

Personal Rapid Transit

Innovative Transportation Technology

Overview
and
State of the Industry

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Agenda



- Background and Need
- PRT Technology Overview and Features
- PRT History and Vendor Status
- Cost and Performance Comparisons
- Options For Development
- The Network Business Model

Background

■ Congestion in the U.S. is a significant problem affecting:

- Economic viability of urban regions
- Quality of life
- Environment

■ National metrics of congestion*:

- 2.3 billion annual gallons of fuel wasted
- \$63 billion in financial costs
- Average annual delay per person
 - 93 hours in Los Angeles
 - 69 hours in Washington DC
 - 49 hours in NY/NJ
 - 47 hours US average

■ Congestion is only getting worse and has increased an average 9% per year since 1982



*Source TTI 2005 Urban Mobility Study

Background

■ Expansion of current modes is limited by:

- High costs
- Land availability
- Impact and public acceptance

■ Highways

- Expensive in urban areas
- Limited land availability

■ Metro/Commuter Rail

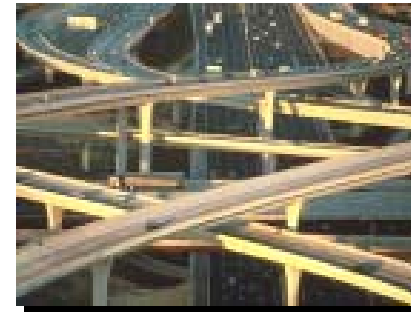
- Expensive in urban areas

■ Light Rail

- High service factor but limited by surface traffic unless separated at higher cost

■ Bus

- Low cost but limited by surface traffic and slower trip times



Needs and Features – The Genesis of PRT

Engineered System

PRT has been engineered as an innovative and new system to address the needs of urban transportation

Need	Design Feature and Goal
■ Faster service	✓ Non-stop, on-demand service
■ Lower operating costs	✓ Increased levels of automation ✓ Reduced energy use
■ Lower capital costs	✓ Reduced size of infrastructure for stations, track and right-of-way
■ Improve integration	✓ Smaller footprint and tighter turning radius to integrate into dense urban environments
■ Reduced congestion	✓ Faster and personalized service to attract private automobile users
■ Reduced pollution	✓ Electric vehicles
■ Reduced energy use	✓ Small, lightweight vehicles ✓ Non-stop, on demand service to eliminate unnecessary vehicle movements
■ Increased safety and security	✓ Distributed demand and continuous flow to eliminate crowds ✓ Advanced monitoring and control

Technology Overview – PRT Fundamentals

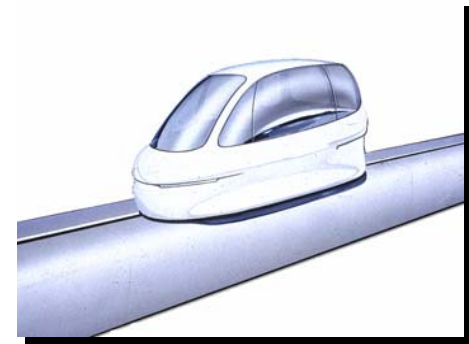
■ Fundamental elements of PRT technology:

- On-demand, origin-to-destination service
- Small, automated vehicles
- Small, exclusive use guideways
- Off-line stations
- Network of connected guideways

■ Combines elements of automotive, computer, network and transit technologies

■ Uses current state-of-the-art technologies including:

- Advanced propulsion systems
- On-board switching and guidance
- High speed controls and communication
- Lightweight advanced materials



