

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
1120 N STREET, MS-49
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5680
PHONE (916) 654-5266
FAX (916) 654-6608
TTY 711



*Flex your power!
Be energy efficient!*

March 31, 2009

The Honorable Raymond H. LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), as a cooperating agency under a four-party Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) the California-Nevada Super Speed Train Commission (Commission), and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) in the preparation of a combined Program Environmental Impact Statement/Program Environmental Impact Report relating to the proposed California-Nevada Interstate Maglev Project between Las Vegas, Nevada and Anaheim, California, is pleased to learn that the Commission will be meeting with you on April 1, 2009, to discuss the status of this project. It is my understanding that the local support for this project includes the Southern California Associated Governments, the Orange County Transportation Authority, and the San Bernardino Association of Governments as well as the California cities (Anaheim, Ontario, Victorville, and Barstow) along the planned 269-mile route.

A notice was published in the Federal Register on May 20, 2004, initiating the Programmatic Environmental Impact process for this project. Caltrans has been an ongoing participant in this process and looks forward to cooperating further with NDOT, the Commission, and FRA to achieve the required "Record of Decision," which will allow this project to move forward to construction.

High-speed rail and the new technologies it offers (including maglev) have the potential to create new jobs and industries while offering "green" transportation options. Caltrans will continue to participate in this effort, which will place California at the nation's forefront for implementing high-speed ground transportation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Will Kempton".

WILL KEMPTON
Director

The Honorable Raymond H. LaHood

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- c: Mark Yachmetz, Associate Administrator, Office of Railroad Development, FRA
- Senator Harry Reid
- Congresswoman Shelley Berkley, 1st District, Nevada
- Congresswoman Dina Titus, 2nd District, Nevada
- Congressman Gary Miller, 42nd District, California
- Congressman David Dreier, 26th District, California
- Congressman Jerry Lewis, 41st District, California
- Congressman Joe Baca, 43rd District California
- Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez, 47th District, California
- Regina V. Evans, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor
- Dale E. Bonner, Secretary, Business, Transportation and Housing Agency