



REGIONAL INFORMATION BRIEF

Topic: **MAGLEV**

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Southern California could be the first place in the world to deploy MAGLEV technology in commercial service.

Are High Speed Trains in Southern California's Future?

Through the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) proposes to develop an intra-regional MAGLEV system that will connect major regional activity centers such as significant multimodal transportation facilities in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties. Ultimately, a completed system will connect to the San Diego region and serve as a collection system for a proposed



MAGLEV glides 20 feet above the ground and moves at speeds up to 240 miles an hour.

high-speed rail system that would extend to northern California. Future expansion of MAGLEV into the high desert portions of Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties is envisioned.

What Exactly is MAGLEV?

MAGLEV, or magnetic levitation, is a high-speed transportation technology that uses electro-magnetic energy to propel a train-like vehicle along a monorail guideway at speeds up to 240 miles an hour. If implemented, its high-speed capabilities could revolutionize public transportation in large urban regions by transporting people across vast distances in a fraction of the time it takes to

travel the same distance by automobile.

MAGLEV technology uses electromagnetic forces to suspend, propel, and guide vehicles over a specially designed guideway. MAGLEV combines magnets with linear motor technology. For high-speed travel the vehicle is suspended above the guideway and propelled by magnetic forces powered by electric substations located at

intervals along the route. In other words, the vehicle is literally suspended above, and does not touch, any track. The MAGLEV technology is currently being utilized in Germany, where a Berlin-Hamburg MAGLEV system is currently in place. MAGLEV trains are also under development in Japan.