PRT represents a new paradigm for urban transportation

Components of PRT

- Small, fully automated vehicles



- Small, exclusive use guideways



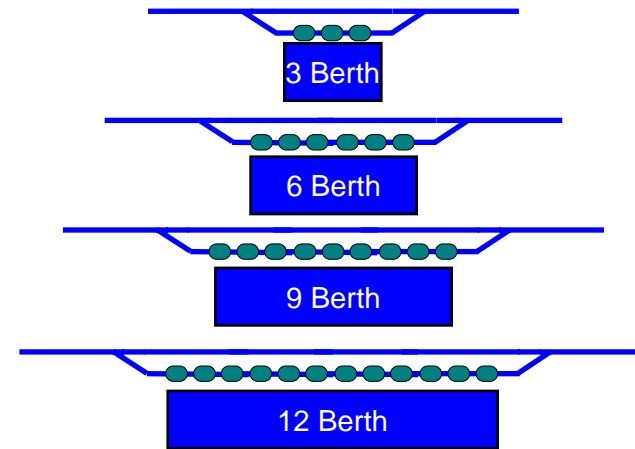
Small PRT Guideway



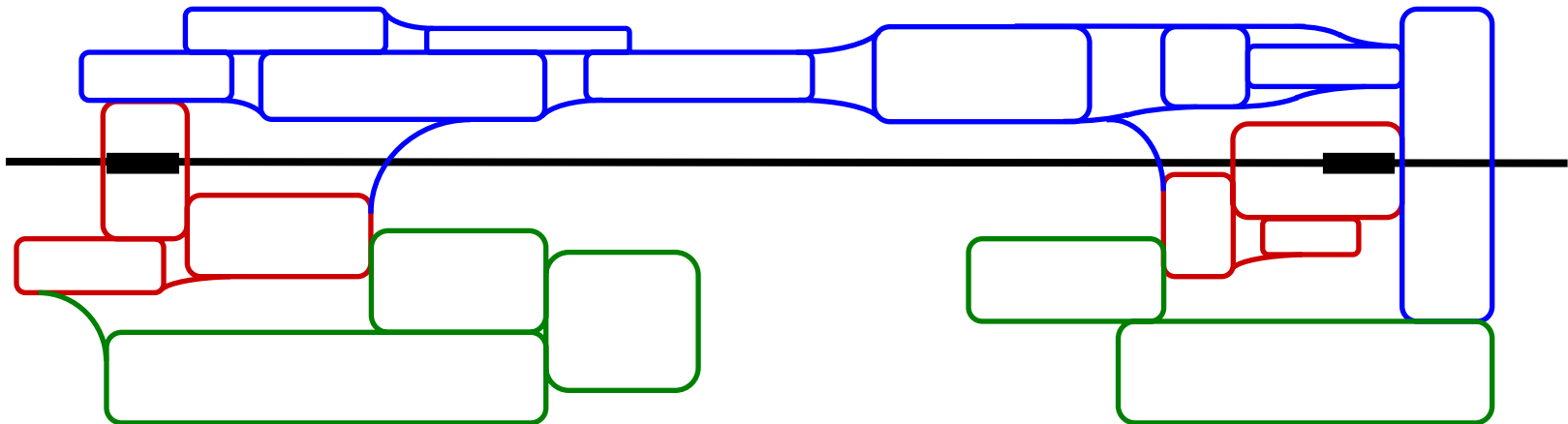
Large Conventional Guideway

Components of PRT

■ Off-line stations



■ Networks supporting distributed demand and line haul



PRT Automation and Simulation



- **PRT requires a new level of automation and communication to provide:**
 - Short headway between vehicles for adequate capacity
 - Management of occupied and empty vehicles throughout the network
 - High levels of safety and reliability
 - Scalability from small initial networks to larger expanded networks
- **This level of technology is beyond the current state-of-the-art in transit but within other industries**
- **Development and proof of operation in a safe and reliable manner is critical to the success of a PRT system**
- **[A simulation example of an urban network](#)**

Potential PRT Applications

■ Urbanized Area:

- Central Business District circulator
- High density area connector
- Feeder to existing transit stations/hubs
- Connector/distributor from satellite parking facilities
- Potential alternative to LRT, BRT or Monorail development or expansion
- Urban goods and light freight movement



■ Activity Center/Campus:

- Circulator within entertainment/tourism district
- Circulator within/between college or business campuses
- Airport landside and airside access
- Feeder to existing transit stations/hubs
- Connector/distributor from satellite parking facilities



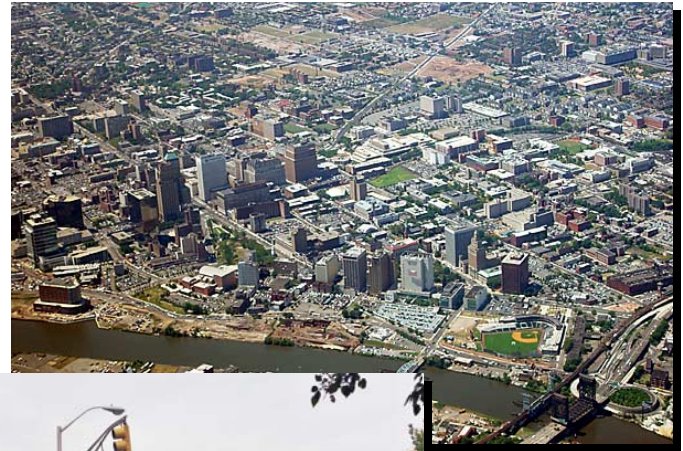
Examples of Potential PRT Applications in New Jersey

■ Urbanized Area:

- Harrison Hoboken
- Jersey City Long Branch
- Morristown Newark
- Trenton

■ Activity Center/Campus:

- Meadowlands Sports Complex and Entertainment District
- Atlantic City
- New Brunswick – Rutgers University
- Suburban employment nodes:
 - Bridgewater-Raritan-Somerville
 - Cherry Hill
 - Metropark
 - Parsippany Troy Hills
 - Piscataway
 - Secaucus
 - Woodbridge



Potential PRT Application – Meadowlands

■ Potential Features:

- Connect major venues within the complex
- Circulate and distribute visitors within the complex
- Provide feeder service to future commuter and light rail stations/stops
- Provide access to remote areas including satellite parking
- Accommodate future expansion to adjacent areas
- Could be a potential alternative to future light-rail extension

■ Potential Benefits:

- Improve flow and movement of visitors within the complex
- Allow increased density of development and replacement of parking
- Increase transit access and usage to neighboring areas
- Reduce traffic congestion on roadways adjacent to and within complex
- Higher level of service with lower capital and operating costs than alternative options



Potential PRT Application – Atlantic City

■ Potential Features:

- Connect major hotels, casinos, convention center, and parking areas
- Connect to rail line
- Circulate and distribute visitors within the area
- Improve access to remote areas including satellite parking
- Provide potential for goods and baggage distribution

■ Potential Benefits:

- Improved flow and movement within the area
- Increase transit access and usage to neighboring areas
- Allow increased density of development and replacement of parking
- Increased attractiveness and prestige to the area
- Reduce traffic congestion on roadways throughout the area
- Can accommodate future expansion to adjacent neighborhoods and other areas



