Subject: Milpitas Personal Rapid Transit
Date: Sat, 10 Jun 2023 23:28:21 +0000
From: President <President@AdvancedTransit.org>
To: cmontano@milpitas.gov <cmontano@milpitas.gov>, echua@milpitas.gov <echua@milpitas.gov>, mcano@milpitas.gov <mcano@milpitas.gov>
CC: rob.means@electric-bikes.com <rob.means@electric-bikes.com>

To whom it may concern, the Advanced Transit Association is supportive of the Milpitas Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) demonstration project to be discussed on Wednesday, June 14 at 4pm in the Committee Room at City Hall. While we have not undertaken a detailed review of this particular project, we would like to share our knowledge of other projects with you in order to help allay any fears that this project may take you into uncharted waters.

Except for the world's first PRT project in Morgantown, West Virginia in 1975 (which was ultimately proven very successful), all PRT deployments have been relatively smooth without large overruns of costs or budgets. All (including Morgantown) are still in public operation. Here is a summary of PRT projects in public service, under active development or procurement today.

IN PUBLIC SERVICE

Morgantown

West Virginia University, Morgantown, USA. Boeing. In public service since 1975. Over 300 million injury-free passenger kilometers (not counting injuries from rocks rolling down hills!), 5 Stations, 14 track km, 72 vehicles.

Masdar City

Abu Dhabi, UAE. 2getthere. In public service since 2010. Two stations 1 track km, 13 vehicles

Heathrow Airport

London, U.K. Ultra. In public service since 2011. Three stations, 3 track km, 22 vehicles

Suncheon

Suncheon, South Korea. Developed by Vectus, operated by SkyCube. In public service since 2014. Two stations, 9 track km, 40 vehicles

Chengdu

China. Ultra MTS. Chengdu Tianfu International Airport. Four stations, 10 track km, 22 vehicles.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Tlaxcala

Mexico. Modutram. First Phase 3 stations, 1.8 km corridor. Public operation end of 2023. Total system 11 stations, 7.4 km corridor.

China

Zhongtang Sky Railway Group Co Ltd plans to bring their PRT system with six-passenger vehicles into public operation around September 2023.

In the U.S. San Jose, California has selected Glydways (a California company) for a system connecting the Diridon Light Rail Station with the Norman Y. Mineta San Jose International Airport. The North Central Texas Council of Governments, covering the Metroplex in Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas, USA, is working with Swyft Cities to bring PRT to the region to meet their growing transportation needs. Swyft Cities is currently working with NCTCOG member cities to identify locations and begin certification processes. The City of Greeley in Colorado, USA is partnering with Vuba on a pre-feasibility study and local test track, as first steps toward a PPP Agreement for a city-wide PRT deployment. AACIDs in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, are moving towards a demonstration project and a feasibility study for a wide area PRT deployment in collaboration with the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) and various other agencies, cities, and counties. The City of Pittsburg in Contra Costa County is supporting a multimillion-dollar PRT network that would complement current bus and rail services in the region and be fully operational by 2030. Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport, South Carolina, USA, is exploring development of an automated transit network connecting parking lots to the terminal.

While adoption by professional transit authorities has taken a while, the pace is picking up. New concepts are difficult for professionals to embrace – just consider hand washing which took doctors over 140 years to codify!

We hope you will give PRT serious consideration – it has tremendous potential to improve mobility, sustainability and equity while reducing congestion and boosting the overall economy.
Together we can fix public transportation!

Best regards,

Peter Muller, President
1-303-800-1529
www.advancedtransit.org

atra Advanced Transit Association