



Regional Plan Association

... a research and planning agency supported by voluntary membership to promote the coordinated development of the New York- New Jersey-Connecticut Metropolitan Region.

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NEW YORKER'S ANALYSIS BACKS LOS ANGELES' SUBWAY PLANS

A New Yorker's analysis will be a major argument in Los Angeles' case for a subway line down Wilshire Boulevard. A \$2 billion grant proposal will be voted on Monday, December 19, by the Southern California Rapid Transit District for submission to the federal government.

The analysis (enclosed) is by Boris Pushkarev, Regional Plan Association's Vice President for Research and Planning, whose national study for the U.S. Department of Transportation, Urban Rail in America, identified Los Angeles as one of four U.S. cities in which full-scale rapid transit could be economically justified. The study was published by Indiana University Press in 1982.

Mr. Pushkarev's Los Angeles paper was released by the Greater Los Angeles Transportation Coalition, a public/private partnership in support of the Wilshire subway proposal.

"Regional Plan Association's national rail research is unusual; we normally confine our study to the 13,000 square mile tri-state urban region from Trenton to New Haven," Mr. Pushkarev explained. "But we recognized that national support for rebuilding our Region's rail transportation depends on wider public recognition of rail's role in urban transit. The existing rail cities--primarily New York-New Jersey, Philadelphia, Chicago

and Boston--are areas of declining political influence in Washington. Joined by sun-belt cities Los Angeles, Dallas and Houston, which can efficiently use rail transit or light rail, and with the new rail transit cities of Washington, Baltimore, Atlanta, Miami and San Francisco, our Region is more likely to maintain appropriate national support. New York and other Eastern cities have a hard time getting a hearing before Congress and the U.S. Department of Transportation. With more of the West and South finding rail service valuable, the case will be better heard.

"Our analysis shows even more economic justification for extending rail service in this Region than for new rail lines in other cities--so making their case also makes ours," Mr. Pushkarev concluded.

Regional Plan Association, the nation's oldest regional planning body, is a nonprofit civic organization whose research leads to recommendations not only on transportation but on job location, housing, urban design, and economic development.

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