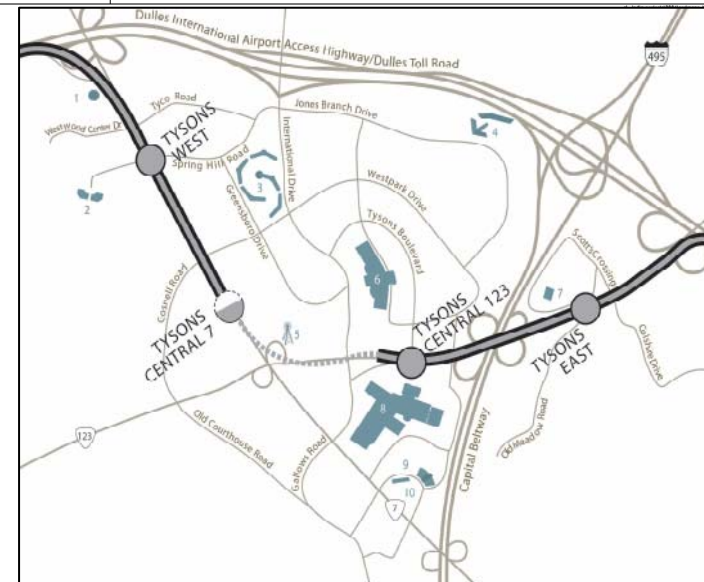
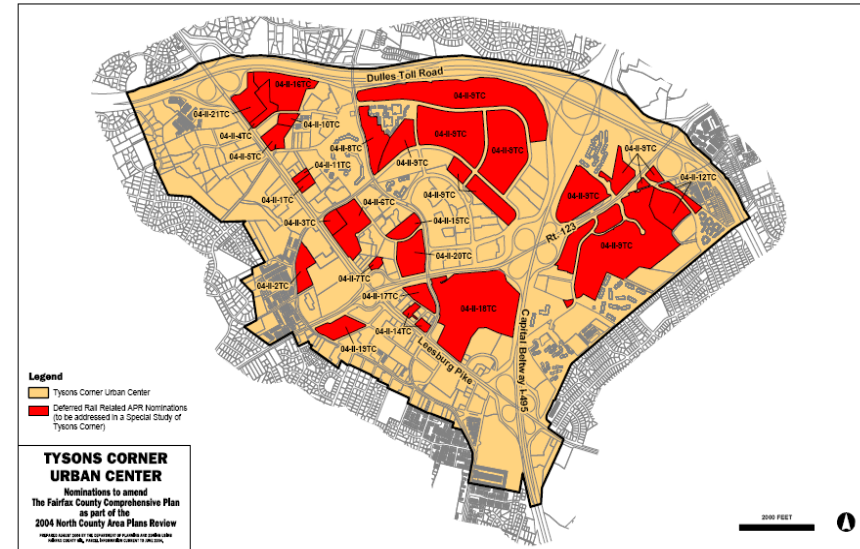
Potential PRT Application – Tysons Corner Virginia

■ Potential Features:

- Connect major businesses, hotels, shopping malls, retail and restaurants
- Circulate and distribute workers and visitors within the area
- Alternative to Metrorail extension
- Increased number of stations over Metrorail
- Connect to Metrorail lines on either side of the area

■ Potential Benefits:

- Improved traffic flow and movement within the area
- Increase transit access and usage to neighboring areas
- Allow increased density of development and replacement of parking
- Increased attractiveness and prestige to the area
- Reduce traffic congestion on roadways throughout the area
- Allow proposed Metrorail expansion to reduce costs and disruption by avoiding major construction in dense environment



A Brief History of PRT

- **Concept originally developed in the 1950's**
- **World-wide development and multiple prototype systems under Federal government funding in the 1970's**
- **Four major international PRT conferences**
 - 1972, 1973, 1975, 1996
- **Large scale research and development programs conducted**
 - Aerospace Corp, Cabintaxi, CVS, Aramis, Morgantown, RTA/Raytheon
- **Major technology assessments conducted in**
 - 1975, 1980, 1989, 2003
- **One "semi"-PRT system in operation at Morgantown, WV**
- **Numerous major studies conducted around the world supporting research, engineering and application analysis of PRT**
- **Over 120 Automated People Mover (APM) applications currently operating world wide incorporating many PRT components**

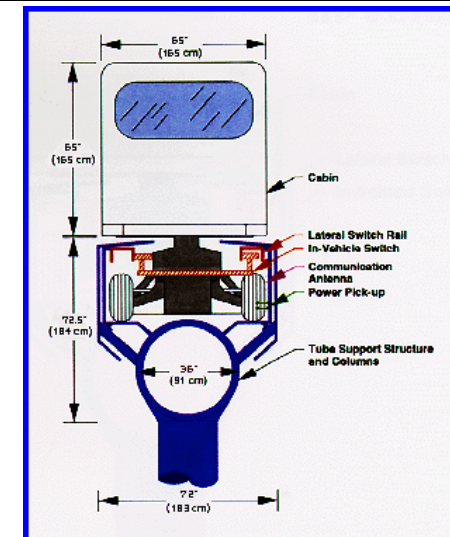
Morgantown System (1970 – present)

- **US federally funded program with short schedule and limited R&D effort**
- **System designed and built by Boeing:**
 - Larger group vehicles requiring large guideway with a large physical footprint
 - Expensive to construct and maintain due to custom design and components
- **Continuous operation since 1972**
 - 2 million passengers per year, 63 million total
 - 30,000 passengers per peak day
 - 98% reliability
 - 8.7 lane miles, 74 vehicles
- **Demonstrates the successful use of several PRT concepts, including:**
 - Off-line stations
 - Automatic control systems
 - High level of reliability
 - Low operating costs



Raytheon/Chicago RTA Program (1990's)

- Program funded through \$50M public/private partnership
 - Joint development and intellectual capital
 - Shared revenue/royalties
- Initial designs included small vehicle and guideway but evolved to a larger vehicle and guideway
- Test track demonstrated the successful use of full automatic control and off-line stations
- Program cancelled in 1999 due to changes in political leadership and non-competitive system features:
 - Large vehicles and guideways resulted in high capital costs, greater visual impact, with only moderate performance
- Program failed to learn and adapt critical design and economic lessons from past efforts



Results from Past Application Studies



■ Seattle SeaTac MIS Study

- Activity center circulation and connector to airport and regional rail
- Significant local support for system and technology
- 9% reduction in overall surface traffic in study area
- Study recommended to establish public/private partnership for DBOM when technology is available

■ Cincinnati Central Area Loop

- Downtown circulator and cross-river connector
- 3-5 times increased in ridership of alternative modes
- Project 17,000-32,000 trips/day
- Significant support of PRT by business and developer community
- PRT desired but rejected due to lack of existing prototype

■ Indianapolis Downtown study

- 33% projected mode share for area-wide system
- Project halted due to lack of technology and political support

