

Specter visits Maglev facility

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U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., decided to get an up-close look at a form of transportation he's been backing for almost 30 years.

Until Tuesday, Specter had never seen the facility Maglev Inc. erected in the 1905 building in RIDC Riverplace Industrial Center of McKeesport, but he took time to do so during stops in and around Pittsburgh.

Specter is trying to hasten a federal decision about Maglev Inc.'s proposed train between Pittsburgh International Airport, downtown Pittsburgh, Monroeville and Greensburg.

He said "technical corrections" are needed to finish a final environmental impact study. A draft done in September 2005 began a three-year clock on the final study.

"I've been a Maglev devotee for 30 years," Specter said. "I've been backing this forever."

That support included securing a U.S. Department of Labor grant for the precision fabrication technology curriculum taught at Community College of Allegheny County's South Campus in West Mifflin, Penn State's Greater Allegheny campus in McKeesport and Maglev Inc.

"The mechanisms are enormously impressive," he said.

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