

La Palma Council – Five Minutes (09.04.07)

Good evening Mayor Waldman, Councilmembers, my name is Roy Reynolds -- I'm with PRT Strategies in Fountain Valley. Per Item Eight on your Agenda, I'd like to talk with you about **Personal Rapid Transit** -- transportation technology that could have a profound and positive effect in La Palma -- and **be a far more effective alternative** for the use of the Pacific Electric Right-of-Way than an expensive maglev system which offers little actual service to your City.

Personal Rapid Transit, or P-R-T, is *not at all like light rail or bus transit* -- it's an elevated monorail-like system with small vehicles carrying only one or two people at a time. The idea is to enter an **already waiting** vehicle at a station, tell its computer where you wish to go, and, like a taxi, then be taken directly to that **destination non-stop, without needing to share the ride**. **PRT would NOT be additive to street traffic will cause NO at-grade congestion.**

The PowerPoint I distributed to you tonight is derived from a presentation we successfully made to the Orange County Transportation Authority two months ago -- their Transit, Planning and Operations Committee voted to study PRT further. This was NOT the case with the Orangeline, and the OCTA memo which REJECTS the Orangeline from inclusion in their future planning is also in the package I've distributed.

PRT allows 24/7 NON-STOP urban transit at 35-40 miles an hour -- riders will find they're getting from one place to another much more quickly than they would *by using a car or a bus* as they're traveling above surface street congestion. As it's electrically powered, PRT is **environmentally friendly and emission-free**. It might even be partially solar powered.

The material we've packaged for you describes PRT in some detail. In addition to utilizing the Pacific Electric Right-of-Way as we're discussing, you might also consider using flood control channels in this area for placement of trackway where it wouldn't be considered intrusive in the neighborhoods -- and you could **especially** consider using Coyote Creek as a Right-of-Way, for example, to reach Long Beach, CSULB, their Veterans Hospital and perhaps even their Airport.

The PE RoW not only reaches the Santa Ana Civic Center area, but it also crosses the Santa Ana River where it could connect northeast to Anaheim's planned ARTIC transportation hub and perhaps to LA/Ontario Airport as we've suggested to the OCTA, Anaheim's Mayor Pringle and the management at Disneyland. Maglev does NOT offer this sort of flexibility.

The narrow Pacific Electric Right-of-Way is **perfect** for PRT trackway, stations as its nearly **SILENT vehicles can operate without lights at night**. Via the PE RoW, PRT could also connect with the Metro light rail to downtown LA and LAX.

Unlike an inflexible linear alignment, a PRT network allows for as many stations as might be practical to service the needs of your City commuters and the transit-dependent. PRT is not *wedded* to the PE Right-of-Way, it can simply use it as a backbone – reaching other major arterials such as Valley View or Beach Blvd. for north-south access into LA County and to the beaches.

As your City has already committed to partnering in the OCTA's *Go Local* program with Buena Park and, perhaps, Cypress, a PRT alignment could easily be extended to reach the newly opened Buena Park Metrolink station – again using Beach Blvd. Former OCTA Board Chairman and Buena Park Mayor Art Brown is familiar with PRT and I'm sure will be supportive of your Task Force.

My reason for being here tonight is simple – my firm requests to be included in the Task Force you're considering as PRT is a VERY VIABLE transit system for the PE RoW – we are Orange County-based and have thoroughly researched the potential of the PE RoW as you'll see in the package I've distributed. We believe our participation in this sub-committee is FAIR, will present you more options and will allow you to best determine the alternatives you have for this extremely valuable property.

Thanks for the opportunity to discuss this. We'd be happy to work with you on PRT as a **better** option for the PE Right-of-Way and answer any questions you might have.