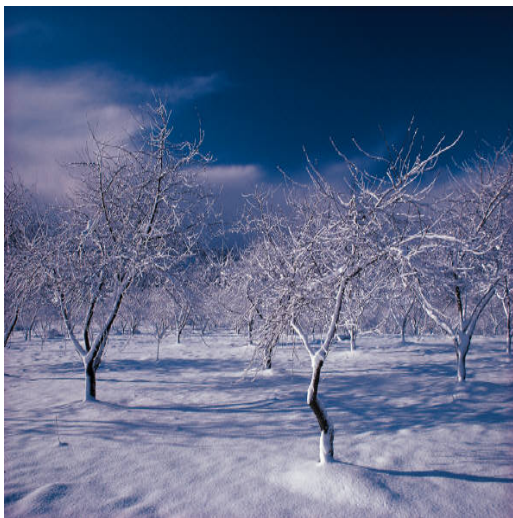


## Finding Love on the MBTA

Missed connections on the subway and bus

page 2



## Table of Contents

### Page 1

About TranSComm  
Table of Contents

### Page 2

*Valentine Matches on the MBTA*

### Page 3

*Green America:  
A Series on Why  
We Need PEVs*

### Page 4

Upcoming Events  
Contact Info



## GREEN MOBILE NEWS

## About TranSComm

**Transportation Solutions for Commuters, Inc (TranSComm)** is a transportation management association (TMA) that coordinates the transportation needs at BUMC and in the Albany Street neighborhood of Boston's lower South End. TranSComm develops employee programs that promote alternatives to driving alone and enhances accessibility in our

neighborhood.

TranSComm is a pro-active organization committed to working collaboratively with local, state and federal agencies to propose and implement transportation options for the Medical Center, its affiliates, and the South End community.



## Valentine Matches on the MBTA

BY LISA ZHANG

With Valentine's month in full swing, the anticipation to meet a romantic match for this sweetheart month is frantically upon us. One of the ways we suggest for those who are still single and looking for a match is Boston's public transportation system.

Labeled as the T's most romantic stop, Park Street Station, which runs near Boston's downtown area, is center for romantic encounters. More than often, a T-rider would catch the eye of a stranger and give out a small smile of attraction. Paul Gerrish, an MBTA employee who met his wife while riding the T, commented in the Metro newspaper, "On a train, people are stuck. People are waiting and they start conversations. ... We see people striking up conversations and part of you

is curious if anything comes of it." And this happens often. Jam packed and cluttered onto trains in the morning and afternoon rush hours, people are likely to strike up conversations, sometimes about their frustration with the T or comment on a particular book an attractive member of the opposite sex is reading — often in the hopes that it could potentially lead to a romantic aftermath. Especially in the midst of a train break down or delay (which occurs often), people are induced to make a move while being crammed and stuck on the T.

Referenced in several articles, a Craigslist Missed Connection post study reported at least 200 of these "eye-catching" encounters in a span of 3 months in Boston, while a similar study in Chicago reported 250 missed

connections in a span of four weeks. Train stations were ranked under a "Train Romance Index Score Total" or TRIST for short, which is calculated by dividing the number of missed connections for a particular station or line by the average number of riders a year who would use that particular station or line, and then multiplying by 10,000 and rounding to two decimal places. For Boston's public subway, Park Street was ranked most romantic, with Davis, Harvard, and Downtown Crossing respectively drawing close.

With romance in the air, love will strike anywhere—even on the T. So during this month of February, put down that book you are reading on the T, look around, and...smile.





## Green America --- A Series on Why We Need PEVs

BY DEEDEE SUN

In his State of the Union speech, President Obama set a goal for America to "break our dependence on oil with biofuels, and become the first country to have a million electric vehicles on the road by 2015."

Even those who disagree with the evidence on climate change and global warming must acknowledge the fact that given the rate we consume petroleum, we will soon run out. The U.S. is by far the largest consumer of petroleum. At the rate of about 20 *million* barrels of oil per day, we form 25% of the entire world's daily consumption! The next highest consumer is China, at a mere 8 million barrels per day.

Plug-in Electric Vehicles, or PEVs, can help relieve this consumption problem.

A 13-member panel evaluated the target of 1 million PEVs by 2015, and one of the biggest potential roadblocks to reaching the goal is the "general lack of consumer understanding of PEVs." If people don't understand how PEVs work and the benefits of owning one, they have no trust and therefore, no demand for the product.

Those who are money conscious should know that the government currently gives PEV buyers \$7,500 in tax credit. Additionally, bill number S. 3815 in Congress proposes to more than *double* the tax credit amount.

Nissan recently released their new five door electric car, which costs \$25,280 after the federal rebate. For California residents, the state offers an additional \$5,000 tax rebate, which brings the price down to \$20,280.

PEVs not only help reserve the world's diminishing supply of biofuels, they also move the United States towards independence from foreign oil. Much of the world's supply of petroleum is located in countries with unstable governments (Saudi Arabia's monarchy), or countries that have a hostile relationship with the U.S. (Iraq, Iran).

It's common knowledge that PEVs emit zero tailpipe emission, since they use electricity instead of gasoline to run. However, the cars need to be charged using clean energy for them to have a large positive impact on the environment.

As President Obama said, "Providing incentives for energy-efficiency and clean energy are the right thing to do for our future -- because the nation that leads the clean energy economy will be the nation that leads the global economy. And America must be that nation."

This is the first article of a series regarding PEVs that we will be publishing in this newsletter. For additional information, please visit the following websites:

- [www.electricdrive.org](http://www.electricdrive.org)
- [www.pluginamerica.org](http://www.pluginamerica.org)
- [www.green.autoblog.com](http://www.green.autoblog.com)



## Upcoming Events:

As we all know, Boston's commuters faced a brutal winter this time around; fortunately, spring is rapidly approaching with nicer weather better suited to alternative forms of commuting like cycling, walking and using public transit. We hope that our commuters will take advantage of the forthcoming sunshine and will seek environmentally friendly commutes like those mentioned.

This spring and summer, TranSComm will host numerous events to encourage and reward sustainable commutes. Stay tuned to future editions of the Green Mobile News for information regarding upcoming events: free bicycle tune-ups for students and employees, the annual cyclist luncheon, the annual summer employee lunch-break neighborhood walk series, and other events. Also this spring, TranSComm will introduce NuRide, where commuters receive rewards when they walk, cycle, carpool, vanpool or take public transit ([www.nuride.com](http://www.nuride.com)).

Please be sure to check your e-mail for notices regarding these popular TranSComm programs and events. Space is limited and determined by a first-come-first-serve basis.

Lastly, if you have interests or environmental issues you'd like us to explore in our newsletter, please e-mail our Green Mobile News editor, Jen Covino at [jcovino@bu.edu](mailto:jcovino@bu.edu) or call the TranSComm office at 617-638-7473.

Happy Almost Spring!

The Friendly Folks at TranSComm



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