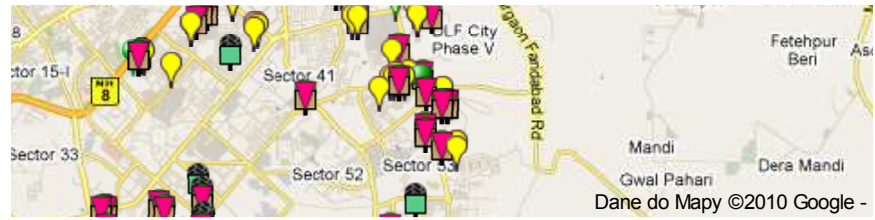


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Gurgaon Eyes Elevated Pods, After Heathrow Airport, Could Be Next To Install New System

By **akansha**, Section **Local Transportation**

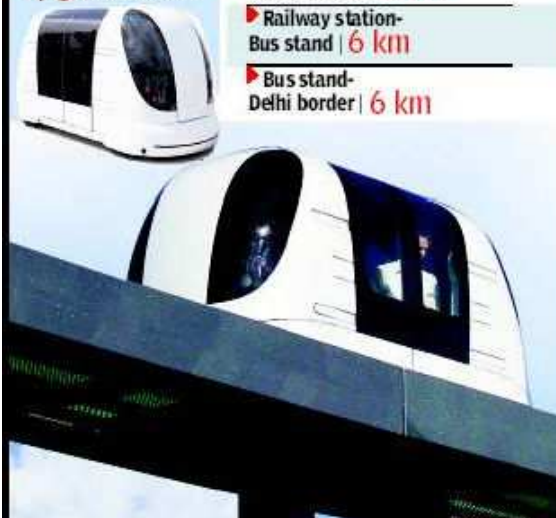
Posted on Tue Mar 16, 2010 at 12:11:05 AM EST

After Heathrow airport in London, the Millennium City could be the second city in the world to have the ULTra (Urban Light Transport) Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) system or pod car, which is a battery-operated vehicle running on an elevated guideway.

After a presentation by a UK-based company before senior government officials, a private company in Gurgaon has been asked to prepare a feasibility report. "The ULTra PRT system designed and developed by British company Advanced Transport Systems (ATS) Ltd will make its debut at London's Heathrow airport sometime later this year. The state government has shown interest in this futuristic transport system for Gurgaon," said a senior transport official.

Personal Public Transport

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The cost of the system per km Rs 40 crore ▶ What is a pod car A driver-less, battery-operated & laser-guided vehicle with central control system ▶ Capacity 4-6 persons per car 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Bus stand- Sikandarpur 7 km ▶ Golf course- Shankar Chowk 10 km ▶ DLF Phase-I- Atul Kataria Chowk 10 km ▶ Rajeev Chowk- Bus stand 2.5 km ▶ Sector 29 metro station- Rajeev Chowk 4 km ▶ Railway station- Bus stand 6 km ▶ Bus stand- Delhi border 6 km
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Officials said a pod car is a driver-less, battery-operated and laser-guided vehicle with central control system. Having a seating capacity of 4-6 persons, it has a maximum speed of about 40 kilometres per hour. Fitted with LCD displays and air-conditioners, the pod car has a small turning radius of 5 metres and the ability to negotiate high gradients. It weighs about 800 kilograms and has bi-parting wide opening doors on both sides.

Empty pods are queued up off-line at stations and passengers can access them with swipe

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cards. The destinations are programmed into a central console on the platform. When the passengers key in the destination details, the pod selects the most economical route for the destination. The ULTra PRT can be integrated with an existing transport system and can provide feeder services to a mass transport system.

"It is an environmentfriendly system and a green solution to congestion caused by vehicles used for local commuting. The pod car is like a personal cab which is demand responsive to users and transports them any where within the track network directly and without any stop. Stations are off line allowing the pods to bypass them, thus reducing travel time," said the official. He said the government was planning to start the project on public-private partnership basis as it will need huge investments.

Source: Times Of India By Sumi Sukanya *Gurgaon eyes elevated pods*

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Officials said the system operates on a dedicated oneway guideway network and provides excellent operational flexibility. The automated pods provides for flexible routing allowing closer point-to-point travel. The PRT stations can be integrated into buildings facilitating a direct entry into malls, hotels and offices.

"For instance, the first of its kind commercial PRT system coming up at Heathrow comprises four kilometres of guide way, linking one station in Terminal 5 to two remote stations in the business car park. When it comes to Gurgaon it will be the smartest way of commuting," said an official in Municipal Corporation of Gurgaon (MCG).

Elevated tracks could be launched in stretches like bus stand-Sikandarpur, Golf course-Shankar Chowk, DLF Phase-I- Atul Kataria Chowk, Rajeev Chowk-bus stand, Sector 29 metro station- Rajeev Chowk, Railway station-Bus stand and bus stand-Delhi border, said MCG officials.

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