

Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Debra Figone

**SUBJECT: SPONSORED TRAVEL TO
SWEDEN FOR SUSTAINABLE
TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE**

DATE: 11-20-09

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) Accept the invitation from the Institute of Sustainable Transportation (IST) and other Swedish based government organizations to present and participate at a Sustainable Transportation Conference in Sweden, from December 7 to December 12, 2009. The conference sponsors will pay for travel and accommodation costs.
- 2) Approve travel to Sweden for Hans Larsen, Acting Director of Transportation as the City's official representative at the conference.

BACKGROUND

The City of San José is gaining increased international recognition as a leader in clean tech innovation, environmental sustainability and green mobility, based on the bold programs and policy leadership described in the "San José Green Vision" plan adopted in 2007.

The Sweden-based Institute for Sustainable Transportation (IST) and other Swedish government agencies are hosting an international conference in December 2009 to focus on the development of automated transit system technology, referred to as Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) or Podcars. These innovative new transit systems are now being developed in Europe and Asia. San José has gained international attention based on an active consideration of PRT to connect the Mineta San José International Airport with the nearby light rail, Caltrain and future BART systems.

San José has been invited to participate at the sustainable transportation conference in Sweden to share its perspectives on PRT project development with other international stakeholders, from both the public and private sectors. Approximately 200 people are expected to attend the conference, including scheduled speakers from England, Denmark, Holland, and Brazil. Sweden's IST has offered to fund conference and travel expenses for a delegation of high-level United States representatives including a representative from the City of San José (see attached notice).

Pursuant to San José Municipal Code Section 12.08.030(I), sponsored travel and expenses of a designated City employee do not constitute a prohibited gift, but must be accepted by the City Council. The travel expenses to be provided by the Swedish conference sponsors for San José's

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participation are estimated to have a value of approximately \$3000 and include airfare, lodging, local travel and most meals. I have selected Hans Larsen, the City's Acting Director of Transportation to be the City's representative.

ANALYSIS

The travel program for the transportation conference in Sweden involves three days of attendance at the conference in Malmo, Sweden (December 7, 8, and 9) including a speaking role, and followed by a two day visit to Stockholm, Sweden (December 10 and 11) to tour Sweden's PRT test track and meet with Swedish transportation authorities.

There are numerous benefits associated with San José's participation in the conference. The two most direct benefits are to:

- As the City of San José considers PRT Technologies, participation in the conference will help ensure the cost effectiveness of our investment and that it reflects lessons learned from other cities regarding this emerging technology.
- Facilitate business development opportunities in San José and Silicon Valley for new "clean tech" and "green mobility" innovations.
- Deepen the City's understanding of the opportunities and challenges posed by PRT and other automated transit systems to support continued development of San José's plans for improved transit connections to Mineta San José International Airport.

Other benefits include:

- Promote San José's "Green Vision" leadership and economic development opportunities to an international audience.
- Network with other cities around the globe that are leaders in transportation innovation and sustainability.
- Gather information on initiatives undertaken by Sweden that have earned its standing as a world leader in transportation safety.
- Explore the potential of IST organizing a future international PRT conference in San José (possibly as soon as 2010).

COORDINATION

This memorandum was coordinated with the City Attorney's Office and the Office of Economic Development.

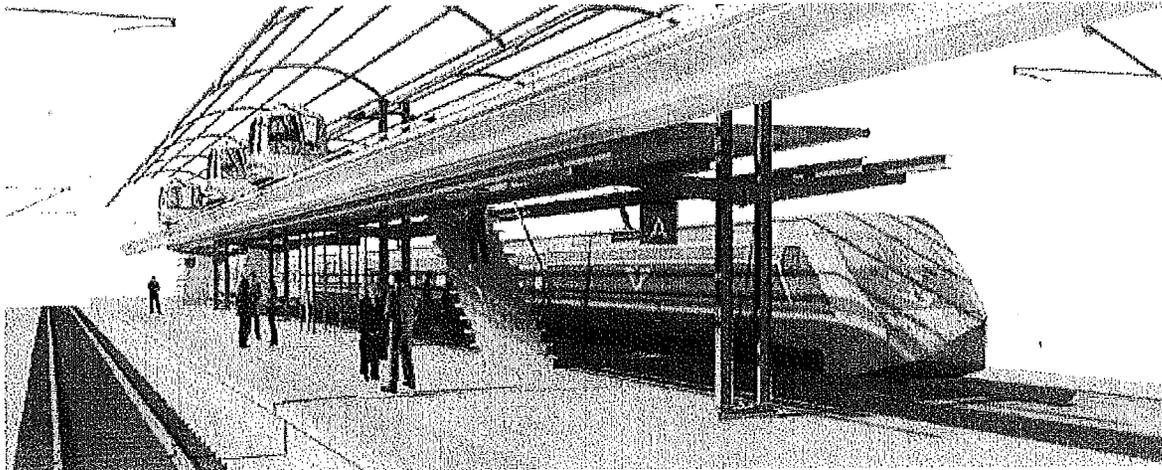


DEBRA FIGONE
City Manager

Attachment

For questions, please contact Hans Larsen, Acting Director of Transportation at (408) 535-3835.

DELEGATION FOR PRT / PODCAR EVALUATION



Background

A growing interest in sustainable transportation has sparked a series of European initiatives to advance research, development, and implementation of Podcar (PRT) technologies. The KOMPASS Organization in coordination with Institute for Sustainable Transportation (IST) in Sweden, the Swedish Minister of Enterprise, Swedish Rail Agency, and the Swedish Consulate General in Los Angeles is seeking four* high-level officials to participate in

- The PodCar City Conference in Malmo, Sweden
- A tour of the Uppsala Podcar Testtrack
- Meetings with Swedish Transportation Authorities and Real Estate Organizations

A very tight schedule has been organized with the program beginning Monday, December 7 and concluding Saturday, December 12.

**neither spouses nor guests can be accommodated.*

Budget

The trip is financed by the Swedish non-profit government organization KOMPASS (Cities for Sustainable Transportation using Podcars) with support from the Swedish Ministry of Enterprise and the Swedish State Rail Agency. The total budget is approx. 20,000 USD, including cost for guide, airfare (economy), buses, trains and all hotels and most meals. Some meals will be the responsibility of the participants.

Preliminary Program

Monday December 7

- Flight from USA to Copenhagen and afternoon view of the bicycle city of Malmö

Tuesday December 8

- Evening meeting at Turning Torso in conjunction with Podcar City Conference and Dinner hosted by KOMPASS

Wednesday and Thursday

- Presence at the Podcar City Conference, short meeting Wednesday with Swedish Minister of Transportation, Ms Ås Torstensson. Meetings with Chairman of KOMPASS, Mr Hans Lindqvist, and Swedish Rail, Mr Bo Olsson

Friday December 11 (Stockholm and Uppsala)

- Morning meeting with Minou Aktarsand, Director General of Swedish Rail and Bo Olsson, Manager of R&D of Swedish Rail
- Presentation by Kjell Dahlstrom, Director General and Håkan Jansson, Swedish Ministry of Enterprise
- Afternoon test ride and information about the Vectus system in Uppsala

Saturday December 12

- Morning flight back to USA from Stockholm

Christer Lindström, Founder, Institute for Sustainable Transportation (IST)

christer.lindstrom@podcar.org

Mariatorget 6 tel/fax: 08-643 29 41

118 48 STOCKHOLM mobil: +46-73-5459179 (Sweden) +1-408-314-9650 (USA)

