

Transrapid High-Speed Maglev for the United States



The Pennsylvania High-Speed Maglev Project is focused on deploying a magnetically levitated transportation system in Pennsylvania. It has chosen the Transrapid International TR-08, developed in Germany, as the maglev system to be deployed. The Transrapid technology has been under development for more than twenty years. The Transrapid TR-08 is the eighth generation vehicle and has been operating in northwestern Germany. The Transrapid has been in operational service in Shanghai, China for the since April 2004. It is presently being readied for application between the City of Munich, Germany and the Munich Airport.

The Transrapid system has the capability of speeds in excess of 300 mph (500 kph) while being propelled over a guideway without directly contacting the guideway. The Transrapid travels at these speeds with no moving parts while being both levitated and propelled electro-magnetically. It is capable of climbing grades of up to 10% and accelerates and decelerates four times faster than the world's fastest steel wheel trains. The travel is remarkably smooth and passengers are not required to wear seat belts and can walk freely and comfortably throughout the train.