

Sharing the same tracks is not 'a disaster waiting to happen'

Peter Quinn may be a good businessman, but his comments (1/22/03) on the Schuylkill Valley rail project are ignorant at best.

He claims having passenger and freight trains on the same track is "a disaster waiting to happen." Quick, we'd better shut down the SEPTA R6 Norristown line, and the West Trenton and Fox Chase lines too!

We realize SEPTA tends to do its own thing many a time, but in the real world, passenger trains and freight trains safely share tracks every day, on Amtrak lines and commuter lines from sea to shining sea. Only SEPTA seems to have a problem with this concept.

Like everyone else associated with railroading, we take safety very seriously. That's why we support PennDOT's plan for an affordable Schuylkill Valley passenger service using the existing tracks. It can be built all the way to Reading, and it can be built now.

Continuing to pursue this MetroRail folly will actually worsen transportation safety, because the region can only afford to build a fraction of the MetroRail, leaving many people to drive their cars on 422 instead of taking the train.

Donald Nigro
President
mail@dvarp.org

Note: The above letter also was run in the Norristown *Times Herald* on February 7, 2004 in response to the *Times Herald's* January 23, 2004 reprint of *The Phoenix's* January 22, 2004 article. The *Times Herald* gave the letter the follow headline:

Use existing tracks; 'folly' will worsen traffic safety