

Letters to the editor: Light rail will be the way to go

May 28 2004 – Daily Press

Quoting Hampton Roads Transit President Michael Townes, recent articles in the Daily Press have indicated that light rail transit coming to the Peninsula is improbable. Given current and projected needs to move people and goods in our area, we may ask, "Are there better alternatives?"

More highways have been built here and existing ones expanded, and they soon exceed their rated capacity. Additionally, we live on a peninsula which can only accommodate so much asphalt and concrete paving.

While not completely analogous, consider for a moment other metropolitan communities where waterways represent constricting features. New York has an extensive subway system; San Francisco, Oakland and San Jose are linked with both Caltran and BART. Our population does not approach these, yet we anticipate and encourage growth, so why not be foresighted in our transportation planning?

The fact that we have an existing CSX rail bed, which could be utilized with appropriate negotiation and vision, should be an added incentive.

Light rail may not be available tomorrow, but it could be instrumental in assisting in the personal and commercial comfort and health of the Peninsula's future.

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