

2013 SEMINAR PROGRAMME

Wednesday, 20th February - 5:30pm

Room 401

Bartlett School of Planning - UCL

*Robert Ravelli**

Private Consultant

High Speed Rail in the US: The Northeast Corridor Upgrade Project and its environmental impact

The Northeast of the USA from Washington, DC to Boston, Massachusetts passes through 9 States and contains 17% of the US population on just 2% of its land area. Passenger rail service in the Northeast Corridor is the busiest part of the Amtrak system with the most frequency of service and the highest speeds. However, it still does not match the high speed rail of European services such as Eurostar and TGV.

The Federal government, affected States and Amtrak are exploring how to invest in the Corridor over the next 20 to 30 years to bring it up to 21st century high speed standards. This talk will describe the current state of the rail service and describe the current plans and projects that will transform the corridor over the next decade or more as well as highlight the challenges facing the project.

The redevelopment of t New York's Penn Station, a key piece of the Corridor will also be discussed.

* Mr. Ravelli has been a planner for more than twenty years in the USA, UK and Australia. He earned a Master's degree in City Planning from the University of Pennsylvania. He is based in London and advises the public and private sectors through his international best practice experience in the fields of sustainable transport strategies, master planning linking transport and land use, travel demand management, the impact of transport on public health and creating outreach campaigns to affect transport mode behaviour change. He advised the City of Moscow, Russia looking at urban extensions, transport policy and regenerating old industrial sites. He was an Assistant Deputy Mayor for the City of Philadelphia Mayor's Office of Transportation for 8 years. He provided policy analysis and project management on transportation and planning issues and performed impact studies. These studies included extensions to subway and light rail lines and station area plans along a new rail line. He is the author of the "Car-Free" transit guide series for New York and Philadelphia.

All are welcome and participation is free.

Further details about the OMEGA Seminar Programme can be found on the OMEGA Centre's web site (<http://www.omegacentre.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/outputs/seminar2.php>).

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