

March 16-22 Comment to the Transportation Work Group

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From: gus ricca
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2008 5:08 PM
Subject: Global Warming Task Force Comments

We need to halt and reduce greenhouse gases from transportation which add significantly to climate destruction. You read it right: CLIMATE DESTRUCTION.

Do not widen I-94 from Milwaukee to Illinois!
It's an absurd proposal that only benefits large highway builders, speeders and aggressive drivers.

More passenger trains, please! Commit the money for Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee commuter rail.
Plus initiate commuter trains for Milwaukee, Madison and other communities that request them.

Light Rail is a proven alternative to congestion in our cities. Installation of Light Rail increases the value of the properties on the routes. Right-wingers are scared to death of it. That's their problem.
We want leadership, not spineless excuse-makers.

Support and build our part of the Midwest Regional Rail Initiative. We need a train to Madison and Green Bay urgently.
Don't let the stallers hold it back.

Wisconsin needs to get more freight back onto the rails. Freight and passenger railroading are most compatible. Wisconsin has a very long history with the Milwaukee Road, Chicago & Northwestern and the Soo Line to prove it.

It is highly inefficient to transport so much non-perishable goods on the roadways.

Gus Ricca
Shorewood, Wisconsin

From: Hans Noeldner
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2008 12:36 PM
Subject: Bio-energy and EROEI

Dear GTFGW Co-Chairs:

It is essential that a standardized definition (or standardized definitions) of "energy returned on energy invested" (EROEI) be applied to bio-energy sources. For example, an EROEI of 8:1 for sugar-cane based ethanol has been widely cited, but this calculation ignores the energy value of the bagasse which is used to power the distillation plants. The short posting below – and first subsequent comment – do a fine job of clarifying the matter:

<http://www.theoildrum.com/node/3707>

Hans Noeldner
Oregon, WI

From: Lisa D Hustad
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2008 2:11 PM
Subject: Support Bikepaths to Decrease Driving

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment on Governor Doyle's Task Force on Global Warming. Please support the development of using existing railroad tracks to create bike trails in service areas where there is the potential to reduce or eliminate a significant number of daily commuter trips currently being made by gas combustion vehicles. Gas combustion vehicles threaten Wisconsin's wellbeing by increasing global warming and by adding to the already unhealthy level of particulate ambient air pollution. Polluting commuter traffic on Highway 14, Highway M, and Fish Hatchery Road could be decreased dramatically by supporting the creation of a bike trail on the railroad track that is currently owned by the City of Fitchburg and the Village of Oregon.

If the number of commuters taken off the road is a piece of the TE formula, concentrating on creating a bike trail on the line from Brooklyn to Fitchburg and Madison would be a 'no brainer' means to get a significant number of cars off the road while providing incredible potential for business, jobs, and tourism growth using the railroad owned by the City of Fitchburg and the Village of Oregon because it has access to some of the most desirable locations in Madison: the downtown, convention center, UW Stadium, UW Madison, and University Hospitals and Clinics. The potential for taking a significant number of gas combustion vehicle off the road would be significant! Additionally, there would be tremendous opportunity to grow jobs and interest in biking tourism in Dane County.

There is someone already working on a bike trail conversion of the railroad that would support the future use of commuter rail too! Heidi Fischer, FOB Trial Advocates Chair Person, has requested a copy of the TE application and I strongly support her efforts, using inter-municipal support and organizing of volunteers to create a bike/pedestrian trail that connects Brooklyn, Town of Oregon Village of Oregon, with connection to Fitchburg and Madison as well, along a rail corridor (Rails and Trails). She is also planning on submitting for the Federal Earmark through Tammy Baldwin as they did in the last year. Heidi can be reached at: , and her mailing address is, Brooklyn, WI.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to provide public comment to the Governor's Task Force on Global Warming.

Sincerely,
Lisa D.Hustad
Representing, Preserve Oregon

From: Lisa Hustad
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2008 3:03 PM
Subject: Additional Public Comment on Governor's Task Force on Global Warming

Another very important reason to create non gas combustion routes of transportation is the dangerous increase in particulate ambient air pollution in Dane County. There has been a record number of air quality warning days in 2008 and 2007 that threaten the health and well being of all of us and especially those with, "People with lung diseases such as asthma and bronchitis, and heart disease should pay attention to cardiac symptoms like chest pain and shortness of breath or respiratory symptoms like coughing, wheezing and discomfort when taking a breath, and consult with their physician if they have concerns or are experiencing symptoms. Fine particle pollution deposits itself deep into the lungs and cannot easily be exhaled. People who are at risk are particularly vulnerable after several days of high particle pollution exposure.

To receive air quality advisories by e-mail, visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/air/newsletters/>.

There are several actions the public can take to reduce their contributions to this regional air quality problem.

- Reduce driving when possible and don't leave vehicle engines idling.
- Postpone activities that use small gasoline and diesel engines." Who, but the DNR, can write this critical information so clearly. Please support creating a bike trail on the railroad currently owned by the City of Fitchburg and the Village of Oregon.

Sincerely,
Preserve Oregon Representative,
Lisa D. Hustad