

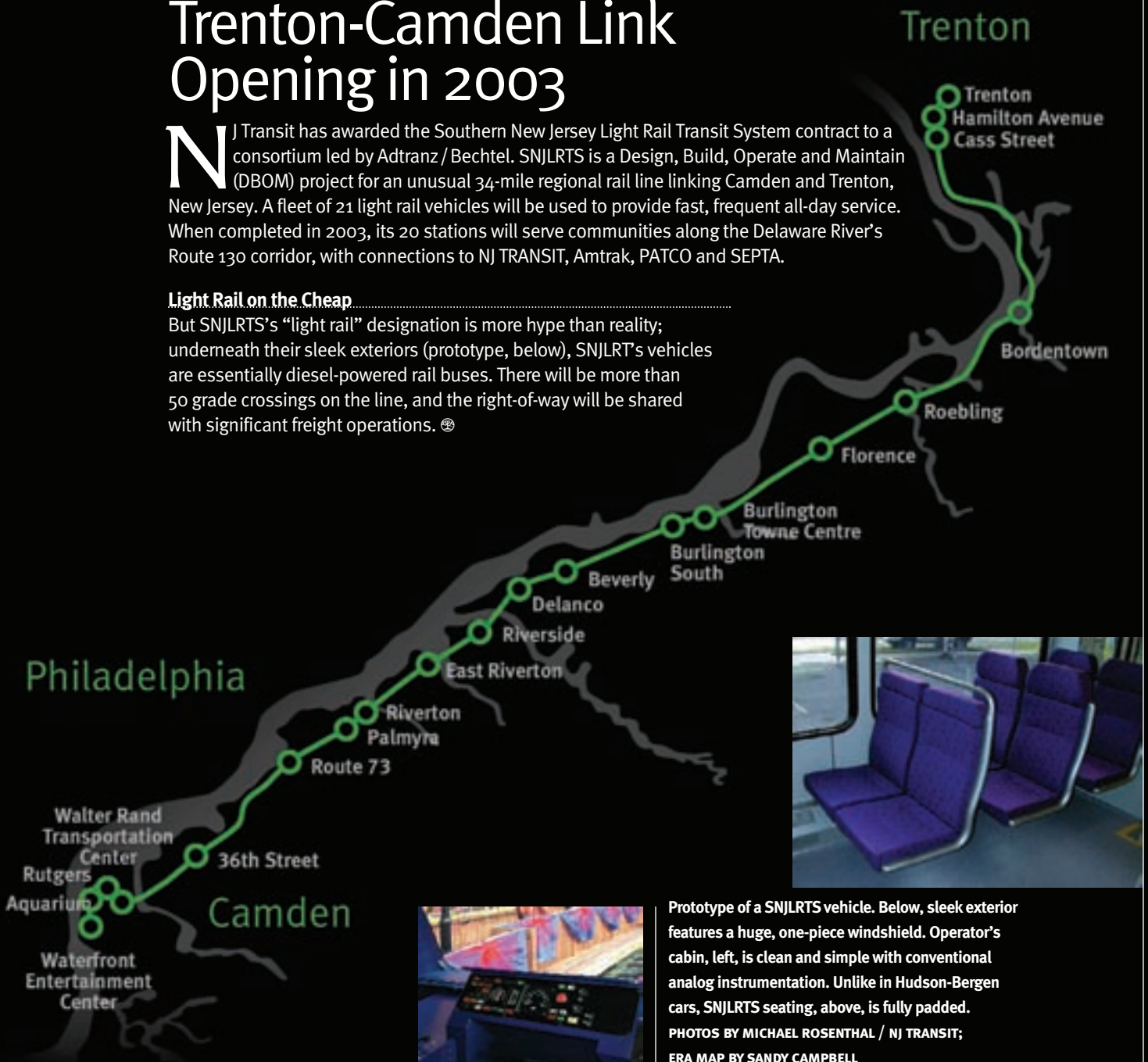
NEW JERSEY

Trenton-Camden Link Opening in 2003

NJ Transit has awarded the Southern New Jersey Light Rail Transit System contract to a consortium led by Adtranz / Bechtel. SNJLRTS is a Design, Build, Operate and Maintain (DBOM) project for an unusual 34-mile regional rail line linking Camden and Trenton, New Jersey. A fleet of 21 light rail vehicles will be used to provide fast, frequent all-day service. When completed in 2003, its 20 stations will serve communities along the Delaware River's Route 130 corridor, with connections to NJ TRANSIT, Amtrak, PATCO and SEPTA.

Light Rail on the Cheap

But SNJLRTS's "light rail" designation is more hype than reality; underneath their sleek exteriors (prototype, below), SNJLRT's vehicles are essentially diesel-powered rail buses. There will be more than 50 grade crossings on the line, and the right-of-way will be shared with significant freight operations. ☹



Prototype of a SNJLRTS vehicle. Below, sleek exterior features a huge, one-piece windshield. Operator's cabin, left, is clean and simple with conventional analog instrumentation. Unlike in Hudson-Bergen cars, SNJLRTS seating, above, is fully padded. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ROSENTHAL / NJ TRANSIT; ERA MAP BY SANDY CAMPBELL

