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## German demo train crashes after hosting Ga. group

Delegation was studying the rail for possible projects here

A high-speed demonstration train that crashed in Germany on Friday, killing 23 people, had just hosted a delegation from Georgia that was studying the rail for possible Georgia projects.

The comprehensive planning chief of the Atlanta Regional Commission, the Department of Transportation's chief engineer and others were apparently on the same train just six days earlier, on the Saturday before, said members from the trip.

"You know, we had talked about going this weekend or last weekend, and I'm kind of glad we went last weekend," said David Doss, who recently stepped down as chairman of the state Transportation Board and now heads the board's public-private initiative committee. He was on the study trip.

In contrast to his vocal opposition to commuter rail, Doss is a fervent, longtime supporter of high-speed rail. The state currently is conducting a federally funded study for a possible high-speed rail line to Chattanooga.

Doss and other advocates hastened to point out that the train, which is held above the rails by a magnetic field, did not crash into a maintenance car because of its magnetic-levitation technology. Doss said a train company representative said a car on the tracks would not stop the train, but the utility vehicle weighed far more.

"Of course, it's a tragedy, but I still have complete confidence in the technology," Doss said.

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