

Proposed maglev train loses federal funding DesertXpress train still in environmental review

JESSICA CEJNAR, STAFF WRITER

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Backers of a proposed magnetic-levitating train that will run between Anaheim and Las Vegas with a stop in Barstow say they will stick to their schedule despite the likelihood that the federal funds they expected will be shifted to a different project.

Federal transportation funds in the amount of \$45 million were intended for the \$12.1 billion maglev project but is now being shifted to the Nevada Department of Transportation with the intent of widening a connector road near the McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas. Ultimately, however, the state of Nevada will decide what to do with the funds.

The \$45 million was shifted away from the maglev project as part of a jobs bill voted for by Nevada Sen. Harry Reid and signed into law Thursday by President Barack Obama. Reid switched his support from the maglev project last summer to a privately funded high-speed train being built by DesertXpress Enterprises. The \$4 billion diesel-electric train would run between Victorville and Las Vegas without a Barstow stop.