Results from Past Application Studies



■ EDICT – Sweden Kungens Kurva

- Large shopping area seeking to reduce congestion, improve travel time and connect with regional rail
- PRT network selected with 7.5 miles of guideway and 12 stations
- 26% reduction in average travel time
- 300% increase in ridership over bus
- 17% increase in overall area demand due to improved service
- 8% reduction in road traffic
- 35% of capital and 60% of operating cost for comparable fixed guideway alternatives

■ EDICT - Cardiff Wales

- Redevelopment of docklands next to city center
- Considerable economic modeling and traveler acceptance testing
- 5 mile network project to serve 5.7 million trips per year
- 100% operating and significant capital cost recovery
- 348,000 person-hours/year reduction in congestion
- 8% increase in mode share
- Preferred deployment of PRT upon funding approval

PRT Industry Expert Survey



- **Leading industry experts with at least 30 years of experience were surveyed through:**
 - Questionnaire
 - Phone and in-person interviews

- **Intent of survey was to gather:**
 - Lessons learned from PRT history
 - Insight and guidance for the future of the technology
 - High level insights from senior level experts

- **Survey focused on five key areas:**
 - Development
 - Applications
 - Costs and Service
 - Performance and Standards
 - Technology

Industry Expert Survey - Results



■ Development

- PRT is ready to proceed to final engineering and development
- Limited funds are available to support development
- Investors are hesitant to support new technology in a conservative market
- Alternative system configurations are being independently developed
- A full pilot system is needed to demonstrate effectiveness and gain market acceptance

■ Applications

- PRT can support urban transit needs across the globe
- Initial applications can support circulator and distribution functions
- Systems can expand to support larger networks and connection of initial networks

■ Costs and Service

- PRT systems can expect to provide lower capital and comparable operating costs than current fixed rail or grade-separated transit systems

■ Performance and Standards

- Defacto and optimum technology standards will emerge
- Capacity, reliability, safety and security need to be demonstrated before large developments can be supported
- Governments will provide safety and security standards and oversight

Industry Expert Survey – Results: Technology



- PRT technology is not generally understood by the larger transportation planning and engineering community or by the general public
- The development of a PRT system is fully within the state-of-the-art and generally requires the engineering and application of proven technology
- The core technical elements of PRT control, communication, power and propulsion are commercially available
- The system engineering, design, testing and validation of a fully configured PRT system is needed
- Engineering design should include performance targets for system cost, reliability, safety, performance, scalability, and flexibility of implementation and operations
- A development, testing and validation program is needed with adequate capital funding and systems engineering approach that is not constrained to implementation before development is completed
- Larger scale systems will require more advanced engineering efforts but will not require fundamental research or technology development

Vendor Status – Ultra System

- **Developed since 1995 in Wales by Advanced Transport Systems in conjunction with University of Bristol**
- **Strong European government and private partner support**
- **Currently operating a test track**
- **Recently selected for implementation at Heathrow airport with corporate investment from British Airport Authority**
- **Technology Components:**
 - Automotive form factor
 - Battery power, rotary motors
 - Moderate speed and capacity
 - Open guideway
 - Guided steering
 - Synchronous control system
 - Moderate application for cold climate operation



Vendor Status – SkyWeb Express System

- Developed since 1982 by Taxi 2000, including considerable research and systems engineering
- Original funding from the University of Minnesota with limited additional funding and partnerships formed with manufacturing firms
- Limited function prototype is currently available, but no test track
- Considered in many PRT studies over the past 20 years
- Technology Components:
 - Body on bogie form factor
 - Vehicle LIM propulsion, guideway power
 - High speed and capacity
 - Narrow enclosed guideway
 - On-board switch
 - Distributed asynchronous control
 - Suitable for cold climate operation



Vendor Status – Posco/Vectus System

- Developed since 2003 primarily funded by Posco Steel of Korea
- Initial partner in study for Fornebu in Oslo Norway
- Extended development program in cooperation with Korean universities
- Partnerships formed with European firms
- Currently developing a test track in Upsalla Sweden
- **Technology Components:**
 - Body on bogie form factor
 - Guideway LIM propulsion
 - High speed and capacity
 - Open guideway
 - On-board switch
 - Distributed asynchronous control
 - Suitable for cold climate operation



Vendor Status – CabinTaxi System

- Developed in the 1970's with funding from German federal government
- System evolved from multiple design iterations involving advanced operating characteristics
- A fully operational test track with 24 vehicles was constructed and operated until 1980, demonstrating high reliability
- Cabinlift system operating since 1976
- Program cancelled in 1980 due to lack of federal funding. System is still actively marketed.
- Technology Components:
 - Body on bogie form factor
 - Vehicle LIM propulsion, guideway power
 - Moderate speed and capacity
 - Enclosed over/under guideway
 - On-board switch
 - Distributed asynchronous control
 - Suitable for cold climate operation



Vendor Status – Other Current PRT Developers

■ EcoTaxi – Finland

- Partner with Kone Elevator
- Developing design

■ Oceaneering – Florida

- Responding to Destiny Program
- Developing prototype

■ Micro Rail – Texas

- Privately funded
- Mix of vehicle configurations

■ Frog/2getthere/Park Shuttle

- Automated guided vehicle
- Several implementations

■ Austrans

- Group Rapid Transit



PRT Lessons Learned

■ Design is critical

- Performance requirements should rigorously dictate the design
- The overall design and integration of features is a critical success factor
- Picking a design before complete alternatives analysis is potentially fatal
- Design needs to be safe, reliable, economic, attractive, low impact, high performance and scalable to larger networks

■ Required technology

- Advanced control and communication systems are required to deliver safety, reliability, and high levels of performance
- Short headways and advanced network management systems are needed to provide capacity
- Consistent levels of propulsion and braking are needed to provide high capacity
- On-board switching or guidance is critical

■ Careful development is needed

- Alternatives analysis requires time, patience and sufficient funding
- Final design, systems engineering and testing is needed
- Development should not be constrained by deployment deadlines
- Adequate funding and consistent political support is critical

