

## **ATRA BOARD MEETING, FEBRUARY 5, 2018**

### **PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS**

#### **ATRA'S 2017 Accomplishments**

- Presented at numerous conferences on the topic of advanced transit
- Jointly held the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Podcar City Conference in Las Vegas, USA
- Presented the Martin Lowson Award for student papers on advanced transit
- Undertook an ongoing initiative to update the ASCE Automated People Movers Standards to better accommodate automated transit networks. Many of our proposed changes have been accepted for balloting. Our proposal to replace the "Brick Wall" standard was strongly challenged in early 2017 and a new Working Group was formed within the Standards Committee to address this change. After much debate and numerous changes to the proposed text, a revision was accepted for balloting on December 1, 2017. If this survives the balloting process, this change (among others) will be included in the 2018 edition of the standards. This will be a landmark step for ATN.
- Issued the monthly ATRA Pulse free email newsletter. It now has a direct mailing list of 1,149. In addition, it is promoted in Transportation Communications Newsletter which we believe has a mailing list in the tens of thousands.
- Mailed 5,000 informational letters to transportation professionals – mostly in the US and Canada.
- Worked with ATRA Industry Group to restructure ATRA such that the Industry Group is no longer a separate group.
- Developed a new action-based committee structure for ATRA.

#### **Advanced Transit**

Advanced transit systems that operate on existing streets are being met with increasing excitement around the world. Many communities are planning for them and even hosting private demonstrations. ATRA member 2getthere remains the only company with driverless shuttles that operate without an on-board attendant, albeit in a somewhat restricted environment. They are planning to expand this system onto public streets and hope to be the first to operate in mixed traffic with no on-board attendant.

Systems that operate on dedicated guideways are not receiving such widespread enthusiasm but are making significant progress nonetheless. There are two projects in the UAE of note. The first is under construction and involves a group rapid transit system by 2getthere that will have 25 vehicles. The second seems to be under wraps still but is believed to be a real project with about 1,500 PRT vehicles. Bangalore, India just received a tender for a system with 2,100 PRT vehicles. These latter two projects each represent a huge jump for ATN since no system in operation today has more than seventy vehicles. Another tender has recently been announced in Delhi. How does ATRA help spread the word and generate similar interest around the world?