

Despite the hostility of the Bush administration to rail, trains continue to provide a vital service to many Americans, writes Michael Weinberg. The picture shows the renovated station at Seattle, one of the centres of America's computer industry, with an evening Cascade service ready to leave for Portland (Oregon). The train is made up of Talgo Europeanstyle stock. The original station building was a typical American large station, very ornate with beautiful ceilings. These were often covered up when it was thought railways were finished in the States. With the rail renaissance, these beautiful buildings are being restored to their former glory, in Los Angeles, Chicago and Portland.

Let's hope that, despite Bush, American Railroads will go from strength to strength.