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March 23, 2009

Ray LaHood, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC 20590

Re: California-Nevada Interstate Magnetic Levitation (Maglev) Project

Dear Secretary LaHood:

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) would like to take this opportunity to express its support for the request by the California-Nevada Super Speed Train Commission (Commission) that the California-Nevada Interstate Maglev Project (Cal-NeV Project) be designated as a high-speed rail corridor and selected for funding as part of the \$8 billion Federal Railroad Administration capital assistance program made available under the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act.

OCTA has been supportive of the Commission's efforts to perform pre-construction design, engineering, and environmental studies for the Cal-NeV Project, including a cooperative agreement dated January 9, 2003, pursuant to which OCTA contributed \$125,000 in matching funds to the Commission to prepare a study specifically relating to the Anaheim-Ontario California segment of the Cal-NeV Project. This segment will facilitate access and usage of Ontario International Airport with a 15-minute ride on the maglev train from Anaheim directly to the airport. This high-speed rail connection will permit additional use of Ontario International Airport by Orange County, Los Angeles, and San Bernardino residents who must now make the trip on heavily congested highways (i.e. Riverside Freeway [State Route 91], Orange Freeway [State Route 57], Santa Monica Freeway [Interstate 10], and the San Bernardino Freeway [Interstate 15]) for flights at Los Angeles International Airport or John Wayne Airport, both of which are already operating at or near capacity.

Language in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users technical corrections act, passed last year, established Anaheim as the western terminus of the Cal-NeV Project corridor. OCTA and Anaheim are jointly constructing a public private partnership multimodal terminal, called the Anaheim Regional Transportation Intermodal Center, which will be a major transportation gateway to connect the Cal-NeV Project with the California high-speed rail line from Anaheim to Los Angeles and

Secretary Ray LaHood
March 23, 2009
Page 2

northern California, Amtrak service to San Diego, Metrolink commuter rail service, and major bus services in Orange County.

A federal commitment to the Cal-Nev Project will reduce existing and future congestion at airports and freeways in the region, while providing greater transportation convenience and far fewer emissions, utilizing a 300-mph emissions-free high-speed train technology.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Should you have any questions about this project, please contact Darrell Johnson, OCTA's Director of Transit Project Delivery, at (714) 560-5343.

Sincerely,



Peter Buffa
Chairman

PB:rb

c: Mark Yachmetz, Federal Railroad Administration, Associate Administrator -
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