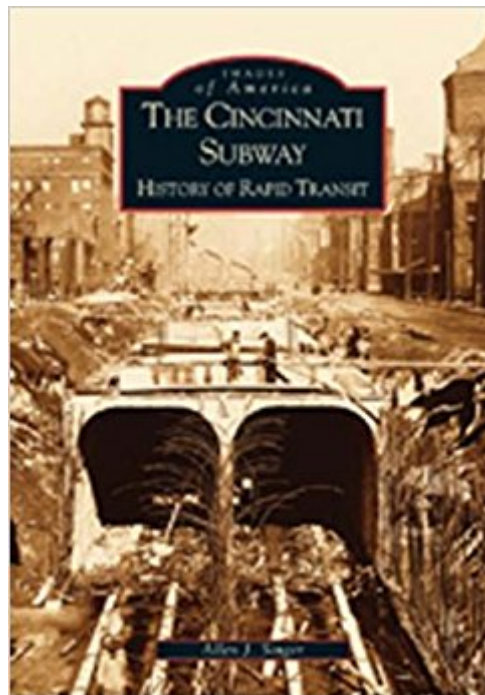




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Cincinnati Subway: History Of Rapid Transit, The (OH) (Images Of America)



Synopsis

Cincinnati emerged from a tumultuous 19th century as a growing metropolis committed to city planning. The most ambitious plan of the early twentieth century, the Cincinnati Subway, was doomed to failure. Construction began in 1920 and ended in 1927 when the money had run out. Today, two miles of empty subway tunnels still lie beneath Cincinnati, waiting to be used. The Cincinnati Subway tells the whole story, from the turbulent times in the 1880s to the ultimate failure of "Cincinnati's White Elephant." Along the way, the reader will learn about what was happening in Cincinnati during the growth of the subway—from the Courthouse Riots in 1884 to life in the Queen City during World War II.

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Customer Reviews

Author Allen J. Singer is a lifelong railroad fan. He harbors an interest in Cincinnati's rich history, particularly in the stories of its rapid-transit past, which includes streetcars, interurbans, inclined planes, the canal, and the subway tunnels.

In his "Cincinnati Subway : History of Rapid Transit, The (OH) Images of America," Allen Singer provides a great little biography on the early stages of Cincinnati's genesis in 1788. First known as Losantiville, it was named as an acronym derived from 4 languages meaning "the city opposite the mouth of the Licking River (Covington, KY). He traces its various and colorful stages of development from its renaming to Cincinnati by governor St. Clair in honor of the Society of the Cincinnati who occupied its first fort along the Ohio River. In particular, Singer covers the construction and decline of

the Miami & Erie Canal, once Cincinnati's lifeline for trade with the north, mutating from little more than an open sewer to the central focus of converting it into part of an elaborate subway system by covering the old canal, excavations, and exploiting natural limestone tunnels created by the last ice age runoff. Offering a wealth of photos and lithographs, Singer has produced a wonderful little template of what in my experience is one of the more magical, interesting, and culturally rich cities of the early 19th century's Midwest. With reference to writing style and layout, I rate this book as top shelf in my collection and offer kudos to both Singer and his photographer, Suzanne Fleming for providing us with an enlightening and enjoyable peek into Cincinnati's "Queen City" legacy, and unique past in its role during western expansion. Bear Baker, LISTEN Media, Inc.

Very in-depth story on the Cincinnati subway history. This story is exemplary of all those municipal, provincial, state, or nation funded projects, that either never left the planning table, or did, but just didn't start, did, got constructed, were abandoned. For whatever reason. The various ideas of the Cincinnati city planners, I think they might have proven right, correct, nevertheless those plans were surpassed by other developments, throughout society, because of which, subways in Cincinnati got obsolete before their wheels ever saw one piece of track laid. The very proposition to emphasize on a Cincinnati subway system, to get people out of tenements, into suburban homes, also lowered the need for a transit system. Along with the success of the automobile in pre and post war American society. Especially the fact of the availability of 'consumer-auto traffic' is the final blow to Cincinnati subway transit. This booklet is out of nice series. Well written, lots of photos, here and there, photo texts interfere or interrupt the main text. It's not that much of a problem, I personally think, it doesn't always look nice. Furthermore, I love this book for its content.

Cool history of Cincinnati.

Excellent Book

Interesting book on interesting topic. I hadn't known anything about this until shortly before I found this book, and it scratches that itch of curiosity.

This is an excellent book for anyone interested in learning about the challenges of mass transit construction and city planning. More than that, however, the author reveals the human struggle to build the infrastructure of a subway system and the frustrating political and economical forces that

ultimately undermined that labor. The clear, vivid prose and the wealth of photos and illustrations work together beautifully to put readers into the historical context, where we feel the hope and disappointment of those who sacrificed so much in the attempt to create a subway system for Cincinnati. It is impossible to read this compelling book without wondering "What if?" and realizing that the political games that prevented subway completion then still exist today.

I grew up in the Cincinnati area and had heard the rumors about the underground tunnels and the Subway system that never was, but no one seemed to know what happened. Well Allen answers all these questions and more. How and why it started, and why it was abandoned. The book almost reads like a novel, with good guys and bad guys, politics and the war. It is full of beautiful pictures with clear captions and would be wonderful addition to anyone's collection about the early history of Cincinnati.

As books go it was a fair read. If you live in Cincinnati or have ever lived there, you would want to read it if you have any interest in the history of the city. There's more pictures than text in this 128 page book. I did enjoy the pictures and captions and learned much about the ill-fated subway. I had only seen the tunnel entrances along the Mill Creek Expressway.

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