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City of Newport Beach Endorses California-Nevada Interstate Maglev Project

NEWPORT BEACH, Ca. --The City of Newport Beach has formally endorsed the California-Nevada Interstate Maglev Project (CNIMP), citing the project's ability to reduce congestion, avoid the expansion of airports and freeways, and improve the environment. Mayor Edward Selich recently sent a letter to U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood and the California congressional delegation expressing the city's support.

"It is estimated that by 2015 there will be 52 million people travelling along the I-15 corridor to be serviced by the California-Nevada Interstate Maglev Project," said Selich. "Considering the amount of growth estimated in Southern California over the next 20 years, the maglev system will play an important role in upgrading the infrastructure capacity of the region."

The CNIMP, which is included in the regional transportation plan for Southern California and has been endorsed by the Orange County Transportation Authority and the cities of Anaheim and Ontario, will address highway congestion challenges along the I-15 corridor by enabling efficient travel between Las Vegas and Anaheim at speeds of over 300 miles per hour. The maglev train will also facilitate increased access and usage of Ontario International Airport with a 15-minute ride on the maglev train from the Anaheim Regional Transportation Intermodal Center (ARTIC) directly to Ontario International Airport.

"The people of Southern California deserve a transportation system for the 21st Century," said Neil Cummings, president of the American Magline Group. "We welcome the City of Newport Beach's support and partnership in helping to make this a reality."

Highly-efficient, maglev technology, currently operational on a daily basis in Shanghai, China, with a 99.5 percent on-time rate, emits no direct greenhouse gas emissions and results in far fewer pollutants than traditional forms of ground transportation. The project will also help ease land consumption issues, impact to wetlands, endangered species and community disruption.

The Anaheim-Las Vegas corridor will provide quality passenger service to an estimated 43 million passengers annually by 2025 - the equivalent of an eight-lane freeway moving at a constant speed of 60 mph, or 295 fully loaded 747s landing at LAX each day. A trip between Anaheim and Las Vegas will take only 81 minutes.

The City of Newport Beach is located in the coastal center of Orange County and has an estimated permanent population of 86,252. During the summer months, the population grows to more than 100,000 with 20,000 to 100,000 tourists daily. Newport Beach is known for its fine residential areas, modern shopping facilities, strong business community and quality school system. It surrounds Newport Bay where more than 9,000 boats of all types are docked within the 21-square-mile harbor area. The bay area and the city's eight miles of ocean beach offer outstanding fishing, swimming, surfing, and aquatic activities.