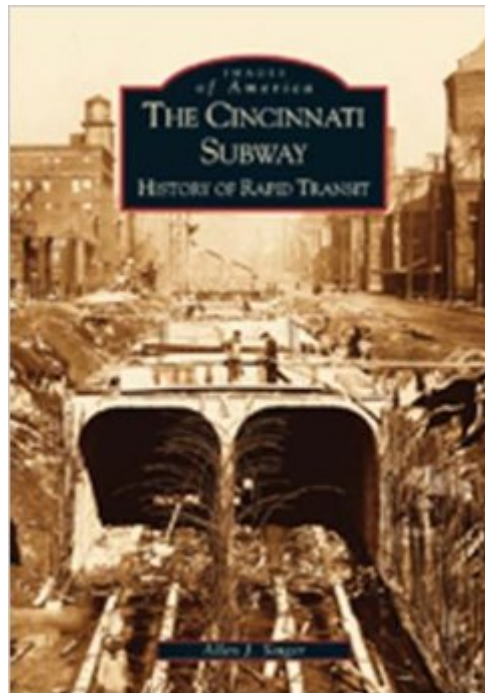


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# Cincinnati Subway: History Of Rapid Transit, The (OH) (Images Of America)



## Synopsis

Cincinnati emerged from a tumultuous 19th century as a growing metropolis committed to city planning. The most ambitious plan of the early twentieth century, the Cincinnati Subway, was doomed to failure. Construction began in 1920 and ended in 1927 when the money had run out. Today, two miles of empty subway tunnels still lie beneath Cincinnati, waiting to be used. The Cincinnati Subway tells the whole story, from the turbulent times in the 1880s to the ultimate failure of "Cincinnati's White Elephant." Along the way, the reader will learn about what was happening in Cincinnati during the growth of the subway—from the Courthouse Riots in 1884 to life in the Queen City during World War II.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is an excellent book for anyone interested in learning about the challenges of mass transit construction and city planning. More than that, however, the author reveals the human struggle to build the infrastructure of a subway system and the frustrating political and economical forces that ultimately undermined that labor. The clear, vivid prose and the wealth of photos and illustrations work together beautifully to put readers into the historical context, where we feel the hope and disappointment of those who sacrificed so much in the attempt to create a subway system for Cincinnati. It is impossible to read this compelling book without wondering "What if?" and realizing that the political games that prevented subway completion then still exist today.

Allen Singer presents one of the best reviews of the famed Cincinnati Subway. The book features outstanding photographs of the subway system that was never to be. The text is very comprehensive and well researched. I learned much about the subway system. This book belongs on the shelf of every Cincinnati history buff. A great read.

In his "Cincinnati Subway : History of Rapid Transit, The (OH) Images of America," Allen Singer provides a great little biography on the early stages of Cincinnati's genesis in 1788. First known as Losantiville, it was named as an acronym derived from 4 languages meaning "the city opposite the mouth of the Licking River (Covington, KY). He traces its various and colorful stages of development from its renaming to Cincinnati by governor St. Clair in honor of the Society of the Cincinnati who occupied its first fort along the Ohio River. In particular, Singer covers the construction and decline of the Miami & Erie Canal, once Cincinnati's lifeline for trade with the north, mutating from little more than an open sewer to the central focus of converting it into part of an elaborate subway system by covering the old canal, excavations, and exploiting natural limestone tunnels created by the last ice age runoff. Offering a wealth of photos and lithographs, Singer has produced a wonderful little template of what in my experience is one of the more magical, interesting, and culturally rich cities of the early 19th century's Midwest. With reference to writing style and layout, I rate this book as top shelf in my collection and offer kudos to both Singer and his photographer, Suzanne Fleming for providing us with an enlightening and enjoyable peek into Cincinnati's "Queen City" legacy, and unique past in its role during western expansion. Bear Baker, LISTEN Media, Inc.

I grew up in the Cincinnati area and had heard the rumors about the underground tunnels and the Subway system that never was, but no one seemed to know what happened. Well Allen answers all these questions and more. How and why it started, and why it was abandoned. The book almost reads like a novel, with good guys and bad guys, politics and the war. It is full of beautiful pictures with clear captions and would be wonderful addition to anyone's collection about the early history of Cincinnati.

As books go it was a fair read. If you live in Cincinnati or have ever lived there, you would want to read it if you have any interest in the history of the city. There's more pictures than text in this 128 page book. I did enjoy the pictures and captions and learned much about the ill-fated subway. I had only seen the tunnel entrances along the Mill Creek Expressway.

I had heard some information about the Cincinnati Subway; but I have all accurate information now, thanks to this anthology. Enjoyed it immensely.

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