

The experts were wrong....."Preliminary data shows a definite change in travel patterns throughout the region with ridership increases on almost every rail line," said James E. Cole, Commuter Rail Board Executive Director. "Our next move is to get a timely and accurate 'snapshot' of all our customers by conducting a regionwide on-off passenger count." Cole noted that the last count was taken in February of 1983.

In the next few months personnel will be posted on all of the 597 trains that operate on an average day in the region. They will count passengers at each boarding point. Statistics will be compiled by station as well as by train. Information obtained from the on-off count will be coordinated with other market research data.

CALL 836-7803 FOR GROUP TRAVEL INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS

The Commuter Rail Service Board in 1985 will continue to offer special reduced rates for pre-formed groups of 25 or more traveling during off-peak hours. Special rates are also available for groups wishing to rent an entire train.

Under the group travel program, fares are lowered 50 percent for groups traveling between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. and after 7 p.m. during the week, and all day on Saturdays and Sundays. In order to qualify for a group fare, reservations must be made at least 10 days in advance by calling the Rail Group Travel Bureau, during office hours, at 836-7803.

COMMUTER RAIL BOARD TO IMPROVE SIGNAGE AT LOCAL STATIONS

Traveling throughout the six-county area will be much easier --- even for the veteran commuter --- when the new commuter rail sign installation program is completed.

The Rail Board has hired Din & Associates, an experienced Illinois design firm, to develop a standardized set of signs and display boards for some 150 commuter rail stations in the region. The firm will develop station identification signs for each station structure or shelter and for platforms. Directional signs to commuter parking lots and nearby bus pick-up points are also part of the program. Detailed information will be given on display boards, which will include a system map, an area map highlighting points of interest along a particular rail route, train schedule and fare information and maps and schedule information for connecting bus routes.

....."If we don't know what's wrong, we can't take speedy action".....Suggestions or comments? Call 836-7802 weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.