PRT State-of-the-Industry

■ Active or past test track operation

- **ULTra**, CabinTaxi, Raytheon, CVS, Morgantown, Aramis

■ Current prototype development

- **Vectus**, SkyWeb Express, Microrail, Coaster, Ecotaxi/Kone

■ Readiness

- Significant research, engineering, development and application studies for over 40 years
- Past efforts provide a solid foundation for final engineering and development
- Advanced technology components are proven and ready to support an integrated PRT system design
- An optimum configuration and viable vendor base has not been established

■ Acceptance

- Cities and regions continue to display interest in PRT and select as preferred alternative but disqualify PRT due to lack of proven technology

■ Research and development

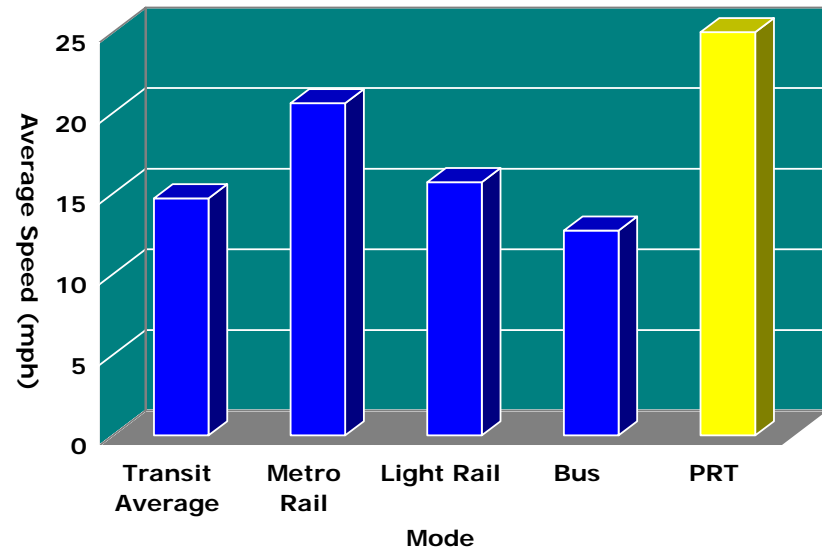
- Developers are limited due to lack of market acceptance and financial backing
- Korean, Swedish and British development programs underway

■ Current application interest and procurements

- Great Britain; United States; Dubai, UAE; Korea; Europe

PRT Performance Comparison – Average Speed

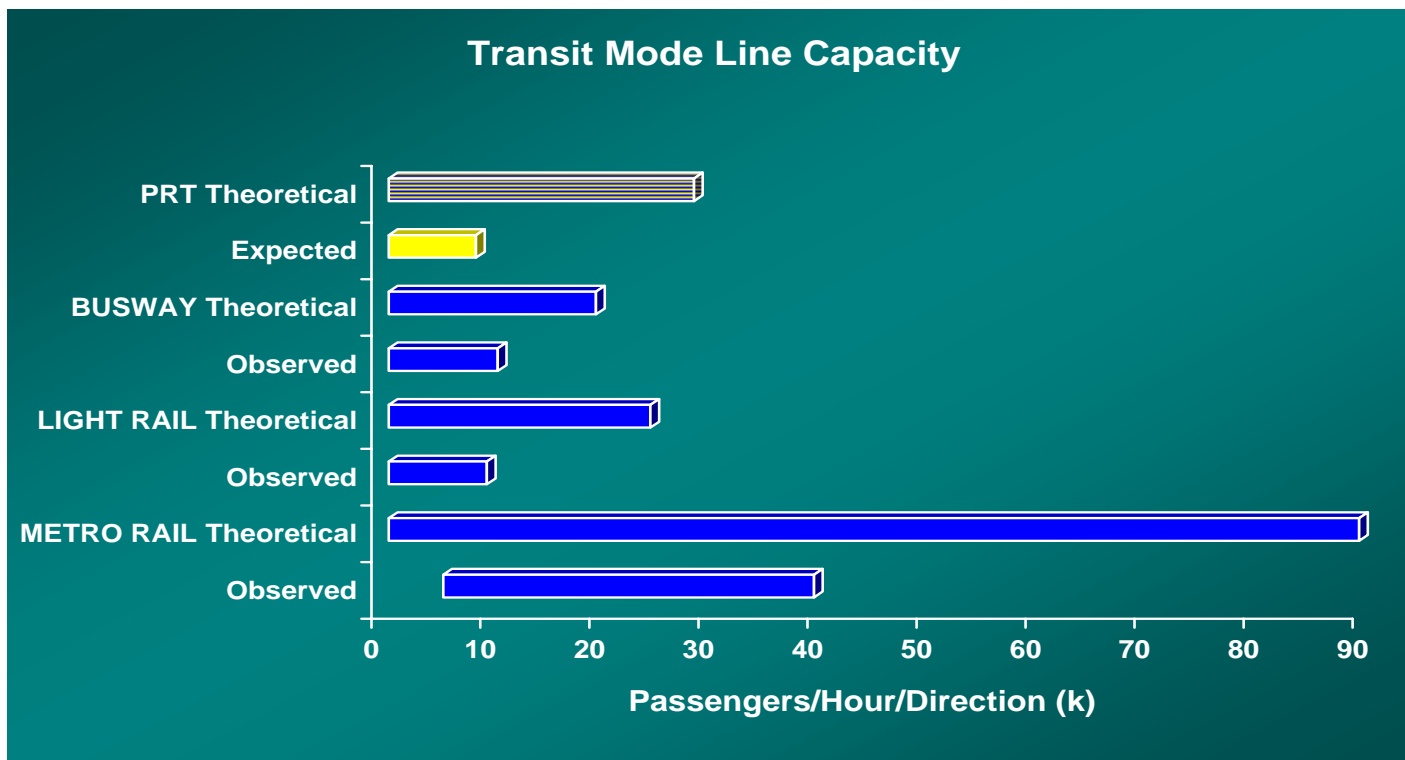
- Average speed is determined by line speed, number of stops, distance between stops, dwell time at stops, and trip length
- PRT systems can achieve an average speed of 20-25 mph with line speed of 25-30 mph due to non-stop trip
- PRT trips can be 80-100% faster than a typical bus trip
- PRT trips can be 20-30% faster than a typical heavy rail trip
- All else being equal, higher average speed can result in higher patronage



