



Last Stop

Effective Stimulus?

Eric Wolf, AMTRAN General Manager

Congress is debating a new economic stimulus package to jump start the economy. Among the many serious problems facing our country today, America is going to have to tackle the economic security issue of a crumbling public infrastructure.

Investment in transportation in general and public transit in particular can begin to address this nation-threatening problem.

Bi-partisan issue

Republicans like California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg as well as Democrats like President-elect Barack Obama and Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell are advocating a national effort to address re-building

America's public infrastructure. For our nation to compete in a global economy, we cannot continue to ignore this problem.

Benefits short & long term

In the short term, jobs are created when government invests in transportation infrastructure like highways and public transit. That is the goal of an economic stimulus package. (And of course, transportation jobs cannot be out-sourced to Bangalore, India.)

However as an additional benefit, improving transportation to move people and goods more efficiently makes our nation more competitive in the long term. Traffic congestion delays and long work commutes are an expensive drag on the economy.

In tough economic times, it is also worth noting that public transportation saves commuter customers \$6,200 per year in transportation costs on average.

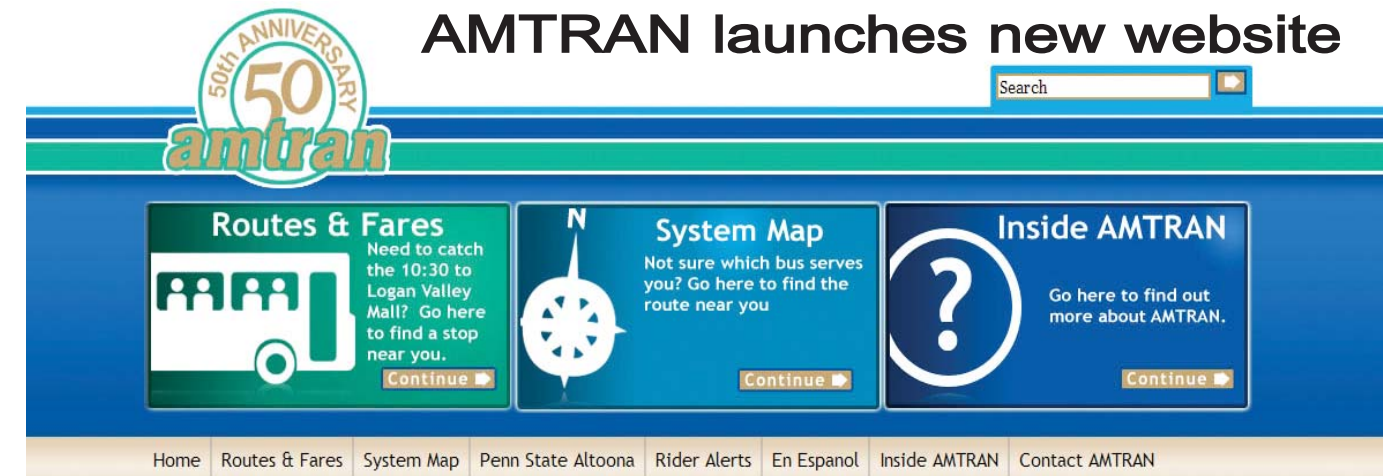
Ready to go?

For the stimulus package to work, most experts agree that the money needs to be injected into the economy without delay. At the state level, PennDOT has important highway and bridge projects that can be underway quickly. At the national level, the American Public Transportation Association has identified 500 transit projects worth \$8 billion that are "ready to go" within 90 days.

As Congress debates an economic stimulus package in the next few weeks, and as they address a new six-year transportation bill in 2009, we urge them to make public transit a higher priority.

amtran THE TRIP SHEET

Altoona, PA



AMTRAN recently launched a new website that is completely re-designed from the ground up and includes a "Rider Alert" feature to keep customers up-to-date about their bus routes.

Rider Alert Feature

In addition to posting maps and schedules for all AMTRAN routes, the new site includes a Rider Alert feature that enables customers to sign up to be instantly alerted by e-mail or mobile phone if there is a problem or a change to their bus routes. All they have to do is sign-up on the new AMTRAN website at www.amtran.org.

"Our service is very important to our customers," says Eric Wolf, General Manager. "They rely on us to be dependable. So if there is a road construction delay or a planned change to their route, they want to know about it. Our new Rider Alert feature enables us to stay in touch with them and keep them up to date on the bus routes that they use."

The customers can change their Rider Alert preferences or unsubscribe at any time. They are in control.

The new website was designed by inCommand Technologies, Inc. based in Corning, New York.

"We received a number of proposals from website developers," according to Wolf. "However, inCommand's content management system gives us the power to change and update the website ourselves quickly and easily. Keeping our website fresh is the key to getting our customers to return to it."

