

# Strickland wants Amtrak to study rail service with Springfield stop

**COMMENT:** [Would you use the service if Amtrak were to come to Springfield?](#)

By [Samantha Sommer](#)

Staff Writer

Friday, March 07, 2008

**SPRINGFIELD** —Passenger rail service that could possibly connect Springfield with some Ohio cities isn't about nostalgia, a state rail commission spokesman says.

"This is becoming an economic issue," said Stu Nicholson, Ohio Rail Development Commission spokesman.

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Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland wants to examine reviving passenger rail service from Cleveland to Cincinnati, including a possible Springfield stop.

The governor announced Thursday, March 6, that he has sent a letter to Amtrak asking the passenger rail service to study and identify what is needed to serve the corridor.

The state will pay for the study done by Amtrak, which also will look at the infrastructure of major freight lines to see if upgrades are needed.

The study will take about 18 months and probably cost \$200,000 to \$300,000, Nicholson said.

Passenger rail service hasn't been in many Ohio cities, including Springfield, since the 1970s.

The cost of gasoline makes rail service necessary, he said.

"Step up to the gasoline pump," he said. "That's exactly why we need to look at this."

Having a stop in Springfield could make the area more attractive to commuters who want to live in a smaller community, Assistant City Manager Jim Bodenmiller said.

"It's an economic development tool and a great transportation tool," he said.

Thea Walsh, Transportation Coordinating Committee director, was glad to see the plan moving forward after several years of discussions.

Rail service could mean fewer cars on the road, Walsh said, saving fuel and improving air quality.

"The environmental impact is lesser when rail is maximized," she said.

Contact this reporter at (937) 328-0363 or [ssommer@coxohio.com](mailto:ssommer@coxohio.com)

### **Comment: Would you use the service if Amtrak were to come to Springfield?**

By Matt

March 9, 2008 2:13 PM | [Link to this](#)

Notice how none of the respondents answered the initial question; "Would you use the service if Amtrak were to come to Springfield?", that's because the answer is no. The utopian social order democrat answer is "the people", the reality is it's always other people". Seattle just built a rail for downtown, one that is empty most of the day and "the people" are injecting massive money to pay for". This is a boondoggle waste of money to even study, Americans have no intention of using railroads.

By Bren

March 9, 2008 12:02 AM | [Link to this](#)

I think this is exactly what Springfield needs, it is time for a change and a time for a better transportation system. With today's rising gas prices it is more economical. This would allow people to travel to bigger cities for work without the drive, our roadways are too over populated as it is. This would be very much welcomed and I would be one of the first to use the means of transportation.

By Mark

March 8, 2008 8:45 PM | [Link to this](#)

Viable public transportation is a prerequisite to any city desiring to compete in the new economy. There isn't anything to think about except how to accomplish it as speedily and efficiently as possible. It will bring people into the city which means much needed revenue. Springfield's car dependence is stifling. This city is stuck in the 1970s mentality and dying as a result. Accessibility and convenience are what

residents are looking for when they move to a new city. The life long residents don't know any difference, but they're aging quickly, passing away and their children and grand children are leaving for urban areas with amenities galore. Get with it Springfield!

By Mark  
March 8, 2008 8:34 PM | [Link to this](#)

Most residents don't know Springfield used to have a passenger train service. The Little Miami Railroad's (now the Little Miami Scenic Bikeway) Springfield Branch traveled between Urbana and Cincinnati. It should have never closed. Chicago has the oldest continuous running commuter rail in the country. The Metra Electric Line has served the lakefront since the late 1800s. The auto industry tried and failed to have it and all the rail lines shut down. With Springfield they succeeded.

By Mark  
March 8, 2008 8:26 PM | [Link to this](#)

What was old is new again. The auto industry wiped out commuter rails in the 1950s, but common sense reconsiders it's necessity in the 21st Century. Kudos to the cities that never caved in to the pressure and kept their trains and bus systems effective. They're now some of the most popular metropolitan cities in the nation, while car dependent cities like Springfield languish. There really isn't anything to think about. If we want to grow we have to have trains.

By Scott  
March 8, 2008 5:34 PM | [Link to this](#)

High speed rail is long overdue all across the country. I would welcome it to Ohio with open arms.

By G. White  
March 8, 2008 1:51 PM | [Link to this](#)

Why not? Ohio wastes much more than this study costs everyday on issues that will never profit a penny. Economics will someday dictate the use of regional rail in Ohio. I would love to ride to Cincy, catch a couple of Red's games and not have to worry about traffic. Also, trains can run in snowstorms, how well does I-71 do?

By D. Kellam  
March 8, 2008 11:59 AM | [Link to this](#)

Due to the fact that the only means of public interstate transportation in Springfield are by Greyhound or car, I think that an Amtrak is a great idea.

By A. Amato  
March 8, 2008 10:33 AM | [Link to this](#)

What a wonderful idea! This would make travel easier and more accessible to more places for more people. Hopefully open more avenues for travel for the handicapped. A great way for time spent with family and friends! Yes, Yes, Yes.!!

By S. Slyh

March 8, 2008 9:34 AM | [Link to this](#)

I am so excited by this news! I recently traveled to Galesburg Illinois via Chicago, by Amtrak and had to drive to Toledo to get it.

