



**Ninth Joint Conference on
Light Rail Transit**

**Experience, Economics & Evolution
*From Starter Lines to Growing Systems***

Portland, Oregon
November 16-18, 2003

Call for Papers

Abstracts Due September 15, 2002

Sponsored by the

**American Public Transportation Association
and the
Transportation Research Board**



Introduction

Planning is underway for the Ninth Joint Conference on Light Rail Transit to be held in Portland, Oregon November 16-28, 2003.

The Conference program will be developed by a joint Steering Committee of the TRB Committee on Light Rail Transit (John Schumann, Chair) and the APTA Light Rail Transit Technical Forum (Melvin Clark, Chair). The Chair of the Steering Committee is John Schumann.

The Eighth Conference was in Dallas Texas in 2000 with the theme: "Light Rail: Investment for the Future."

The theme for the Ninth Conference is **Experience, Economics & Evolution: From Starter Lines to Growing Systems.**

PROPOSED SESSION TOPICS (Related topics are invited)

Potential session and paper topics are:

- *Updates-North American & International Systems*
- *LRT in a Post Reauthorization World*
- *How are we doing? A critique of LRT progress*
 - Lessons learned from maturing systems
 - Changes in system productivity
 - Affordability and efficiency trends
 - Public attitudes and perceptions of LRT
- *Planning/Project Management*
 - System planning
 - LRT Design – How much is enough?
 - Project financing and contracting alternatives
 - Intermodal coordination
 - Transit oriented development
 - Shared track/shared corridors
 - LRT, DMU, BRT & other modes
 - Serving niche markets and special generators
 - Lessons learned in designing coordinated bus/rail systems
 - Lessons learned in providing park and ride capacity
 - Station area planning
- *LRT and Economic Development*
 - LRT and urban revitalization
 - Complementary planning initiatives to leverage LRT investments
 - Historic trolleys, streetcars and economic impacts
- *Technical Considerations*
 - Light rail vehicles
 - Power & signal
 - Track & infrastructure
 - Stations & terminals

- Yards & shops
- "Cordless" LRT (DMU's, etc.)
- Standards/standardization
- *Traffic Engineering and Safety*
 - ITS (Intelligent Transportation Systems) applications
 - Vehicle and pedestrian traffic interface, coordination, integration
- *Safety and Security*
 - LRT system & passenger security
 - CPTED (crime prevention through environmental design)
 - Onboard enforcement
 - LRT security precautions
 - The role of LRT in transportation system security
- *Fare Policy and Collection*
 - Pricing trends and impacts
 - Evolving technologies
 - Enforcement best practices
 - Bus/rail service/fare integration
- *Regulations and Institutional Issues*
 - State safety oversight
 - Shared track/integrating modes
 - Operations and maintenance
 - MUTCD (Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices)
 - Section 13c - Federal Transit Labor Laws
 - Governance structure to enable LRT system development
 - Bus/rail service/fare integration
- *Operations and Maintenance*
 - Rules and procedures development
 - Staffing strategies
 - Accommodating travel demand for special events
 - Best practices

Subcommittee on Call for Papers

Thomas Hickey, Consultant
Frank Loetterle, Metropolitan Council
John Schumann, LTK Engineering Services
Steven Polzin, Center for Urban
Transportation Research
Gregory L. Thompson, Florida State
University

What Is Light Rail Transit?

TRB's Definition. Light rail transit is a metropolitan electric railway system characterized by its ability to operate single cars or short trains along exclusive rights of way at ground level, on aerial structures, in subways or, occasionally, in streets, and to board and discharge passengers at track or car-floor level.

