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MEDIA RELEASE

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Is visual intrusion by PRT a thing, or just NIMBYism?

Judge for yourself what transit's future holds for us.

Some folks are glass-half-full types who anticipate problems, many of which are inconsequential. When the subject is Personal Rapid Transit (PRT or podcars), visual intrusion often comes up. Obviously, putting infrastructure 16 feet up in the air will be noticeable, but how much impact will podcar guideways actually make? LoopWorks found impact to be small for the guideways planned for the Milpitas Transit Center and Metro areas.

Most people experience the visual impact of streets daily. Have we ever thought about how much of our visual perspective is occupied by asphalt? Many of us also live with electric power lines very near our homes. How would a guideway impact one's viewscape?

That question led to using perspective drawings that show how small the visual intrusion is. The inspiration was a scene in Apollo 13 (at 5:20) where Tom Hanks (as astronaut Jim Lovell) holds up his thumb at arm's length to cover the moon. It turns out that holding a golf or ping-pong ball at arm's length will cover a 3' by 3' guideway that is 42' or more away from the viewer. Try it yourself, and remember that guideways will appear even smaller when farther away.

Obviously, when 5-foot tall podcars roll along the guideway's top surface, the view will change – just like streets when cars drive by. Also like streets, podcar traffic will vary throughout the day.

This graphic is slide 5 of an 8-slide series that shows the numbers and equations. LoopWorks encourages other PRT companies to apply the equations to their own guideway designs, and share results with the public.

LoopWorks is a non-profit mutual-benefit corporation with a governance structure that is local, democratic, and balanced. For more information, visit MilpitasPRT.com or email info@MilpitasPRT.com.

PRT Guideway Visual Intrusion Distance for the Average Human *(with a golf ball at an arm's length)*

Vertical Intrusion Calculation for PRT Guideway

- Average human eye level height: 5 ft, *(5.3 ft - 0.3 ft)*
  - *Average human height: 5.3 ft*
  - *Distance from top of head to eyes: 0.3 ft*
- Vertical distance from person's eye level to top of guideway: 11 ft, *(16 ft - 5 ft)*
  - *Height of PRT Guideway underpass = 16 ft*
- Approximate maximum upward eye rotation angle= 25 degrees

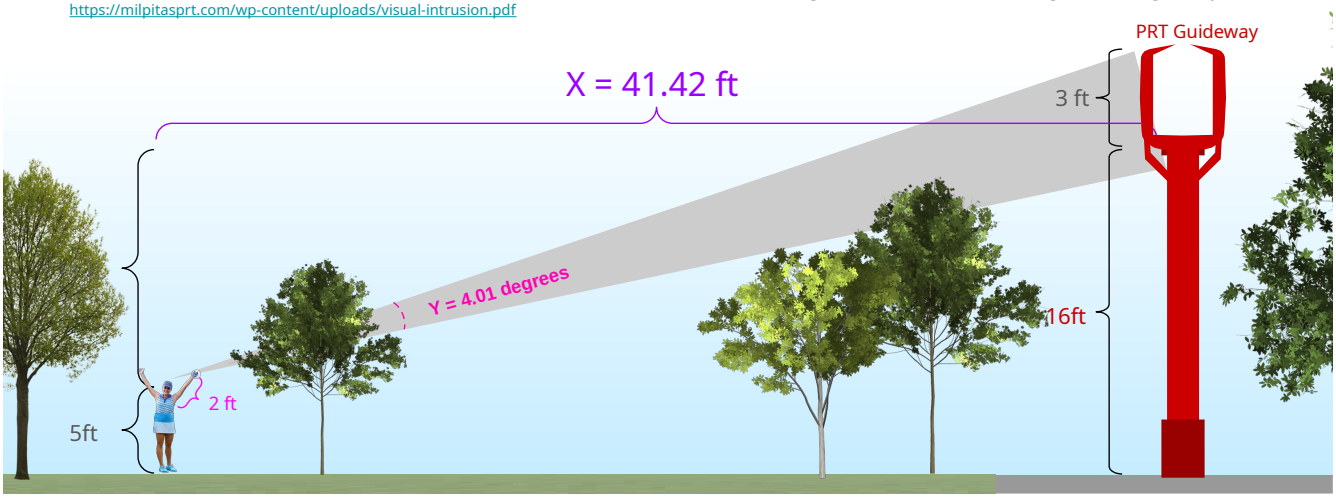
Estimating Visual Obstruction Using a Golf Ball

- X = Minimal distance from person to PRT guideway for a golf ball held at arm's length to completely obscure the height of the PRT guideway *(3 ft)*
- Average arm length: 2 ft
- Golf ball diameter = 1.68 inches *(0.14ft)*

Y: Angle of Visual Intrusion

- Y = Calculated upward visual angle if the person holds a golf ball at arm's length and it obscures the vertical height of the PRT guideway

Full details and visuals available here:
https://milpitasprt.com/wp-content/uploads/visual-intrusion.pdf



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