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## **Salient Points about Skybus Metro System- Infrastructure with Human face.**

*“ ...it is irresponsible, capricious and subverting public interest to adopt in-efficient costlier technology sucking away public funds into financial black-holes, when much safer, improved and proven latest technology option is available to improve public life at lowered costs...”*

1. Skybus is the innovative solution to the problems of derailments/collisions of conventional metros. USA granted patents to the inventor, Mr. B Rajaram (Indian Railway Service of Engineers). The core functionality of dynamics of suspended coaches, has been tested and proven, to satisfy international safety norms, in 2004 at the World's first test track Goa, India. (A freak accident in an experiment, demonstrated all the good points and superior behaviour of Skybus as compared to conventional railway)
2. The costs also are demonstrated to be the most competitive –for 1.6km of double line test track fit for different gauges-standard and BG, and rolling-stock comprising a fully equipped Skybus twin coaches, an elaborate steel structure comprising station, a traverser, including all power supply substation arrangements and power supply rails got completed within Rs 52 crores and in 6 months- which means an average cost of Rs 36 cr per km can be considered as the cost for the test track. The test track did not have the benefit of series mass manufacturing economies. Hence Rs 50 cr+/-10% per route km is a practical commercial cost for executing a typical Skybus project.
3. Each and every technology element used is time tested and proven in live harsh environs in existing Metro rails, and series production standards will



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- follow the well laid down international standards of UIC /Indian Railway/CENELEC / ISO as applicable.
4. During execution of the commercial project the internationally famous TUV Rhineland, Germany will be associated. The final running tests for satisfying the safety norms as per pre-laid requirement under the applicable ACT ( which in this case could be existing Tramway Act 18XX or the Skybus Act), as done for Railway systems, which is the same basis for other Metro Rail systems, will be followed, to issue the Safety Certificate for public carriage, as done for Metro rail systems.
  5. With this option of proven, Safer, better performing and economic Skybus technology, which in fact is the improved railway technology available, it is technically irresponsible for engineers with experience of old conventional railway systems, to recommend again the same old relatively unsafe and financially disastrous, conventional railway technology, on which Metro Rails are based.
  6. Skybus comes free to the state- with NO financial risk to the Government. Being financially-viable, BOT project needs NIL Government investment.
  7. Construction Time –within 24 months, people travel in the Skybus.
  8. Affordable to common man- at standard 50ps/km air-conditioned travel.- people's metro. Pollution-free and high quality of life for people obtained.
  9. Execution of work with least disturbance to daily city life.
  10. Almost no extra land and no demolition of existing infrastructure.
  11. Adds additional urban space every kilometer at 9000 sqm/per km between stations- a special feature distinguishing Skybus technology.



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12. Transportation of goods /house-keeping functions of city also can be handled- this is unique advantage of the Skybus.
13. Employment for semi-skilled @250 persons every 10 km.
14. Coaches are made maintenance free and fixed polycarbonate sheets take care of any vandal activity.
15. Fully computerized, through self –identification of need for attention, results in need-based maintenance with very high degree of reliability and minimized costs for the bogies and the track is maintenance-free.
16. For a typical city to cover the congested 100 sq.km. two routes of 12 to 15 km as trunk routes and two routes of 10 to 15 km cutting across, may form a grid- to give virtually point-to-point service providing 20,000 to 80,000 pphpd trips capacity per route, scalable as required. If 50 km network is considered, it will cost Rs 2500 cr. But current elevated metro option using conventional railway technology will cost Rs 5000 cr.

*The Skybus is the technology breakthrough that India has achieved. Skybus is an improved railway technology, eliminating the problems of existing metro rail systems, like, derailments collisions, and capsizing crushing people. Old conventional railway-men, who remained basically operating and maintenance experts, may take a little time to appreciate, but the fact remains Skybus is an improved railway technology eliminating their fears of derailments and capsizing from which they suffered for decades!*

*Financially Skybus Metro makes urban transport a dream come true for administrators- virtually free gift to people without Government funding!*

*What needs to be done is to eliminate the doubting Thomas in our minds, and adopt the Skybus, if we want to really solve the urban transport crisis!*

*( Sd. B. Rajaram.)*