

TLU-11 Comments
Recommendation 36
Intermodal freight transportation

Who will pay for this? Private companies to be included. No government ownership or operation.

There should be a cost/benefit analysis required. The benefits do not justify the costs using sound science. More taxes, regulations and red tape is not what will help Montana.

Private sector should do this if needed. No State owned businesses. Less government is better.

Unsure

Not knowledgeable

What? An express lane to/from Seattle? I'm familiar with Seattle demographics. No thanks!

Who pays for this? Taxpayers or users?

Stop the subsidies and let the market lead to behavior change.

A good idea!! The rail system in Montana is limited. I'd be interested to see what the major cities think about such a service.

Why?

Yes, yes, yes...

This would be wonderful!

And get the southern Amtrak route going again so everyone who wants to take a passenger train does not have to drive all the way up to the Hi-Line.

People don't ride Amtrak.

Individuals can only do so much with this issue, we need strong and numerous government action of many forms and formats...

It seems the transportation sector are the best ones to determine how goods are transported.

I don't know what intermodal freight is.

I am a huge supporter of alternative forms of transit, but only if analysis shows they will be cost effective and used by the public.

From where to where? Do we have to drive up to the Highline to utilize such trains when the majority of the population is located on the Southern Route?

Hey, how about some passenger trains in the southern part of Montana?

Need to know more...

We need to catch up with the Europeans.

About time.

yawn.

Sounds like welfare for the freighting business to me.

Seattle has a train going to Tacoma twice a day and it's full and very successful, indicating that we should do this nationally.

We only get needed goods from Seattle????

I do not understand the ramifications of this entirely. It sounds like a good idea, but do the railroads think so?

Sounds great, whatever it means!

More trucks off the road - more freight carried via railroad.

Better than having the containers and trucks traveling over the road via inefficient single-vehicle, IC modes.

plus, make trains run on hydrogen power.

Before we get too worked up over a train to Seattle (considering we do have an Amtrak route to there at present), let's get a north-south traveling light rail system established for western Montana, and a commuter rail that connects Missoula, Helena, Butte, Bozeman, and Great Falls.

Europe has trains everywhere. We should follow their example.

Can't say I really understand this item. Passenger trains?

There used to be one but there was not enough business to make it workable. Will work only if the state subsidizes it at taxpayer expense. This looks like another one of this state's cheap shots at BNSF. How does that fit into this kind of survey without cheapening it and its supposed legitimacy?

Any work to reduce the cost of rail freight would be worth while

I don't know what an intermodal train is, but if you mean getting one to run from Billing to Seattle via Bozeman, Butte, Helena, & Missoula, I'm for it

No vote. Would efficient use of already-existing plane traffic be any worse?

We also need passenger train service within the state, connecting with the northern train route to Spokane, and going as at least to Billings.

YES YES YES YES YES!!

YES!

What are we going to ship to Seattle?

It is high time we begin developing more effective mass transit systems.

Don't know enough and not enough time to read it.

don't know what this really means

Excellent idea!

This might not be possible unless you increase the RR infrastructure. RRs are already pretty well maxed out in traffic.

Build/improve the rails!

What about passenger trains??? I keep hearing great stories about the days of passenger trains in Montana and I want to get back to that. And, let's see trains routed through the actual population centers.

this is bizarre

and one up the bitterroot

How about a north/south train route as well??

I'm not sure what this is about.

This would be a good thing for Montana.

What will this really accomplish? Do you really think this will make a change?

If this means that there would be less trucks on the road, then I support this.

What don't we understand about interstate commerce laws?

With rural air service in jeopardy, it is all the more important that Montanans have multiple transportation options, including trains.

I like train transportation, I'd use it more if it came through Billings. (20 miles away for me)

trains, freight, i have no knowledge on, but for passengers, yes! we surely could think about getting a train back in here.

Love this idea, but again, how will it be financed?

This Action Plan was not a Montana grassroots Plan. It was the same plan written for California and other states.

<http://www.righttalk.com/asx/ggws.aspx>

Let the market control services.

The transportation corridor needed for this will come at a cost to Montana that we are not prepared to meet.

This sounds like government trying to tell the Railroad what they can and can't do. If there is freight to haul, and a profit to be made the railroads would have long since instituted such a system. To make this happen there must be incentives--the Taxpayer will be required to pay the price.

Leave to private enterprise.....

Montana needs to let more railroads to be built if they want to implement this. Look at the Tongue River RR; over 35 YEARS of lawsuits and it's still not built. Non-governmental organization (NGO) interference at its finest.

This will happen when the railroads are able to make money doing it. Until then it will be a hard sell.

Improvements in intermodal system would help move some goods more efficiently and should be encouraged.

Love this proposition.

As long as the intermodal freights are energy efficient.

Who would pay for this? and what are the real benefits to climate change?

Is this possible? Would be great!

Tax payer subsidized, I suppose.

4 trains by 2015 would be better...

The expense of this is obvious--it is way beyond our capabilities. If the federal government or a public/private consortium wants to take this on as an interstate project, fine.

I think this is a great idea, but why are we looking at this from a government perspective? I would think that if this were a more efficient and cost effective mode of transport for goods, that it would be self implemented by the commercial sector.

fantasy land

Only if using clean fuels.

