



RAIL TECHNOLOGY

Characteristics of Commuter Rail

- Trains may consist of a locomotive pulling passenger coaches, electric-powered multiple units or diesel-powered self-propelled multiple units
- Commuter rail provides service between a center city and outer surrounding suburb
- Stations are generally spaced between two and five miles apart
- Alignments stretch 20 to 125 miles
- Can accommodate 400 to 5,200 people per hour
- Riders are characteristically people who commute from outlying areas to a central city or vice versa
- Trains often operate only during the peak periods
- Average travel speeds range from 30 to 60 miles per hour, including stops
- Differing from light rail or bus rapid transit, commuter rail vehicles are larger and provide more seating and less standing room due to the longer commute time involved
- Commuter rail services may share trackage with freight rail providers

