

System Information

My system is a modified conveyor, with no belts. Instead of belts, the rollers are individually powered by electric motors. The speed of the rollers can be varied to make small vehicles behave like automobiles, which can accelerate, enter a main travel line, and then exit and decelerate to stop at a loading platform without blocking the main line.

This permits all vehicles to by-pass all stations until it arrives at the exit that is it's destination.

The vehicles would be small, weighing about 500 pounds, and have seating capacity similar to a small automobile, so that it could comfortably carry 4 adults or an average family with 3 children.

I would start with a system capacity of 3,600 vehicles per hour, with the aim of increasing to 7,200 per hour if traffic demands such increase. This would be 1 second spacing, followed by one-half second spacing if demanded.

This traffic flow can never be done in a test system, because there would be only 6 loading platforms, and people would not be able to fill the vehicles fast enough to fill the main line completely. Full capacity can only be reached when the system is extended to cover a larger area.

I think that 20 vehicles would be needed for the initial system, in order to properly demonstrate it's effectiveness. I have calculated that 80 vehicles would be needed for each mile of guideway built, if the system was expanded to cover larger areas of the city. Vehicles will not be very expensive, as they contain very little of the items needed to build a modern automobile. The main cost will be in the prototype, the first vehicle.

My estimate of 10 million dollars was done about 10 years ago. Inflation, and the rising cost of steel in particular, has probably increased this cost to \$ 15,000,000 at this time.