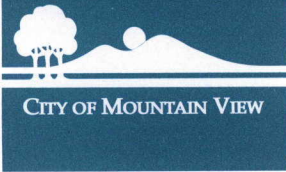


# COUNCIL REPORT



**AGENDA:** February 23, 2010

**4.6**

**CATEGORY:** Consent

**DEPT.:** Public Works

**TITLE:** Resolution Supporting the General Concept of an Automated Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) System in Mountain View

## RECOMMENDATION

Adopt A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE GENERAL CONCEPT OF AN AUTOMATED PERSONAL RAPID TRANSIT (PRT) SYSTEM IN MOUNTAIN VIEW, to be read in title only, further reading waived.

FISCAL IMPACT—None.

## BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

On December 7, 2009, the Council Transportation Committee directed staff to forward a resolution to the City Council conceptually supporting an automated personal rapid transit (PRT) system in Mountain View. This resolution supports, in concept only, the idea of PRT and does not obligate the City Council to take any further action.

PRT is a system of lightweight, computer-controlled (driverless), small (four- to six-person) vehicles operated on a suspended track. The technology has not yet been standardized. Systems currently being tested include the ULTra system at Heathrow Airport in London and Vectus system in Sweden. The City of San Jose, in partnership with the Valley Transportation Authority, is planning to build the nation's first PRT to serve the San Jose Airport.

On September 16, 2009, Steve Blaney from ATS, makers of ULTra, a battery-driven PRT, gave a presentation to the Council Transportation Committee on the concept of PRT. He explained the new technology, in development since 1995, and the potential for connecting Shoreline/Google to NASA and downtown. In response to Committee questions, Steve Blaney explained:

- The desired density-to-travel ratio to support a viable PRT system is 30,000 employees per square mile.
- The cost for public and private easements might be mitigated by increased property values from the PRT system. The system could be built on pillars and property owners may willingly donate air rights.

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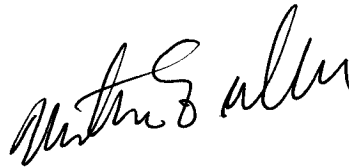
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- Users of the system are expected to include commuters , including carpoolers, shoppers and visitors.
- The current source of power is limited to battery which has high-cost and maintenance problems; however, as with the auto industry, the technology is expected to improve substantially over the next 10 years.
- The estimated cost of a possible 8.5-mile system with 24 stations in Mountain View is approximately \$60 million to \$130 million.

**PUBLIC NOTICING**—Agenda posting.



Helen Kim  
Project Manager



Michael A. Fuller  
Interim Public Works Director



Kevin C. Duggan  
City Manager

Attachment: 1. Resolution

HK/9/CAM  
915-02-23-10M-E^

CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW  
RESOLUTION NO.  
SERIES 2010

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE GENERAL CONCEPT OF AN  
AUTOMATED PERSONAL RAPID TRANSIT (PRT) SYSTEM IN  
MOUNTAIN VIEW

WHEREAS, the City of Mountain View acknowledges a clean and healthy environment determines the quality of life, where the environment can support and sustain the community and where citizens are committed to local and regional transportation; and

WHEREAS, Americans' primary transportation mode, the car, has led to dependence on imported fossil fuels; the paving of public land for roads, highways and parking lots; and many health issues stemming from air pollution; and

WHEREAS, an automated Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) system shows potential to serve as a safer, quicker and healthier alternative to the automobile; and

WHEREAS, an automated PRT system promises to reduce pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions by utilizing electricity and requiring less power to operate and also has the potential to be powered by renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, an automated PRT system may improve the effectiveness of traditional transit by overcoming the last-mile hurdle and linking transit more directly to workplaces, areas of housing, downtown and key destinations; and

WHEREAS, PRT systems are under construction in England and Abu Dhabi and being considered in Korea and Sweden; and

WHEREAS, the City of San Jose, in partnership with the Valley Transportation Authority, is designing an automated PRT system to serve the San Jose Airport, connecting to Caltrain/future BART and light rail stations and other key destinations around the airport;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Mountain View endorses the concept of an automated Personal Rapid Transit system as outlined above.

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