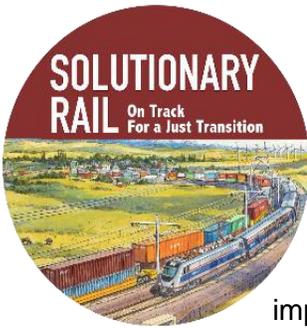


Welcome to “Railbite” #7 from Solutionary Rail
Electrify America’s railroads ~ Open up the rail corridors for green-energy transmission!



**Health Benefits of Electrification to Communities
near Train, Truck, and Shipyards**

The current freight transport system has caused an environmental justice crisis for the many communities and workers exposed directly to transportation air pollution. Solutionary Rail is a plan to electrify America’s railroads using renewable energy – for both freight and passenger trains – that provides solutions to this crisis. Shifting the business model for freight from trucks to trains – especially electrified trains -- will improve the health of people living near and working at freight transportation hubs.

People and health:

- 13 million people live near major marine ports and rail yards, in low-income communities of color.
- These communities are highly vulnerable to climate change impacts and to toxic air pollution -- CO₂ and Black Carbon – produced by the diesel-powered vehicles and equipment currently used by the freight industry.
- Black Carbon is a fine particulate matter and short-lived climate pollutant that has a very high global warming potential – some estimate over 600 times higher than CO₂.
- Epidemiologic studies consistently show that children and adults living close to freight transportation hubs and corridors have elevated health problems, including asthma, poor lung development, lung cancer, cardiovascular disease, preterm births and infants with low birth weight, and premature death.
- How long will we continue to sacrifice the health of these communities?



Health advantages of electrifying our transportation infrastructure:

- **An electrified railroad** relying on overhead powerlines will allow more freight to be transported by train – with **zero CO₂ and black carbon emissions**.
- **Ships** that plug into shore-electricity while in port will reduce their carbon footprint and avoid harming the health of nearby communities and workers.
- **Battery-powered trucks** that transport goods for the “first” and “last miles” – connecting farms, towns, and cities not on rail lines – will also be important for better community health and a smaller carbon footprint. **But we should not rely on battery-powered trucks for long distances, given the environmental and health impacts of battery production and recycling.**

More on these issues at www.solutionaryrail.org/factsnfalsesolutions and www.solutionaryrail.org/video

Legislators and policymakers have a lot of information to sort through – we hope our “Railbites” will help you gather essential information about modernizing and electrifying our transportation infrastructure. Please use us as a resource! Contact info@solutionaryrail.org or 206-408-8058.