

The Senate Transportation Committee offered the following substitute to SR 117:

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Georgia Department of Transportation to support a maglev train connecting
2 Hartsfield-Jackson Airport in Atlanta along Interstate 75 with the Chattanooga Municipal
3 Airport (Lovell Field), to be known as the "The Plane Train"; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, Hartsfield-Jackson Airport is close to reaching its maximum operating capacity;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, it is unlikely that any political subdivision in northwest Georgia would allow
7 a new international airport to be built in its jurisdiction; and

8 WHEREAS, many residents in North Georgia and visitors to our state complain that the
9 Atlanta airport is too far away and does not serve their needs; and

10 WHEREAS, any trip to Hartsfield-Jackson Airport from North Georgia necessarily involves
11 delays due to the congestion encountered while traveling through the metropolitan Atlanta
12 area; and

13 WHEREAS, a magnetic levitating, or maglev, train is a form of transportation that levitates,
14 guides, and propels vehicles using electromagnetic force. This method is faster than wheeled
15 mass transit systems, potentially reaching velocities comparable to turboprop and jet aircraft;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, one advantage of maglev's higher speed would be extension of the serviceable
18 area (3 hours radius) that can outcompete subsonic commercial aircraft; and

19 WHEREAS, high-speed maglev is safe, environmentally friendly, and energy efficient,
20 reducing pollution, transportation fatalities, and reliance on foreign oil; and

21 WHEREAS, both past and current studies by the Atlanta Regional Commission and the
22 Georgia Department of Transportation have validated the feasibility of implementing a
23 revenue-producing maglev system in this corridor with potential regional extensions to other
24 parts of the state and other states.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
26 GEORGIA that this body urges the Department of Transportation to develop a strategic plan
27 to construct a high-speed (240 MPH and above) maglev system or "Plane Train" connecting
28 Hartsfield-Jackson Airport in Atlanta with Lovell Field in Chattanooga using proven
29 commercially available and readily deployable high-speed maglev systems similar to the
30 maglev system currently in operation in Shanghai, China.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body urges the Department of Transportation to
32 report to the General Assembly by September 30, 2009, on its progress in developing this
33 plan.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
35 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Commissioner of the Georgia
36 Department of Transportation and to each member of the State Transportation Board.