

Project: The Future of Intercity Passenger Transportation

Client: The Indiana Center for Research on Energy and the Environment

Term: Spring 2011

Faculty Mentors: Professor James Oster & Professor J.C. Randolph

Summary:

The SPEA Capstone team explored the future of intercity passenger transportation in the United States and forecasted the share of travel completed in 2060 by four modes—air, auto, bus, and rail. The report predicted mode share in 2060 to remain similar to that in 2009, with the exception of a shift from air to auto travel at the intermediate distance of 500 miles. High-speed rail is predicted to only capture mode share with high levels of subsidization. Carbon pricing, even at high levels, should not strongly impact customer mode choice.