

1.221J / 11.527J / ESD.201J Transportation Systems

FALL 2002

ASSIGNMENT 2A: Transportation System Fundamentals

Due in: Five days

Value: 6 points

The main objective of this assignment is to help you prepare for Lecture 4. Your assignment is to read the attached article and answer the following questions.

The Boston Globe, September 2002, "Acela troubles seen as pattern for Amtrak"

1. Discuss the important technological issues facing Acela. Hint: take a look ahead at Key Point 30.
(2 points, one page maximum)
2. Discuss the decision to choose Bombardier and the institutional issues surrounding it. Hint: take a look ahead at Key Point 2.
(2 points, one page maximum)
3. Discuss why you think Amtrak chose Boston to New York as its first application for Acela.
(2 points, one page maximum)

As with Assignment 1, clarity and presentation will be factored into the grading of this assignment.