ULTra™ (Urban Light Transit)
Moving Cities Toward a Sustainable Future

Years Ahead of Other PRT (Personal Rapid Transit) Systems
ULTra is the first PRT system to turn a 21st-century travel concept into reality. Delivering 100-mpg transit with zero local emissions, ULTra is an environmentally sound answer to traffic congestion. Developed and tested over 12 years, ULTra will debut at London Heathrow Airport in Q4 2009. The Heathrow system has 100% private sector funding from BAA (formerly the British Airports Authority).

How It Works
ULTra is ideal circulator transit for office parks, airports, universities, and other major activity centers. Saving time and energy, it uses an automated fleet of five-seat electric vehicles moving along a network of elevated tracks to carry passengers non-stop, point to point. Stations are located on track separated from the main track so that stopped vehicles do not interfere with the free flow of passing traffic. Comfortable and quiet, the vehicles travel to personally selected destinations at 25 mph. Commuters need only relax and enjoy the ride. The system operates only in response to user requests.

A Friend to City Planning
Offering tremendous design flexibility, ULTra can readily adapt to irregularly-shaped areas or narrow corridors, and fits both emerging and existing buildings and developments.

*If this PRT is as successful as I think it will be, this could be a big breakthrough, which could transform our cities in ways that we can’t yet see.*
Sir Peter Hall, Author: Cities of Tomorrow

More convenience, less congestion. Lower environmental impact, greater quality of life.

ULTra Remakes Cities
- Less congestion as ULTra frees up road capacity and parking space
- Reclamation of city areas now dominated by the automobile
- Small and unobtrusive vehicles and guideways minimize visual intrusion and conform to modern architecture
- Low-impact infrastructure requires fewer resources as compared with other forms of transport, yielding lower costs and faster construction time.

Dimensions

Capacity
Each ULTra guideway loop can serve 4,000 passengers per hour. ULTra systems can have multiple loops, further increasing system capacity.

Wheelchair Accessibility
ULTra is fully bike and wheelchair accessible, complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

ULTra Enhances the Environment
- Zero local emissions
- Produces three times less carbon than a car per passenger mile
- Battery-powered ULTra vehicles are quiet like other electric vehicles.

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PRT for Perimeter Center

PRT makes carpooling and MARTA more effective, by solving the "last mile problem." U.S. PRT proposals are emerging in Virginia, San Jose, and other locations. For Perimeter Center, it makes sense to consider PRT in long-range planning. Market research for transit-served major job centers forecasts a PRT-induced commuting mode reduction from more than 80% single occupancy vehicle (SOV) down to 45% SOV. In these studies, carpooling increased to more than 30% and transit increased beyond 15%. PRT provides a high quality option for the Perimeter Focus / Perimeter Livable Centers Transportation Circulation Plan.

A PRT system sketch map is provided on this page. Four colored "loops" are shown with about 5 miles of guideway and 15 stations per loop. Additional connecting guideway between red and orange loops and between orange and magenta loops is envisioned.

PRT is faster than a car. For a trip from UPS HQ to Ashford, driving time is 8 minutes (assuming light traffic) and PRT time is 7 minutes, 20 seconds.

Georgia’s Investing in Tomorrow’s Transportation Today (IT3) partnership is lead by Governor Perdue, GDOT, and GRTA. IT3 calls for investment in "reliable, connecting infrastructure, including premium circulators serving the highest density centers."

Peter Calathorpe, Author: The Next American Metropolis: "We’ve concocted a system where local trips take an auto. That’s our biggest tragedy. Streetcar and people movers are moving people from rail stations to their final destinations. But a new concept, PRT, may help revolutionize urban transportation, providing a cost-effective way to get people from train stations to where they need to go."

David Holdcroft, Heathrow Terminal 5 ULTra PRT Project Manager: "This innovative PRT system forms part of BAA’s (formerly British Airports Authority) plan to transform Heathrow, improve the passenger experience and reduce the environmental impact of our operation through the development of cutting edge, green transport solutions."

Perimeter Center: 115,000 jobs, $3B worth of real-estate, 248 office buildings, 40,000 residents, 6M square feet of retail, four MARTA stations."