

Letters to the editor: Bring on the light rail lines

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In response to the May 28 letter "Light rail will be the way to go," Grant Olson observes "we live on a Peninsula which can only accommodate so much asphalt and concrete paving." That is painfully obvious, and so much so, I'm surprised the state refuses to fund it. Light rail trains are good alternatives. Light rail systems use no fuel, as they're powered by overhead wire, and they're quiet. A single light rail train can accommodate as many people as a bus.

About the pre-existing CSX freight line: Hampton Roads Transit has already considered it a possible route (see hrtransit.org/lrt/index.asp). However, the CSX route doesn't go many places where people actually need to go. Light rail could never use the actual CSX track, which hosts 20,000-ton coal trains that plod along at 40 mph, as well as 70 mph Amtrak trains that could never stop in time to avoid collisions with something as small as a light rail train.

So let's lay out the light rail lines along the most heavily used highways so people can go grocery shopping, to hospitals, to work, to malls. Airport patrons could just step on or off the light rail train directly into the terminal.

Put light rail tracks along the major streets - Warwick Boulevard, Route 17, Jefferson Avenue and Mercury Boulevard - down the median strips, and so on. Roads and light rail working together would be a major help in easing congestion in the area.

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