

10-1118
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TRADE, COMMERCE & TOURISM

MOTION

JUN 23 2010

ULTra PRT is a new form of personalized rapid transportation which is set to open soon at London's Heathrow Airport.

Some transit advocates have argued that this technology would be a good way to move people around Los Angeles International Airport and/or from the Green Line terminus into the Airport.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the LAWA and the Chief Legislative Analyst be requested to report within thirty days to the Trade, Commerce and Tourism Committee on this new technology and its potential application at and around LAX.

PRESENTED BY: Paul Koretz
PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY: Bill Rosendahl
BILL ROSENDAHL
Councilmember, 11th District

ORIGINAL

JUN 23 2010

*Los Angeles
World Airports*

July 14, 2010

Trade, Commerce, and Tourism Committee
Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Council File 10-1118; Personalized Rapid Transit Technology

LAX

LA/Ontario

Van Nuys

City of Los Angeles

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Gina Marie Lindsey
Executive Director

Honorable Councilmembers:

This is to provide information in response to the referenced motion (Koretz-Rosendahl), wherein Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) was requested to report on a new technology known as Urban Light Transport (ULTra), a form of personalized rapid transit.

According to its proponents, ULTra is an innovative form of transit which emerged from a fundamental reappraisal of the transport needs of a city. The ULTra system consists of small, lightweight, computer-driven electric vehicles running on slender, special-purpose guideways. ULTra's supporters claim many benefits over conventional road and rail public transit systems, including low capital and operational costs, flexible routing, on-demand service without transfers, greater privacy, zero on-site emissions, low energy use, minimal visual impact, and low noise levels.

Conventional forms of public transit require passengers to collect in groups, wait until a large vehicle with a fixed schedule arrives, and travel on a predetermined route stopping for additional passengers on the way. In contrast, ULTra proposes to offer personal transport with no waiting, and takes passengers non-stop to their chosen destination.

ULTra is now being deployed in its first public application at Heathrow Airport in London, where a system consisting of 21 vehicles, each capable of transporting five to six passengers, run along a 1.2 mile guideway between Heathrow Terminal 5 and a parking lot. In testing, the ULTra system at Heathrow moved 576 passengers per hour, and is proposed to move up to 800 persons per hour when put into operation. The only other ULTra installation at this time is a test facility in Cardiff, UK.

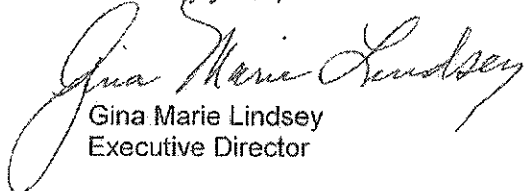
ULTra may have future application at Los Angeles World Airports' facilities. As our planning for a future Automated People Mover (APM) is now in a very preliminary stage, LAWA is not in a position nor does it need to settle on a particular technology for a future APM.

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July 2, 2010
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When LAWA begins assessing candidate technology options for an APM, we will likely give due consideration to the ULTra system.

We look forward to discussing this information with your Committee.

Sincerely yours,



Gina Marie Lindsey
Executive Director

GML:MSA

cc: Councilmember Paul Koretz
Gerry F. Miller, Chief Legislative Analyst