Source: 2005 APTA Fact Book

PRT Performance Comparison – Capacity

- Line capacity is determined by headway, vehicle capacity and load factor
- PRT systems can have comparable line capacity with bus and light rail if safe and reliable short headway operation is achieved
- PRT systems can have higher overall system capacity when multiple lines and network layouts are considered with comparable total costs



Source:
TCRP
Transit
Capacity
Manual

PRT Capital Cost Comparison

- Capital costs are highly specific to location, line layout, number and complexity of stations
- The design of PRT systems, with small vehicles and guideways, can support lower capital costs than other exclusive, grade-separated, fixed guideway rail systems
- PRT costs can be expected to be comparable with exclusive right-of-way BRT systems
- Lower capital costs would be primarily due to:
 - Smaller guideway and stations
 - Reduced civil work and right-of-way acquisition

Mode	Capital Cost/Mile (\$M)		
	Low	Average	High
Metro Rail	\$110	\$200	\$2,000
Light Rail	\$25	\$50-\$70	\$195
APM – Urban	\$30	\$100-\$120	\$145
APM - Airport	\$49	\$100-\$150	\$237
BRT Busway	\$7	\$14-\$25	\$50
BRT Tunnel	\$200	\$250	\$300
PRT One Way	\$15	\$20-\$25	\$40
PRT Two Way	\$20	\$25- \$30	\$50

Sources: Kerr-2005, TCRP –R90, GAO – BRT 2000, Vendor Estimates, Case Studies

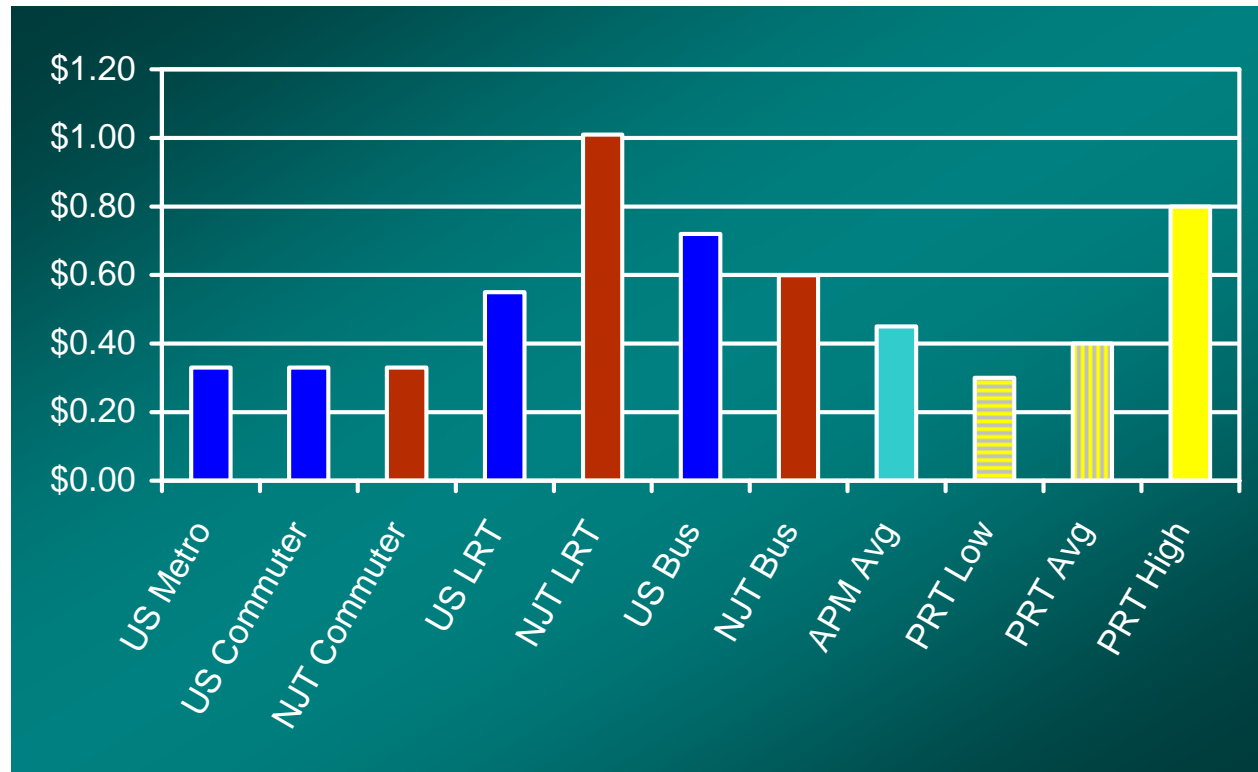
Operating and Maintenance Costs



- Operating and maintenance (O&M) costs per passenger-mile are highly dependent on ridership, system efficiency and system scale
- PRT systems can be expected to offer comparable O&M costs to heavy and commuter rail if deployed effectively and to moderate scale
- PRT systems can be expected to demonstrate lower O&M costs than current automated people mover (APM) systems at airports and the Morgantown PRT (M-PRT) due to:
 - Higher expected levels of automation
 - Greater use of modern and standardized components
 - Simplified design and mechanical wear reductions
 - Reduced energy use
- PRT systems could be expected to experience comparatively high O&M costs if deployed in limited service areas with small patronage demand

