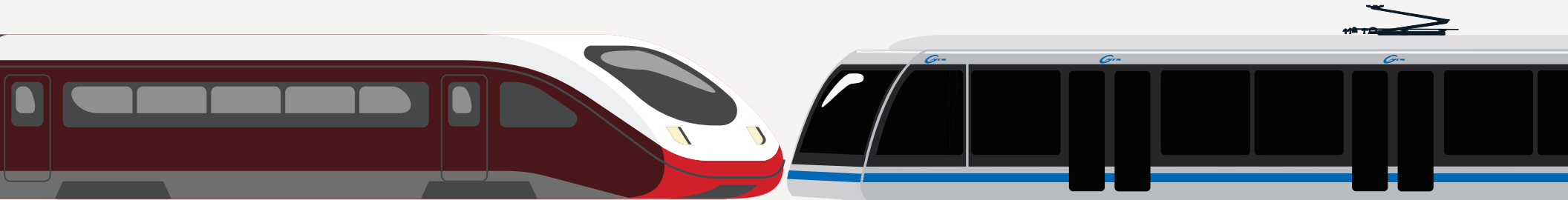


Commuter Rail vs. Light Rail

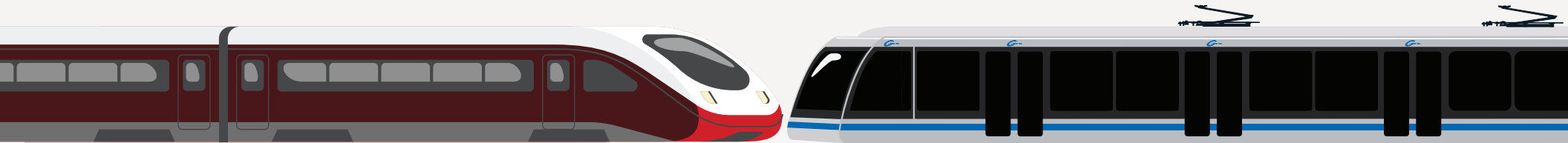


Commuter Rail:

A passenger rail transport service that primarily connects a central city to surrounding communities. Commuter rail often has lower frequency, fewer stations spaced further apart and may use zone pricing. They primarily serve lower density suburban areas, and often share right-of-way with intercity or freight trains.

Light Rail:

A form of urban transit characterized by passenger cars on fixed rails often in an exclusive right-of-way, but can also operate in a shared right-of-way with vehicle traffic, but is not compatible with freight trains.



Commuter Rail:

Long distances within a region.

Connects suburbs to a city center such as Uptown Charlotte.

Longer trains with more seating and less standing room for long-distance travel.

About 2-5 miles apart.

Typically runs every 30-60 minutes.

Often uses existing freight rail lines upgraded to safely accommodate commuter rail service.

Many power options including diesel, biodiesel, battery electric and hydrogen.

Larger station platforms with parking facilities.

Where does it travel?

What areas does it connect?

What is the seating arrangement?

What is the typical distance between stations?

How frequent is the service?

What type of corridor does it operate in?

What type of power does it use?

What are some key station elements?

Light Rail:

Short distances within a city.

Connects neighborhoods within an urban area.

Shorter trains with a combination of seating and more standing room for quick boarding and deboarding.

About ½ to 1 mile apart.

Typically runs every 10-20 minutes.

Runs on a dedicated track in mixed traffic or in a dedicated right-of-way.

Runs on overhead electrical lines or with onboard batteries.

Smaller station platforms with pedestrian facilities.