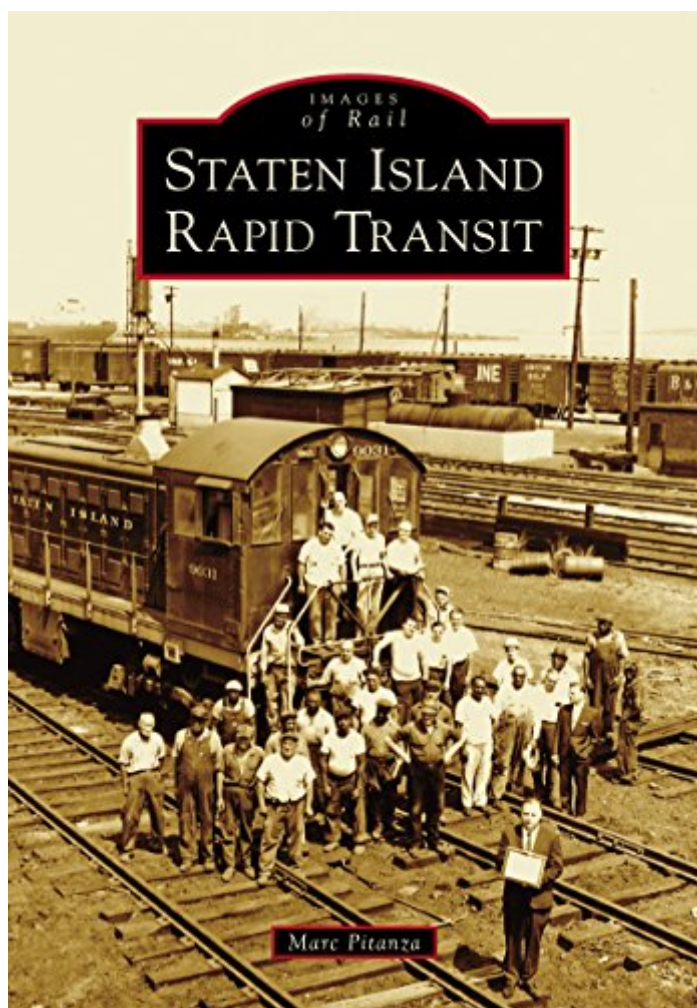


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# Staten Island Rapid Transit (Images Of Rail)



## Synopsis

Staten Island's first railroad began in 1860 as a passenger line connecting towns along the island's eastern shore, with ferry service from Vanderbilt's Landing to Manhattan. The Staten Island Rapid Transit was a second line, built in 1885. During the 19th century, major eastern trunk railroads competed for the New York freight market. The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad (B&O) was a latecomer but saw opportunity with Staten Island in 1886, buying interest in both railroads. The B&O took control of the island's passenger service and turned it into a thriving commuter railroad with three branches and nearly 40 stations, forever changing transportation in the borough. Reaching Staten Island from Cranford, New Jersey, the B&O built a major freight yard at Arlington and a waterfront terminal at St. George. The railroad's customers ran the gamut from large industries like Procter & Gamble to small one-carload coal dealerships. By 1971, the cash-strapped B&O sold the passenger service to the New York City Transit Authority (NYCTA), and by 1985, the B&O had left New York for good.

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## Customer Reviews

Mr. Marc Pitanza clearly knows and enjoys his subject and presents a truly wonderful selection of photos that outline the history of the Staten Island Rapid Transit (SIRT) and covers all its different divisions and many of its services as a commuter railroad and freight carrier. This volume's wealth of images and information will fascinate any rail and/or transit enthusiast. My only complaint is that there was not enough room to provide all the details that an SIRT buff like me would wish for (that would be a considerable book) and I was left wanting much more.

Ahh yes, the ol' rancid transit ;) Lots of great photos of a bygone era, and some recent too. Brought back many good memories. I remember living in Huguenot in the mid 60's, not far from the tracks, when my dad and I would hear the freight rattling by on a summers evening. We would hop in the car and drive to Richmond Valley and watch them switch out Nassau while fighting off the mosquitoes! Anyway, I really enjoyed looking at the photos and learning new details about the SIRT.

A good comprehensive view of the SIRT in all of its reincarnations over the years. A light view (not a detailed history) but it covered all the bases from inception to current operation. A nice look at a most unusual line.

can not believe so much I didn't know about.

Nice short/quick photo history of the Island's stations, history and rolling stock. I lived there for 33 years so it holds lots of memories for me. Arcadia books are great!

Great images about an often-forgotten portion of NYC's rapid transit world.

as with all arcadia publishing book and nice amount of vintage pictures of the SIRT

Nice photos but short on history

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