



**RON ROBERTS**  
SUPERVISOR, FOURTH DISTRICT  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**AGENDA ITEM**

**DATE:** June 14, 2005

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**SUBJECT:** SUPPORT OF SAN DIEGO ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT'S PURSUIT OF FEDERAL FUNDING FOR A MAGNETIC LEVITATION TRAIN STUDY (DISTRICT: ALL)

**SUMMARY:**

**Overview**

Today's action will direct a letter of support for the San Diego Association of Government's (SANDAG) pursuit of a federal authorization earmark and the ensuing appropriation of funds for a feasibility study of magnetic levitation (maglev) train technology in the San Diego region.

**Recommendation(s)**

**SUPERVISOR ROBERTS:**

Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to do the following:

1. Draft a letter for signature by the Chairwoman to members of the San Diego Congressional Delegation, the Federal Department of Transportation, the County's Washington, D.C. Representative and other interested parties in support of SANDAG's efforts to secure federal funding for the study of maglev train technology in the San Diego region.
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to include in the Board's 2005 Legislative Program support for similar federal, state, or local funding opportunities for study of this technology in the San Diego region.

**Fiscal Impact**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

**Business Impact Statement**

N/A

**Advisory Board Statement**

N/A

**SUBJECT:** SUPPORT OF SAN DIEGO ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT'S PURSUIT OF FEDERAL FUNDING FOR A MAGNETIC LEVITATION TRAIN STUDY (DISTRICT: ALL)

**BACKGROUND:**

Maglev train technology suspends the transporting vehicle in the air above a single track and propels the vehicle forward using the repulsive and attractive forces of magnetism. Devoid of physical contact between the track and the vehicle, friction only exists between the carriages and the air. Consequently, maglev trains are capable of extremely high speed travel of up to 404 mph, while also offering a transportation system that is pollution-free with no exhaust, reduced energy consumption, and decreased noise levels than conventional rail technologies. Theoretically, long-term savings could also be realized through lower maintenance and operation costs due to the lack of friction.

Currently, only one high-speed maglev train is in full commercial operation in the world. The Shanghai Transrapid line operates a 19-mile, eight-minute trip from Shanghai to the Pudong International Airport. Traveling at 270 miles per hour, it is the fastest passenger train in the world and in some cases, faster than some airplanes.

SANDAG and other regional stakeholders believe maglev technology could play an integral role as the airport connector for our regional airport system, in addition to relieving freeway traffic between the two largest metropolitan centers in the western United States, Los Angeles and San Diego. Such a system could hold the potential to further connect the Port of San Diego Marine Terminal directly to five of the largest regional airports in Southern California.

The proposed maglev system would not in any way eliminate the need for a new regional airport serving the San Diego region. However, if the system functions as proposed, it could reduce airport check in times in addition to a possible net reduction in the number of flights at constrained airports while increasing passenger traffic at unconstrained airports. The proposed plan could also reduce freeway traffic on Interstates 5, 405, and 10.

Funding provisions for maglev study are contained within the current language of the federal Transportation Equity Act reauthorization, which is currently in Conference Committee. Establishment of system viability is estimated at \$2.4 million. SANDAG will seek \$2 million in federal funding while the remaining \$400,000 will be matched from other sources, possibly private or public.

I urge your support.

Respectfully submitted,

RON ROBERTS  
Supervisor, Fourth District

**SUBJECT:** SUPPORT OF SAN DIEGO ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT'S PURSUIT OF FEDERAL FUNDING FOR A MAGNETIC LEVITATION TRAIN STUDY (DISTRICT: ALL)

**AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET**

**CONCURRENCE(S)**

<b>COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	
Written Disclosure per County Charter Section 1000.1 Required	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>GROUP/AGENCY FINANCE DIRECTOR</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
<b>CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Requires Four Votes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>GROUP/AGENCY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
<b>COUNTY TECHNOLOGY OFFICE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
<b>DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A

**Other Concurrence(s):**

**ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT:** Fourth Supervisoral District

**CONTACT PERSON(S):**

Caroline Thompson

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Name

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**AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SUBJECT:** SUPPORT OF SAN DIEGO ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT'S  
PURSUIT OF FEDERAL FUNDING FOR A MAGNETIC LEVITATION  
TRAIN STUDY (DISTRICT: ALL)

**AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET**  
(continued)

**PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:**

**BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:**

**BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:**

**CONTRACT NUMBER(S):**

**SUBJECT:** SUPPORT OF SAN DIEGO ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT'S PURSUIT OF FEDERAL FUNDING FOR A MAGNETIC LEVITATION TRAIN STUDY (DISTRICT: ALL)

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**DEPARTMENT:**  
**PROGRAM:**  
**PROPOSAL:**

			FUTURE YEARS ESTIMATED BUDGET OF PROPOSAL IF ADOPTED	
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Budgeted Amount For Proposal	Proposed Change in Budgeted Amount	Proposed Revised Current Year Budget (a+b)	1st Subsequent Year	2nd Subsequent Year
Direct Cost				
Revenue/Other Offset				
<b>NET GENERAL FUND COST</b>				
Staff Years				

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Sources of Revenue/Other Offset for Proposed Change and Subsequent Years:

**Space-Related Impacts:** Will this proposal result in any additional space requirements?  Yes  N/A

**Support/Other Departmental Impacts:**  Yes  N/A

**Remarks:**  Yes  N/A