HSR as Transit: The continuing transportation-driven evolution of metropolitan form Ryan J. Westrom and Joseph M. Sussman

Ed Glaeser: "Transportation technologies have always determined urban form."



Intraurban transport eras and metropolitan growth patterns: (I) Walking-Horsecar Era, (II) Electric Streetcar Era, (III) Recreational Auto Era, and (IV) Freeway Era. Source: Adams (1970, p. 56). Copyright 1970 by The Association of American Geographers. Adapted by permission.

> HSR Will Affect Metropolitan Form Scottish biologist Patrick Geddes introduced the idea of a regional transect that suggests each place in a region is dependent on the others, and the city on the hinterlands. He stated, "In short, it takes the whole region to make the city."

An added HSR link that reinforces these symbiotic relationships will support the development essential to continued metropolitan growth, and can transform the planning perspective leaders take. HSR links will transform the existing metropolitan form, and also allow for new growth via the linked communities in newly discontinuous functional metropolitan areas.





What development styles is HSR conducive to?

- 21st Century Garden Cities?
- **Transit-Oriented Development**
- New Urbanism

Typical door-to-door speed (mph)	Travel time per mile (minutes)
3	20
4	15
5	12
8	7.5
10	6
15	4
20	3
30	2
120	0.5
	Typical door-to-door speed (mph) 3 4 5 8 10 15 20 30 120



A closer look at four case cities home to potential future HSR systems— Coimbra and Leiria in Portugal and Champaign Urbana and Kankakee in Illinois within the U.S.A.—that will move within a principal city's commuting reach— Lisbon and Chicago, respectively.

Key Sources

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1964

High-speed rail







2 HSI nd σ Life of Quality



HSR as a transportation network fits well the design

Learning From Case Communities



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2. HSR Alone Will Not Bring Change

"High-speed rail's integration with local land use and mobility systems is critical if HSR is to be successful in supporting network-based agglomeration economies." – Naomi Stein

In the end, we do not invest in infrastructure as an end in itself. We do it for the benefits it brings, and with the benefits shown for these HSR systems, planners must accommodate this investment in a fashion that further leverages its potential.