



## **Description**

Commuter rail provides transit to commuters traveling from the suburbs to central business districts. Commuter rail uses the same right-of-way as existing freight and passenger train tracks.

# **Target Market**

As population grows and traffic congestion worsens, the commuter rail system is becoming more valued in metropolitan areas. It provides cost-efficient, peak-period travel service for long-distance passengers. Commuter rail has a high potential to attract customers that drive from suburban homes to work in the central business district or other activity centers during weekdays.

# **How Will This Help?**

- Increases regional mobility and accessibility by providing a reliable, independent commuter option.
- Costs less than other comparable capacity additions.
- Provides a comfortable alternative to driving.
- Reduces environmental impacts from automobile commuters who switch to commuter rail.

# Implementation Issues

#### Park-and-Ride Lots

Transit agencies and planners should consider parking needs and future expansion potential when planning stations.

#### Shared Right-of-Wav

Planners often need to negotiate the privilege of using tracks with busy freight rail operators and find adequate funding for both construction and operation.

# Amtrak Supply

The U.S. Government Accountability Office stated that Amtrak is experiencing chronic financial problems. There is a concern that if Amtrak were to abruptly stop, commuter rail operation would be significantly affected.

# **Development Opportunities**

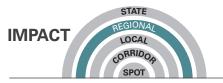
Economic development potential along commuter rail corridors is lower than along heavy rail or light rail because commuter rail is separated from other urban uses except at stations.

**COST** 



TIME

MODERATE/LONG



WHO



**HURDLES** 



ISIT AGENCY/ RIGHT-0

#### **SUCCESS STORIES**

## **Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas**

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) and the Fort Worth Transportation Authority (The T) jointly provide the Trinity Railway Express (TRE) commuter rail service.



15th most ridden commuter rail system in the

nation carrying 2.1 million passengers in 2013.



# **Austin, Texas**

Capital MetroRail, operated by the Capital Metropolitan

Transportation Authority since 2010, provides commuter rail service in the greater Austin area.

By 2012, system ridership reached 1 million, a 50 percent increase over the previous year.

TRANSPORTATION