If the demand is there the private sector will respond. No.

Amtrak line through the population centers, please.

Develop in intrastate intermodal transportation system for moving goods AND people.

Don't know what an intermodal unit train is.

again, private sector and basic free market economics. If there is a return to be had, it would have been built already.

what is intermodal?

How about a system within Montana? Can't we utilize the tracks along I-90 to transport people?

We already have trains.

I would rather see expenditures on public transportation in Montana communities

What is IFT? Definitions are needed (intermodal unit train?)

Target much higher uses and development of our Nations rail systems while making clear standards for the Railroad industry.

Paid for by who? Is this a mandate?

The rail system is already overburdened. This should be funded by the Federal Government, not State.

YES! Trains are so much more efficient & should be subsidized at least to the extent that auto & plane travel is

Does MT produce enough products & goods for a separate intermodal train?

The tracks are already there, why not use them for transportation?

How much do they cost?, Amtrak can't make ends meet with out government bailouts as it is?

Have no idea what this is, but if it moves freight more efficiently than trucks, and isn't too costly, go for it!

Montana does not own the railroad system. This may work in Montana; but may not work in other States.

If they are so good, why are they not in use now by the private sector (rail system).

What is Intermodal Freight Transportation?

All of these are 'feel good' expensive bulls**t legislation. Global warming is NOT a fact (cold records set last winter in the southern hemisphere) so it might be Northern hemisphere warming, but not global. Secondly, latest studies of the sun spots (that control global temperatures more than humans) indicate that within 20 years we will be back in a 'mini-ice age'. Not politically correct, but MUCH more accurate.

Don't understand

This would be so welcome and usefull.

Might help traffic problems. Cities that have them find they are used a lot and are convenient.

What? A train? Run by the government?

Train service at best is unreliable in the mountain states. The goods still must be trucked from rail to store.

As a free market enterprise, not the feds.

THIS WOULD KILL THE PRICE OF GRAIN

Will this be economic to run?

this is an immediate way to quickly reduce our use of imported fuel. We need more railroad tracks that are not in "dark territory" so trains can move faster, thus moving more trains on the same track.

Why to Seattle only? Why not to

What is cost??

Excellent!

Bring back passenger trains to southern Montana! We have no transportation choice, no trins, few or no buses. What a waste of energy!

at what cost to the consumer?

That's the best idea on here.

Use trains to move freight instead of trucks the way it wass done years ago, great idea.

We also need a train for commuters from Bitterroot to the Missoula area.

Let's focus on products to ship first. Maybe coal ... or crude oil ...wait that would take special cars ...

are trains that effecient?

What will be done?

Leave to industry and interstate commerce.

Not the Stae's business.

This will be great if it is cost effective and traveler friendly. Also, will we be able to board this train in places other than Havre?

Railroad people say this is NOT POSSIBLE. Lousy and not do-able. Its own separate track without curves? Not enough population in Montana to warrant it. BAD.

Excellent.

wonderful to have train available where population is

Yeah, but don't subsidize this. Enable siting issues, yes, but leave it up to MRL and BNSF.

This would be great! Trains are good!

AWESOME!!! I hate driving through Idaho! How about something to sal Lake too!

It will happen anyway if economical.

It's not clear where you are heading with this.

on the northern tier

Yes yes YES!! Extremely important.

Instead of tearing up the tracks between Helena and Great Falls for a 90 mile bike trail, we need to look at reinstating passenger service between the two towns with stops in Ulm, Cascade, Craig, and Wolf Creek. It could also serve as a train to carry recreationalists through the canyong (much like the Monarch Fishing Train did years ago). It could be a model for how to use mass transportation. The only problem with this is that there has to be good public transportation at both ends of the train to make it easy for the consumer. It was also suggested to me by an out of state Montanan that we should create a mass transit hub in Helena that can pull in all parts of the state and help to network the state more efficiently. The train between Great Falls and Helena could be part of that.

Trains are the most fuel efficient way to move people & goods across the country.

good luck. farmers have been trying to get trains to haul wheat out to the coast for years. Dont think you are going to have much luck on this one.

More trains!! Look at Europe!

DOESN'T AMTRACK FROM CUT BANK DO THIS NOW???IF NOT, WHERE DOES THE NEW ROUTE START AND WHAT IS THE COST TO UP-GRADE THE TRACKS, ECT???

Respondent does not have sufficient information or knowledge to rank this recommendation.

yes!

nice thought, hope I win the lottery, too

GREAT

Support rail transportation - it is a good idea.

You need to see what the state's study shows. Is there even enough products in Montana that can attract foreign countries to purchase them in a quantity that will get the containers to Montana. Also, if we are going to encourage that agriculture products be used in Montana for food and bio fuels, won't this decrease the need to ship our products out of state?

Don't we have to produce things to go in the trains before we order the intermodal units?

define intermodal,

Holcim supports efforts to expand intermodal rail service as a means to increase the competitiveness of rail rates and to reduce the environmental footprint of the transport sector.

And Portland,San Fran

We need southern Montana rail-passenger service again.

Yes!

Don't know what Intermodal trains are.
Need rail transportation for passengers.