

Ohio Should Get Aboard Tubular Rail – Why?

Jobs, Jobs, Jobs!



Ohio has an opportunity to become the center of a new industry – built around the Tubular Rail technology. Tubular Rail is a highly innovative new transportation system. It uses airspace rather than tracks on the ground to move passengers to their destinations. The Discovery Channel's current series on life in the future, *FutureWorld*, includes Tubular Rail in its segment on innovations in the train industry. Tubular Rail's technology can be

viewed at its website, www.tubularrail.com.

Ohio is the perfect place to launch a new transportation industry, with its balance of population, large cities within 150 miles of each other, a still formidable manufacturing base, a highly educated work force, and the desire to become a world leader in new materials, including polymers. This “trackless train” technology can give birth of a new industry as promising, profitable and profound as aerospace and automotive. Ohio workers and engineers who have lost jobs in those industries are ready for Tubular Rail.

Tubular Rail inventor and Company President Robert Pulliam and his director of Ohio operations, John Michael Spinelli, have been working behind the scenes for weeks to introduce the system to key people in the state. In the past several weeks, Spinelli has contacted Governor Ted Strickland's office, the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, the Ohio Rail Development Commission, high-level officials with academic and planning institutions, city development agencies and transportation authorities, who have all marveled at the visionary aspects of the system and who also expressed an interest to learn more.

Tubular Rail was most recently presented to the chief of staff for Ohio Congressman Marcy Kaptur, a proponent of mass transit who is involved with a proposed passenger rail system between Detroit and Toledo and with a new deep water port in Halifax, Nova Scotia, that will bring many more ship containers to the Port of Toledo and who is the senior ranking minority member on the US House Appropriations Committee.



Ohio needs these leaders to get on board.



An economic development specialist and former executive with the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce who was instrumental in urban developments like the Short North in Columbus, Spinelli says he's looking for a new *Kitty Hawk* in Ohio. Legendary Ohio heroes, Orville and Wilbur Wright, launched the aviation industry that took flight at the turn of the 20th century. Ohio is ready to launch another new future.

Pulliam said his Ohio director is correct in believing a *Kitty Hawk* can be found in Ohio to test fly and build this trackless train technology. Just as the Wright Brothers did in 1902 when they retreated to a desolate but breezy beach in North Carolina to launch an idea built in the back of their Dayton bicycle shop that changed the world forever, Pulliam and Spinelli believe Ohio has another chance, a century later, to give birth to another new industry. Once Ohio workers build it for themselves, they can continue to build it for other states and the rest of the world.

“Jobs and prosperity can return to Ohio in the near future,” Pulliam said. “Tubular Rail technology is here. All the jobs associated with retrofitting a dense and dynamic state like Ohio with our visionary, affordable and effective technology can be created in Ohio.”

“As an Ohioan, I am keenly aware that Ohio can benefit from the game changing technology Tubular Rail offers to connect cities and regions like never before with existing technology reorganized in a way that solves the costly problems other train schemes like high-speed or light rail must confront,” said Spinelli. “I want to see Ohio get in at the beginning of this transportation revolution.”



Tubular Rail technology should be built for \$20 million per mile, a steep reduction from current costs for other “steel on steel” or magnetic levitation technologies, which range from \$60-100 million per mile for the former and as much as \$150 million per mile for the latter.

The high cost of train construction, which is expected to spin even higher, is the most important reason why Ohio has not one mile of high-speed passenger rail, despite having funded multiple studies for rail hub plans through the Ohio Rail Development Authority, which carries on the work of the Ohio High Speed Rail Development Authority, started nearly 40 years ago.

Spinelli will be attending a conference in Columbus whose theme and focus is the state's role in revitalizing Ohio's core communities. The one-day policy summit event, co-sponsored by the Brookings Institution, a Washington policy center, and Greater Ohio, a group focused on issues of smart growth and land use planning, will feature

experts in various fields. Gov. Strickland and Lt. Gov Lee Fisher, who also oversees the Ohio Department of Development, will make feature presentations.



Strickland released last week a new plan to create jobs and revitalize a state that has been battered with job losses, especially in manufacturing. In light of what Strickland and Fisher have outlined as their methods to turn around Ohio and return it to prosperity again, Pulliam thinks Tubular Rail technology can contribute considerably to each of the breakout sessions, including neighborhood revitalization, workforce development, transportation investments, economic development and regional solutions. “A Tubular Rail industry can play a part each of them,” he said, noting that the reduced capital cost of his system enables it to be built instead of just talked about as is happening with other train systems that may take years and years to build after the tens of billions in funding that will be needed is secured.

“We are a small start-up company trying to break into a capital intensive industry, and we feel the only way can compete with global multinationals like Siemens, for example, is to partner with an area that wants jobs,” Pulliam said about his interest in pursuing a public-private partnership to reach his goal. “We are David with many Goliath’s out there,” said Pulliam, who wants state officials to lend a coordinating hand, so he can find the Ohio companies that can build his innovative system. “We need a consortium of Ohio companies to manufacture Tubular Rail’s component parts and partnering with Ohio cities where Tubular Rail can be integrated into existing systems. The export potential is also enormous as developing economies like China and India face their increasing transportation needs. If a state like Ohio doesn’t take the lead, we’ll see China or India grab it away.”

Tubular Rail will set Ohio apart from all other states. If we invest in a new transportation innovation and create an infrastructure we can make Ohio more competitive, connect regions and cities like never before, and deliver just-in-time jobs to a state struggling to stake out a brighter future for working families who want to find their slice of the American Dream in Ohio.