

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIN

January 27, 2009

Dear Colleagues:

As you know we hosted a public forum in 2007 for Unimodal to present their Personal Rapid Transit System (PRT) called SkyTran. Subsequently TAM voted to add SkyTran as a candidate of interest to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission.

Last month, Unimodal provided an update on their progress, which has been substantial. In the past year SkyTran has progressed from the design phase into building and testing physical prototypes, and has also identified partners for project management and private financing. Pods are being produced in southern California for assembly at the NASA Ames Research Center in Mountain View and a financing partner, IERS, is interested in funding a demonstration project that is up and running as soon as possible.

Federal and State priorities on Greenhouse Gas Reduction and the role of transit in this context have progressed as well during this time. At the state level, AB32 has started to take shape. SB375 has laid out a clear "carrot and stick" approach for local government regarding the role of transit-oriented development. From a funding standpoint, AB118 will prioritize spending on alternative technologies to meet AB32 goals. The California Air Resources Board and California Energy Commission are actively working to determine the guidelines for how the AB118 money will be allocated, with a January 8 meeting to discuss the draft Investment Plan. PRT is one of the technologies under consideration, and Marin is potentially well-placed to pursue AB118 funds to become an early adopter of this technology.

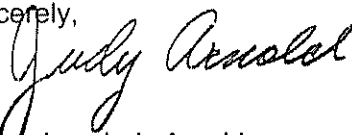
Santa Cruz and San Jose have each requested a formal proposal from Unimodal for larger-scale initial projects, but IERS is also interested in developing a system that makes financial sense sooner and would finance a Marin demonstration system called the "Initial Operating Segment" (IOS) which could be a first step to a countywide system enhancing bus and ferry service, as well as the SMART rail system.


In order to proceed to the next step in a proposal for private financing with IERS for such a demonstration system, Unimodal has requested that our Board send them a letter that Unimodal will present to IERS, to demonstrate Marin's interest in validating the PRT approach by examining the creation of a demonstration system in Marin. Our proposed letter is attached.

We recognize that this is only a first step in this process and that many discussions and public meetings will need to follow to determine the feasibility of this project, to identify a location for the pilot, and to analyze environmental impacts.

We would appreciate your support in sending the letter as a first step.

Sincerely,


Supervisor Judy Arnold


Supervisor Charles McGlashan

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January 21, 2009

Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 329
San Rafael, CA 94903

Re: Request for Pilot project with SkyTran

Dear President Brown and Supervisors:

I am pleased to endorse the request of the Marin County Board of Supervisors to Unimodal to construct a pilot of SkyTran in Marin, and I am willing to work with you and Unimodal to secure funds to support the pilot project.

Under your leadership and with the support of the community, Marin County continues to be a leader in green innovation, and I am proud to represent you in the State Assembly.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jared Huffman".

JARED HUFFMAN
Assemblymember, 6th District

California State Senate

SENATOR
MARK LENO
THIRD SENATE DISTRICT



January 20, 2009

To: Marin Board of Supervisors
From: Senator Mark Leno
Re: Support for Unimodal Pilot Project

I am delighted to support the request before your Board to send a letter to Unimodal asking them to initiate a demonstration project in Marin.

California is determined to find new ways to replace our reliance on automobiles. Marin had made an excellent start with the passage of SMART and bringing in SkyTran to enhance existing and future transit is an exciting idea.

Please know that I stand ready to offer any help I can in bringing SkyTran to Marin, and I applaud your Board for its innovative work.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark Leno".

MARK LENO
Senator, 3rd District