O&M Cost Comparison

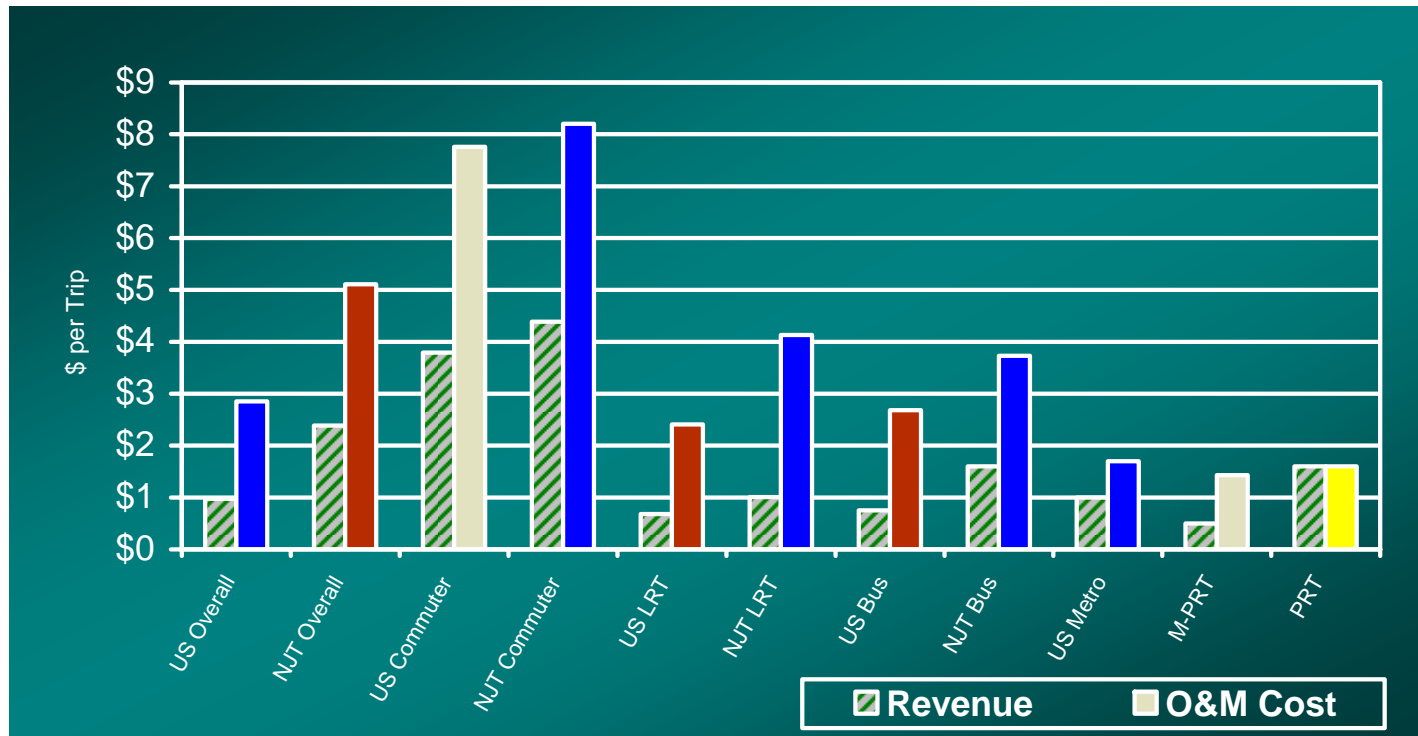
O&M Cost Per Passenger Mile



Source: 2005 APTA Transit Fact Book, NJT, FTA, Case Studies, PRT Vendors

O&M Cost and Revenue Per Trip Comparison

- Transit O&M cost recovery is 34% nationally
- PRT systems can be expected to recover a higher percentage of O&M costs if fares reflect per mile O&M cost
- PRT in a moderate scale application can expect to break even on operating costs for an average four mile trip and average fare of \$1.60



Source:
2005 APTA
Transit Fact
Book, NJT,
FTA, Case
Studies, PRT
Vendors

Challenges to Implementation

■ Engineering and planning expertise

- Limited depth of experience in the industry
- Need to draw upon expertise in related industries such as Aerospace, Automotive, Defense, Computing and Networking

■ Open technology development

- Avoid proprietary designs and vendor exclusivity
- Use of commercially available components

■ Development and application of standards

- Safety
- Security
- Technical

■ Institutional framework to deal with design, safety and security issues

■ Consistent and appropriate political, economic and technology support

Options for Government Support of PRT Development

■ Option 1 – Monitoring and Support

- Monitor current private technology developments and consider participation in the future as PRT technology development advances
- Endorsement of the technology development and consideration for alternatives analysis

■ Option 2 – Research and Analysis

- Participate in research and analysis activities that advance development, implementation and operation of PRT systems
- Quantify economic and transportation benefits

■ Option 3 - Detailed Application Studies

- Conduct initial application studies for future implementation of PRT systems
- Define cost, performance, ridership, layout, impact analysis, and public outreach for one or more potential applications

Options for Government Support of PRT Development

■ Option 4 - Public/Private Development Program

- Public/private partnership structured to develop and implement PRT technology for the US and world-wide applications
- Shared risk and reward program with potentially multiple public and private partners
- \$50-\$100 million comprehensive program involving:
 - Public outreach and initial application studies
 - Development of performance requirements; initial operation and safety standards; acceptance, social and economic criteria
 - Analysis, design, development and testing of technology
 - Pilot system demonstration
- Limited risk with program performance requirements
- Establish industrial and research base in host region
- Potential private partners with previous interest:
 - Bombardier, Siemens, Lockheed Martin, General Electric, Oceaneering, Kone, Alcatel, Honeywell, Northrup Grumman

Benefits to Support PRT Development

■ PRT has the potential to offer:

- High level of service that can potentially attract drivers from their cars and help relieve congestion
- Lower capital and operating costs than other fixed rail options
- Lower right-of-way requirements and opportunity to integrate and expand existing transportation systems with potentially reduced urban disruption
- Reduced energy use and environmental impact
- Increased safety and security
- A business model that:
 - Can reduce government transit capital and operating investments through private development
 - Can increase the use of private firms for operations and maintenance
- An opportunity for economic development:
 - Supporting new implementations
 - A new manufacturing, support and operations industry

