

The Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center presents



Conquering Gotham: Then and Now

Jill Jonnes

March 26, 2009, 5:30 P.M.
Special Events Forum, Civic Square Building

Author and historian Jill Jonnes will deliver a presentation on her book, *Conquering Gotham*, which chronicled the monumental political and engineering feats behind the early-1900s construction of Penn Station New York and connecting passenger rail tunnels under the Hudson and East rivers. Following her presentation, Arthur Silber, chief of NJ TRANSIT's Trans-Hudson Express Tunnel Project, will discuss the imminent construction of a new pair of Hudson River rail tunnels and passenger station in midtown Manhattan.

Jill Jonnes

Jill Jonnes is an author and historian who has received awards from the Ford Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities. She earned her MS from Columbia Journalism School and worked at *The Record* of Hackensack, before moving to Baltimore where she earned her PhD from Johns Hopkins University. Her 2007 book, *Conquering Gotham*, offers the dramatic "back story" of how the Pennsylvania Railroad overcame both the engineering and political challenges of tunneling under the Hudson and East rivers and constructing the magnificent Charles McKim-designed Penn Station New York in the heart of midtown Manhattan at the turn of the last century.

Publishers Weekly described *Conquering Gotham* as "a vivid story of hardball Tammany Hall maneuvering and mind-boggling engineering... Jonnes can claim an important addition to the popular literature of how New York became the archetype of a great American metropolis."

Following her presentation, Art Silber will update progress with NJ TRANSIT's tunnel and station project, which this year received final environmental approvals as well as critical federal funding support in the economic stimulus bill signed into law by President Obama.

Please RSVP by March 20 by phone, 732/932-6812, ext. 472 (leave message); or e-mail, vtc@policy.rutgers.edu

The Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center

The Voorhees Transportation Center is a national leader in the research and development of innovative transportation policy. The center houses the National Transit Institute, which designs and delivers training and education programs for the nation's transit industry.

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