Technology Plan

The new website is part of AMTRAN's Multi-Year Technology Plan made possible through a technology grant through Congressman Bill Shuster.

Soon bus drivers will log in on the bus just once at the beginning of their shift. After that, the farebox, electronic sign, and GPS functions will all take place automatically so that the driver can concentrate on driving the bus with fewer distractions.

With the new system, customers will be able to receive "real-time" information via the web or through their mobile phone so that they know when the next bus will be arriving at their bus stop so they don't have to stand outside in the weather to wait for a bus.

Avail Technologies of State College was awarded the Smart Bus contract. They predict that many of these functions will be in place within six months.

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AMTRAN'S new website ... In This Issue

AMTRAN searching for a Development Partner for Roaring River Mills property

After more than a year of due diligence, AMTRAN completed the purchase of the former Roaring River Mills property on November 12.

AMTRAN will keep control of two buildings along 5th Avenue across from their bus garage. The remaining property, about 2.3 acres along 6th Avenue will be developed by private enterprise. (For more info, visit www.amtran.org.)

AMTRAN is considering plans to demolish the former Roaring River Mills building to clear the site for development. However, the transit authority will also entertain reputable offers to lease the existing 20,000 square foot building.

Through a lease, AMTRAN will receive revenue which can be used for day-to-day operations as outlined by the Federal Transit Administration's Joint Development Program.

Mountain Research and The EADS Group will obtain an Act 2 Special Industrial Clearance from the

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection so that the entire property can be re-developed.

The price AMTRAN paid for the property, including 3 buildings and 3.2 acres, was \$1,225,000 minus the actual cost of any environmental remediation, currently estimated at \$200,000. (The sales price is based on an independent appraisal.) The capital-only grants were through the efforts of Congressman Bill Shuster, Senator Arlen Specter, and Senator Bob Casey.

The property was owned by long-time Altoona businessman Norman Glucroft since 1962. However, it was originally part of the bus and trolley works for the Altoona & Logan Valley Electric Railway.

AMTRAN Chairman Scott Cessna expressed appreciation to the seller. Said Cessna, "Mr. Glucroft and his real estate broker, Jim Estep of Estep Realty, were very professional as well as extremely patient and cooperative as we shepherded this project through various federal and state agencies."



AMTRAN is looking for a private development partner for 2+ acres zoned Light Industrial available for commercial lease.

Altoona to State College Bus Service

AMTRAN continues to advance the possibility of daily bus service via motorcoach between Altoona and State College.

A new online survey is available at AMTRAN's website at www.amtran.org with tentative schedules and prices.

The new survey builds on an online survey that was conducted in August. The tentative schedule is based on feedback received from potential customers for the new bus service and includes two trips daily from Altoona to State College and two trips daily from State College to Altoona.

"We are working with a number of players to make this service a reality," says Eric Wolf, AMTRAN General Manager. "We hope to have a major announcement before the end of December."

Service Additions

AMTRAN has added service to some of its bus routes.

Additional morning trips

Based on customer feedback, AMTRAN is starting three of its regular routes 30 minutes earlier to help people take the bus to work. The Eldorado route will begin at 7:10 a.m. while the Fairview and Pleasant Valley routes will both begin at 7:00 a.m.

Ridership is good so far, particularly on the Fairview route.

Hollidaysburg/Duncansville

The Hollidaysburg and Duncansville routes now run non-stop from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. There is no longer an early afternoon "hole" in the schedule.

In addition, service to The Winds at Mattern Orchard and Graystone Court have been added to the Hollidaysburg route.

AMTRAN Relay for Life Team



AMTRAN's Relay for Life Team was recently recognized as a Bronze Level Team for their support of Central Blair County's 2008 event. Relay For Life is a life-changing event that brings together more than 3.5 million people nationwide to:

- Celebrate the lives of those who have battled cancer. The strength of survivors inspires others to continue to fight.
- Remember loved ones lost to the disease. At Relay, people who have walked alongside people battling cancer can grieve and find healing.
- Fight Back. We Relay because we have been touched by cancer and desperately want to put an end to the disease.

Relay For Life is the American Cancer Society's signature activity. It offers everyone in a community an opportunity to participate in the fight against cancer. Teams of people camp out at Mansion Park Stadium and take turns walking or running around the track. Each team is asked to have a representative on the track at all times during the 24-hour event.

AMTRAN's 2008 Team included Sharon Adams, Brenda Becker, Donna Edwards, Don Gallice, Michelle Gilbert, Lisa Hoover, Ray Kennedy, Karen McKinney, and Mary Truloender, plus family members.