The Amtrak experience was wonderful - the seating has great leg room, easy access to the restroom (one in every car), at least a snack car on every train, plus we were right on time arriving. My fellow travelers who flew were held up in Chicago because of weather conditions, and I beat them in! The train is very popular with commuters in Chicago and suburbs

By Taulbie Tussey

March 8, 2008 7:57 AM | [Link to this](#)

The rail crossing really need something to get them in shape for people to drive there cars over them. Bring on the rail service, maybe next the city fathers will try to find someone that can get the city streets in shape to drive on.

By Greenman

March 8, 2008 12:22 AM | [Link to this](#)

I would say bring it on. The country as a whole should taake another look at rail service in no tonly passenger, but the freight lines again. I used to work on the RR and since then many tracks have been ripped up. With the rising costs of fuel and the environmental effects, trains should be looked at more seriously for our imediate needs. Pehaps this could cut costs of freighting goods to the us the consumers. That would help local economies with more to spend elsewhere.

By M. Pavelka

March 7, 2008 10:13 PM | [Link to this](#)

Let's explore the opportunity and go forward with something positive. While in Europe, I have traveled by rail many times which was a really nice convient experience. The U.S. has missed the boat by letting our rail system go down the tubes, thus wearing out our interstate system, beyond repair. This is and will continue to cost the taxpayers, and driving up taxes to the point that nobody will be able to afford a car, truck or any other type of transportation except rail. Make it happen!

By Julie

March 7, 2008 6:00 PM | [Link to this](#)

I think it's a great idea! This is just what we need to revive downtown Springfield.

By Oregon guy

March 7, 2008 5:50 PM | [Link to this](#)

It is going to be \$300,000 of wasted money. The idea is not new , It simply won't work. Amtrack is and will continue to be horrible and not reliable. It is totally subsidized by the fed now. Those who have jobs in different cities do not live or work near the trains stations. It will take them for ever to get to work. In a Amtrack it takes 11 hours to go from Portland OR to San Francisco. 6 by car. and it cost more than a plane. It will only work if it is public works project, never profit. More gvn

By Travis Aker

March 7, 2008 5:36 PM | [Link to this](#)

Having a train station in Springfield OH would be heaven on earth for me. That means I could travel to places a lot more and possibly find a better paying job without traveling an hour by car just to get there. That would greatly effect the economy in Springfield give it the boost we need. Plus I could possibly go see a Chicago Cubs game at Wrigely Field without spending a arm and leg for Gas woohoo I say it do it Springfield and the rest of the state of Ohio

By Tomas

March 7, 2008 4:16 PM | [Link to this](#)

I think it is long overdue and I will be among the first to ride it. Next January I have to go to Seattle and will ride the train from Chicago to avoid driving since I don't fly anymore. A connection to Chicago in the future would allow me to avoid the drive to Chicago. Bring it on!

By Judy

March 7, 2008 4:16 PM | [Link to this](#)

I think this is a wonderful plan for Springfield. I definitely would use the train.

By Tracy Logan

March 7, 2008 3:10 PM | [Link to this](#)

My extended family and I would definitely use this — we travel by train when possible, but that now means we first have to get to Cincinnati.

Rail travel is not only more comfortable than air travel, these days it also costs less and has minimal “security” delays. Rail is also far better for the environment — and with wifi and cell phones, you can get work done while commuting, or take a sleeper car (a hotel on wheels) and go to sleep in Ohio, then wake up in NYC.

Let's hope this happens!

By Brandon W

March 7, 2008 2:25 PM | [Link to this](#)

I think this is a great idea it would help with the revitalization of downtown. It would create jobs and be a good way of travel for teens and people with jobs in other cities since there are no good ones in Springfield.

By Zach

March 7, 2008 1:08 PM | [Link to this](#)

I think it's about time the people in Columbus started paying attention to OUR needs!!!! I think this has the potential to be a very good growth possibility for our community, bring jobs for people to service a train station here, and a nice potentially low cost transportation alternative to get to Columbus, Cincinnati and other parts of Ohio without having to drive.

By Rose

March 7, 2008 12:48 PM | [Link to this](#)

I believe that it is worth looking into, especially with all of the new changes coming to the downtown area. The Amtrak will open up greater possibilities with the bigger cities.

It's exciting!

By Carolyn

March 7, 2008 12:39 PM | [Link to this](#)

I think an Amtrak connection of Springfield to Cincinnati may improve social and business life between these cities. It sounds glamorous, adventurous and all...however, would it be economically feasible? I believe it's worth exploring the possibilities.

By HAROLD BROWN

March 7, 2008 12:25 PM | [Link to this](#)

Sounds like a good idea. South Florida has a Tri-Rail (3 Counties) that have a great rail service that runs between Magnolia Park above West Palm Beach to Miami Beach everyday and lots of times all day. When visiting FL I ride it just for fun. A lot of those that live there use it to get back and forth to work because of high traffic volume. They have done it for years with great success. It would also create some good jobs.

By C. Jones

March 7, 2008 11:48 AM | [Link to this](#)

I traveled several times by train in my childhood. A rail trip up to Cleveland sounds like a great weekend adventure. Let's do it.