

GNWPRS Winter Passenger Rail Gathering
Centralia, WA
December 9, 2023

Why High-Tech Driving Doesn't Solve Traffic, and Why a Robust Rail Network is a Better Alternative

Peter Norton, Ph.D, will be giving a presentation about why improvements to automobile technology can't solve the fundamental underlying problems of a highly car-dependent society, based on research from his books *Autonorama: The Illusory Promise of High-Tech Driving* and *Fighting Traffic: The Dawn of the Motor Age in the American City*. Following will be a presentation by Meredith Richards about how Virginia has discovered rail's ability to increase transportation capacity at a fraction of the cost of continued road-building.

Keynote Speakers

Peter Norton Ph. D. is associate professor of history in the Department of Engineering and Society at the University of Virginia, where he teaches history of technology, social dimensions of engineering, research, and professional ethics. He is the author of *Fighting Traffic: The Dawn of the Motor Age in the American City* (MIT Press), and of *Autonorama: The Illusory Promise of High-Tech Driving* (Island Press, 2021).

Meredith Richards is President of the Virginia Rail Policy Institute, Board Chair of the Rail Passengers Association, and former President of Virginians for High Speed Rail. She has a long history in rail advocacy and community involvement, including serving on the Charlottesville City Council and over 30 years involvement in public boards and commissions relating to transportation planning, municipal government, economic development and land use.

Hosted by All Aboard Washington, The Association of Oregon Rail and Transit Advocates, All Aboard Northwest, and the Northwest Region of the Rail Passengers Association.

Agenda

10:00 - 10:30 am

Next-Generation Passenger Rail Equipment and Schedule

- Jason Biggs and Kirk Fredrickson, WSDOT
- Kathy Holmes, ODOT (remote)
- Chase Kitchen, Amtrak (remote)

10:30 - 10:55 am

More Trains and Funding: FRA Grant Opportunities, Long-Distance Study, Rail Projects

- Dan Bilka, All Aboard Northwest, Moderator (remote)
- Alan Adolf, Yakima Valley Conference of Governments (remote)
- Mike Christensen, UtahRPA (remote)
- Chris Smith, Just Crossing Alliance

11:00 - 11:55 am

Keynote Addresses: Why High-Tech Driving Doesn't Solve Traffic, and Why a Robust Rail Network is a Better Alternative

- Dr. Peter Norton, University of Virginia
- Meredith Richards, Virginia Rail Policy Institute and Rail Passengers Association

12:00 noon

Lunch and Business Meetings

- Breakout Session 1: AORTA Annual Meeting
- Breakout Session 2: AAWA Annual Meeting

12:45 - 1:40 pm

2024 State Legislative Agendas

- Luis Moscoso, AAWA/AORTA, Moderator
- Sen. Jeff Wilson, WA Legislature
- Sen. Chris Gorsek, OR Legislature

1:45 - 2:25 pm

Transportation Equity and Accessibility

- Hollyanna Littlebull, NW Tribal Transportation Assistance Program, UW (remote)
- Cecilia Black and Amara Schermerhorn, Disability Mobility Initiative

2:30 - 3:45 pm

Dreams Into Reality: Building Coalitions, Creating Effective Community Outreach

- Charles Hamilton, AAWA/AANW, Moderator
- Cecilia Black and Amara Schermerhorn, Disability Mobility Initiative
- Mike Christensen, UtahRPA (remote)
- Dr. Breck Lebegue, Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility and Gleb Sych, Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences (remote)
- Tim Gould, Sierra Club
- Mary Paterson, Rail Can't Wait
- Spring Bartlett, Panhandle for Passenger Rail (remote)