

Elon Musk's biographer confirmed the hyperloop was a scam to prevent High-Speed Rail from getting built.

Question/Discussion

The other day I remembered the hyperloop and how much hype Elon Musk created around it a few years ago and how it's just gone now. It was supposed to be the future of transport, what happened?

I hope I'm not crazy, but after diving down the rabbit hole, I think I'm now on the side of those that say it was a scam from the very beginning with the goal of preventing high-speed rail from being built, which would benefit Tesla.

As of today:

1. The hyperloop project is dead.
2. California spent \$13 billion on high-speed rail and still has zero passengers.
3. California is more car-dependent than ever.
4. Tesla became a trillion-dollar company.
5. Elon Musk is the richest person alive.

In 2013 Musk published a 57-page white paper promising pods at 760 mph for 1/10th of what California's high-speed rail would cost. Elon Musk is literally the guy building the future at this point, so everyone goes crazy and hundreds of millions are invested in the space.

I remember at some point it really looked like Hyperloop One was going somewhere, and I was personally very excited by the student pod competitions. I was living in Switzerland at the time and the EPFL in Lausanne had a team participating.

But 7 years after the white paper got published, the "historic first human ride" in 2020 by Virgin Hyperloop (still Hyperloop One, but they changed their name twice) lasts just 15 seconds at 107mph... Not exactly LA to SF in 30 minutes at 10% of the cost.

By 2023 the company shut down, and the SpaceX test tube is now a parking lot.

And the thing is, we don't even have to speculate about whether this was intentional. Ashley Vance (Musk's own biographer) wrote in 2015 that Musk admitted the hyperloop was meant to derail California's HSR project.

Elon Musk literally said he hates public transit, he said this in 2017 at a conference: "It's a pain in the ass. That's why everyone doesn't like it. And there's like a bunch of random strangers, one of who might be a serial killer...that's why people like individualised transport, that goes where you want, when you want."

I made [this video](#) about the topic, please let me know what you think, and if there's anything I missed.