OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE A COURSE
BEING FILMED FOR A DOCUMENTARY

PPS 493/593: Future Issues in U.S. Rail Transportation     Tuesdays 5:00-7:30 p.m.
The ‘Think Tank’ at Café Ventana

For students in Public Policy Studies, Law, Political Science, Engineering, and Urban Sociology. Seniors and graduate students are invited to enroll, subject to approval of the course developer, Donald Stump (stump@slu.edu).

The nature of the course: Film Director Jim Scott is developing a 1½-hour television special on the future of rail in the U.S. The course will cover the

- **Role of rail in future national development** and the need to better integrate heavy rail, light rail, truck, auto, and air transportation
- **Environmental and economic benefits**, including higher efficiency and lower energy use and carbon emissions linked to global warming
- **New technologies**, including high-speed trains, electrical grids, state-of-the-art tracks, and infrastructure
- **Legal issues and legislative priorities** for public and private use of land for corridors and hubs
- **Political challenges**, including the competing interests of urban, suburban, and rural areas and resistance to local, state, and federal initiatives involving public investments.

In the course—which is being jointly developed by SLU’s Urban Project and HEC-TV, with funding from the BNSF Foundation--students will

- Study the pressures that will lead to the expansion of rail in coming decades
- Hear and discuss lectures by experts from SLU, the St. Louis region, and the Rail Transportation and Engineering Center at the University of Illinois
- View interviews with prominent officials, including former Missouri Governor Bob Holden, former Chief Justice of the Missouri Supreme Court Michael Wolff, and Executive Director Richard Harnish of the Midwest High-Speed Rail Association
- Observe Jim Scott’s documentary film in the making. A camera crew will record each lecture and selected discussions.

If you’re interested, please contact Donald Stump (stump@slu.edu). Include email, a phone number, and times when you can be reached.

The vision behind the course: By 2050, U.S. population is expected to rise by 100 million, dramatically increasing demand for transportation. At the same time, worldwide demand for carbon-based fuels will rise exponentially, driving the costs of moving goods and people dramatically higher. Rail—particularly electric rail—is the most efficient form of transportation to meet that need.

At the moment, innovation in low carbon, sustainable rail transportation is dominated by other countries, leaving America in danger of falling behind in new technologies and a major worldwide market. Under these circumstances, the need for greatly expanded research and development addressing rail systems and corridors is urgent, as are initiatives to improve public awareness of the environmental and economic impacts.