



Wilshire Monorail

Expressway to the Future

By Robert L. Rosebrock

Golden Glory Days

There was a time when Los Angeles was the envy of the world because of the superb way we were mobilizing our citizenry. It was during California's 'Golden State' glory days when government officials came from around the world to study our once remarkable freeway system that made LA number one in the nation for having the best traffic conditions.

A Tarnished Legacy

Today, it's reversed. For 18 consecutive years LA's been number one in the nation for having the worst traffic congestion. Strangely, instead of expanding and modernizing our freeway infrastructure to keep up with Southern California's ever-growing population, our politicians traveled to Europe, Asia and South America to study how other nations were mobilizing their citizenry. They came back and told us we need to use subways and light-rails like France, Germany and Japan, and convert our car lanes into 'bus only' lanes like those in Brazil.

All of this makes you wonder why our politicians no longer rely upon the same creativeness and resourcefulness that heretofore built America into its greatness. Lest we've forgotten, we're the nation that successfully sent a man to the moon a quarter million miles away and safely returned him back to earth. That was nearly 40 years ago. However today, we've yet to figure out how to send our fellow man to work a few miles away and back home again. A half-century ago we built "Ike's Grand Plan" of Interstate freeways that readily mobilized our entire nation. Today, millions of our fellow-motorists sit hopelessly immobilized on these same freeways. This is a tragic embarrassment for Los Angeles, the so-called "creative capital of the world."

Isn't it time to think bigger, plan smarter and be more productive so that we can leave behind a functional transportation system that will freely mobilize future generations? We must never forget that they're depending upon us to do the right thing in their behalf. The French philosopher, Teilhard de Chardin, once offered this

inspiring challenge: "The future belongs to those who give the next generations reason for hope."

The Truth About Buses

Let's be realistic, adding more buses is simply not a solution. In truth, buses are what each of us want the other motorists to be riding so there will be fewer cars in traffic for our own driving convenience. Consequently, asking LA motorists to give up their automobiles and ride the bus is impractical and unreasonable, particularly in a free-spirited car society such as ours. In fact, a great majority of those who now ride the bus are only doing so until they've saved enough money to buy their own car and then they'll join the rest of LA's motorists.

Subways Are Not Worth Digging Into

Local politicians are now entrenched in a controversial proposal to extend the Metro Red Line subway under Wilshire Boulevard from the Fairfax District to the beach in Santa Monica. The low down on this 13-mile pitfall is not worth digging into other than knowing it'll cost far more than

EASY TO RIDE: The Wilshire Monorail will be quicker, quieter and more environmentally and passenger friendly than other transit systems. Side view shows a sleek and modern monorail with large and comfortable passenger coaches.

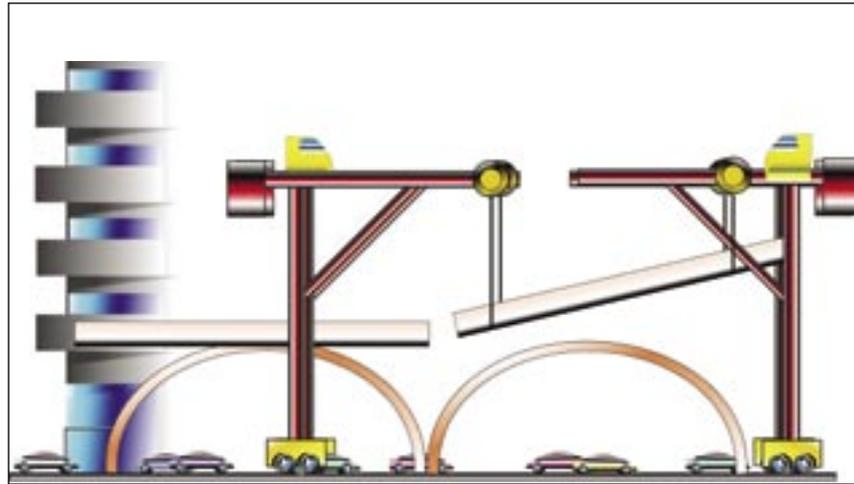
the projected \$5 billion to build and take much longer than the estimated 20 years to complete.

Even if this project were in operation today, it wouldn't be practical since most people enjoy Southern California for its sunny weather and natural beauty, something you'll never see when riding in a dreary subway tunnel.

Time to Elevate Our Thinking

Instead of our politicians traveling thousands of miles in search of outmoded ideas that are contrary to LA's fast-paced lifestyle, why not study the monorails moving quickly, quietly and gracefully above Disneyland only a few miles away? Nearly a half-century ago, Walt Disney introduced us to our future with these sleek-moving "sky trains" that circle effortlessly above his timeless playground. Since its introduction in 1959, more than 150 million passengers have ridden on Disneyland's world-famous monorail. As to why there are not monorails already stretching across LA's vast landscape remains a great mystery.

EASY TO BUILD: Pre-cast modular structures allow the monorail system to be built at a fraction of cost and time as compared to a subway system. Arched support structure assures a safe and solid foundation.



PARK AND RIDE: The ultimate in public transportation is being able to take your car along on your monorail ride so that you can drive to other appointments once the monorail's reached its destination. Saves on time, gasoline and pollution.



Building an Upwardly Mobile Society

We cannot continue on this downward spiral of our government wasting more tax dollars on antiquated buses and depressing subways. Instead, it's time to build an elevated transit system that can freely mobilize a greater majority of our citizenry with LA's "Expressway to the Future" so that we can all spend more time being productive in our chosen careers and devote more quality time with our families and friends.

If LA is going to be a truly progressive society then we need to move onward and upward into the 21st century and start building a future that will be appealing and rewarding for everyone. We can begin this journey with a new multi-faceted monorail system built over LA's famed Wilshire Boulevard that will efficiently mobilize more of our citizenry and civic services.

Getting on Top of Our Traffic Problem

The Wilshire Monorail will feature an environmentally friendly transit system that can move more passengers, more quickly and more efficiently than ever imagined. This modernistic multi-purpose transit system will glide swiftly and silently above Wilshire Boulevard, while motorists will experience fluid and efficient traffic along the Boulevard below.

Not only will monorails reduce traffic congestion but it will also offer a more dependable and proficient



MOBILE EMERGENCY MEDICAL CENTER: Mobile Emergency Centers will move quickly and efficiently from Santa Monica to Downtown LA in cases of necessity to insure prompt and professional medical treatment while being mobilized to the nearest hospital or medical center for further care. **MOBILE FIRE & RESCUE TEAM:** Firefighters and Rescue Teams will be able to move quickly above Wilshire Boulevard in the event of fires or related disasters and adapt to hard-to-reach places with relative ease.

public transportation system for now and future generations. Make no mistake; an ultra-modern and passenger-friendly monorail system will become the greatest incentive for motorists to leave their automobiles at home, while the best reason for continuing to drive our cars will be the notion of riding on current public transportation.

Up, Up and Away!

Thomas Jefferson once proclaimed, "I like the dreams for the future better than the history of the past." Isn't that what America is really all about, planning for a better future? Then let's look up and not down; go forward and not backward; work together and not in opposition.

Summarily, we are either going to move ahead with a bright and promising future or we'll continue lagging behind with yesteryears dull and defective ideas. The choice is ours. Perhaps John Cage, the famed American composer said it best: "I can't understand why people are frightened of new ideas. I'm frightened of the old ones."

Article by Robert L. Rosebrock, a resident of Brentwood and member of the Monorail Society, and author of the soon-to-be released book, "Freedom of the Freeway."

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