from Connecticut!
Berlin, London, Philadelphia - Why not here?

REGIONAL RAIL SYSTEMS ARE UNDER DEVELOPMENT THROUGHOUT THE GLOBE.
Making the Connection
Moving Forward on Regional Rail

Opportunities with new leadership in statehouse:

• **Energize efforts on both sides of the Hudson River to advance Regional Rail immediately, beginning with pilot Penn Station thru-running service.**

• **Return focus of ARC tunnel project to East Midtown via a Penn Station – Grand Central connection immediately.**

• **Initiate objective review of Grand Central upper level alternative immediately to avoid deep cavern station for LIRR East Side Access.**
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