

February 9, 2019

COMMERCIALIZATION OF ADVANCED, VERY HIGH-SPEED  
TRANSPORT TECHNOLOGIES: OPEN CALL FOR SHOT-MILAN, 2019

I am looking for colleagues interested in developing and/or contributing to an edited volume, or special journal issue, concerning the history and political economy of how, when, where, and why the most advanced forms of high-speed passenger transport have, or have not, been adopted. This is an initial and general formulation for the proposed volume or special issue, which will evolve as colleagues add their suggestions and the project moves forward.

A step towards implementing this project was taken at SHOT-St. Louis, 2018. Papers were presented on the history and political economy of the American government-Grumman Aerospace Corporation's *Tracked Air Cushion (frictionless) Vehicle*; Japan's *Maglev* (magnetic levitation) technology (also proposed by a Japanese-led consortium for the Washington, D.C. to New York corridor in the U.S.); the British-French supersonic *Concorde* aircraft (recently revived by Boeing as a private business jet plane); and Elon Musk and Richard Branson's *Hyperloop* underground, vacuum tube transport systems. These papers raise questions, such as why American corporations, such as Grumman, Rohr, and Budd, which were once the most technologically advanced in the world, withdrew from the high speed transport market by the late 1970's; how Japan and China used international technology transfers to achieve leadership in high speed technology, in the 1980's and thereafter; and how and why achieving ever-higher speed, as opposed to adopting lower speed technologies, has been central to state and private corporate planning and policy over the long history of air, land, sea, and underground passenger transportation.

A further step moving the proposed volume or special journal issue forward will be publicizing, discussing, and refining it with colleagues at SHOT-Milan. Specifically, I plan to develop—and am open to help on this from interested colleagues—a sophisticated “Poster” of videos and text, projected on a screen in a continuous loop, providing information about advanced, high speed technologies. In addition, SHOT will schedule a formal session on its Conference Program, where colleagues interested in the edited volume/journal issue, can get together to discuss

this project.

Please contact me if you are either interested in learning more about the proposed volume or journal issue; and/or interested in contributing to the combined video and text “Poster” and discussion session at SHOT-Milan; and/or if you know colleagues who will not be at SHOT, but might be interested in this project. Thank you. [jcohen@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:jcohen@jjay.cuny.edu) Jim Cohen, Ph.D., Director, Research Initiatives, Institute for Transportation Systems, The City University of New York (CUNY).