Vision for the Future PRT - The Network Model

- **PRT has the opportunity to develop a new business model with the potential to SCALE beyond the limited access of fixed guideway transit**
- **The model is founded on the success of other commercial network businesses such as:**
 - Telephone
 - Internet
 - Cell Phones
 - Cable
- **These network industries are founded on several fundamental principles:**
 - Open standards
 - Mass production and economies of scale
 - Multiple suppliers and providers
 - Government regulation of public access and right of way
 - Market pricing
 - Open competition
 - Private funding
- **Transit can also follow these network successes if the fundamentals are applied to a common technology**

The Internet Example

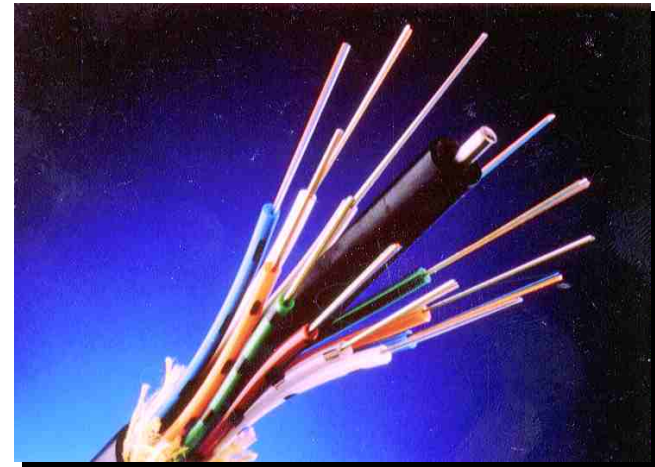
■ Standards

- TCP/IP protocol allowed all manufacturers to build to a common standard that allowed different devices and software products to work on a common network.

■ Mass production, competition and division of providers

- Backbone Trunk Lines
- Devices
- Software
- Customer Access
- Billing
- Administration
- Content Providers

■ Limited regulatory government involvement



The Internet: On Demand
Information, Anytime,
Anywhere

PRT Standards

■ Performance and technical standards needed for scaleable PRT deployments:

- Vehicle Guideway Interface
- Power
- Propulsion
- Control and Communication
- Ticketing
- Safety, Security

Standards allow competition and mass production to occur resulting in:

- reduced costs
- increased quality
- market certainty

■ Development of standards can occur:

- As de facto from the industry leading technology
- In cooperation with public agencies, federal government, associations, and manufacturers

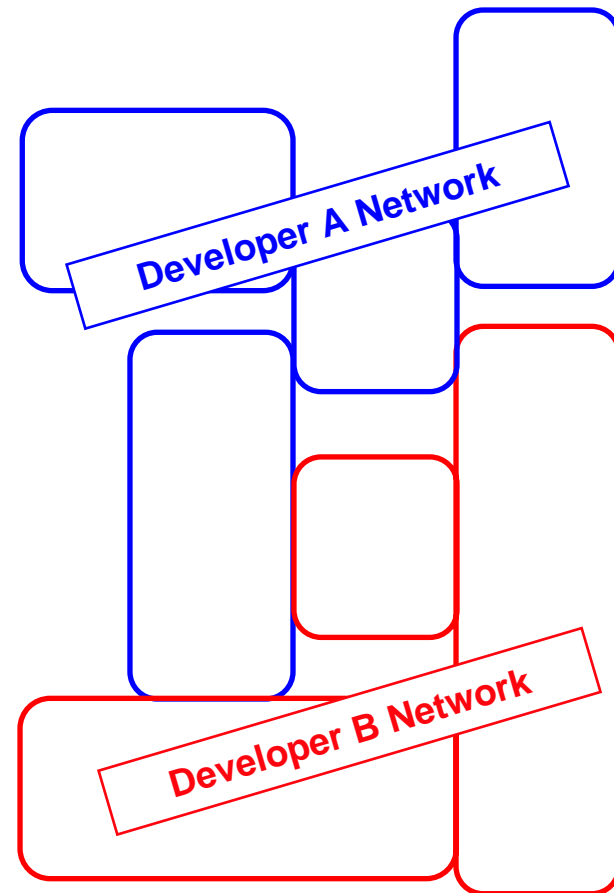
Public/Private Implementation and Operating Model

- **Structured to be a distributed, self-promulgating model similar to the Internet, Cable or Cellular**
- **Elements of an integrated business model**
 - Regulator Agency
 - Developers
 - Service Operators
 - Vehicle Operators
 - Manufacturers
- **Regulatory agency:**
 - Sells or grants public access/right-of-way
 - Oversee standards compliance
 - Insure safety, security, equal access
 - Manage fare policy and costs of developer/service provider
 - Manage central operations provider

Development Funded Capital Expansion

■ Developers

- Granted air-rights to install guideways in specific regions
- Multiple developers with adjoining regions provide connectivity between networks
- Contract with manufacturers to build and install guideways
- Sell station rights to local developers to install stations and off-line guideways as an aid to development
- Contract with central operations provider for system management and control
- Value capture from capital appreciation or revenue from increased land value and real estate development



Operators Contract to Provide Services

■ Service Operators

- Provide command and control functions
- Supervise overall control of system
- Insure vehicles and guideway sections are performing to standards

■ Vehicle Operators

- Multiple providers are allowed to operate vehicles
- Similar to access providers for the internet
- Contract with manufacturers to build vehicles
- Contract with service operators for access to systems

■ Manufacturers

- Build components such as control, vehicles and guideways to standards
- Compete on design, cost, efficacy, reliability, performance

Summary - PRT Private Network Business Model

- PRT can evolve from a public system to a private utility business model
- PRT networks can be based on standards similar to internet and cell phone networks
- Model based on franchise rights where developers build and operate integrated networks
- Government serves in a regulator role
- Vehicle operators provide service on franchised networks
- Funded from private and public sources:
 - Fare revenue
 - Value capture from real estate development
 - Right of way fees
 - Advertising and entertainment fees
 - Station services
 - Supplemental public support

