

Senate majority leader backing VV's Vegas train

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VICTORVILLE • After three decades supporting a proposed maglev train between Anaheim and Las Vegas, U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid told the Los Angeles Times that he's now backing the DesertXpress project from Victorville to Vegas.

Reid, a Nevada Democrat, said the privately funded DesertXpress is cheaper and closer to starting construction than the government-funded maglev, according to a report in Tuesday's L.A. Times, and that the Victorville-to-Vegas project now seems like the most viable option.

DesertXpress is expected to cost between \$3.5 and \$4 billion. The train will travel up to 150 mph, cost \$110 round-trip and drop visitors in Vegas in roughly an hour and 20 minutes, according to DesertXpress President Tom Stone.

The project could start construction in Victorville in early 2010 and take four years to complete, with a possible future connection to Palmdale.

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