



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration



BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON SUPERCONDUCTING MAGLEV PROJECT



Public/Agency Coordination Plan

December 2020 Update

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1 INTRODUCTION

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to evaluate the Baltimore-Washington Superconducting Magnetic Levitation (SCMAGLEV) Project (the “Proposed Action” or the “Project”). As part of the NEPA process, FRA will follow “Efficient Environmental Reviews for Project Decision-making” (23 U.S. Code § 139), which specifies requirements for coordination by the lead Federal agency within the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) with permitting and resource agencies that may have jurisdiction, authority, expertise, and/or relevant information with respect to the Project as well as with the public.

This Public/Agency Coordination Plan has been developed to guide the SCMAGLEV Project’s coordination activities with both the public and other interested, involved, cooperating, and participating agencies through the duration of the NEPA process.

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE COORDINATION PLAN

The FRA has developed this Public/Agency Coordination Plan (Plan) to describe the SCMAGLEV Project’s coordination activities with both the public and other interested, involved, cooperating, and participating agencies throughout the NEPA environmental review and approval process. The Plan summarizes key federal, state, and local agencies that are stakeholders and describes their responsibilities. It identifies key messages, themes, and general considerations to support the public outreach efforts associated with the planning, design, and study of the SCMAGLEV Project. This Plan also outlines the methodology for receiving input from agency and public stakeholders throughout the environmental review process.

This Plan includes a schedule for completion of the environmental review process that has been established by FRA, after consultation with cooperating and participating agencies for the project and with the State, per 23 U.S. Code § 139. The schedule is provided in **Table 3** and includes required comment review periods for key project milestones.

1.2 COORDINATION PLAN UPDATES AND REVISIONS

The coordination plan will be in effect throughout the NEPA process. The plan will be updated or modified as necessary based on determinations by the FRA as the Project progresses. Following review of existing data, literature searches, and agency/public meetings and comments, FRA will determine if changes or adjustments are needed. If FRA determines that adjustments or changes are needed, the revised section(s) will be submitted to cooperating and participating agencies for review. Agencies will have fourteen (14) days to review and submit comments. If comments are not received, FRA will assume the agency concurs with the revisions. All changes and updates will be documented in the Revision History section of the plan. Revision history and reference to agency comments are in **Section 6, Revision History**

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2 PROJECT OVERVIEW

2.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

In 2001, the Federal Railroad Administration published the Record of Decision (ROD) on a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the MAGLEV Deployment Program (MDP), established in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). The purpose of the PEIS was to identify potentially viable project locations in the United States to demonstrate the feasibility of MAGLEV technology.

Through a nationwide competition, FRA selected seven states — California, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Nevada, and Pennsylvania — to receive pre-construction planning grants and participate in the development of the Draft and Final PEIS. Each state project was considered an alternative in the PEIS. The PEIS ROD concluded that MAGLEV was an appropriate technology to provide additional transportation options and the Maryland and Pennsylvania projects should be further considered as the preferred project alternatives for the MDP.

In cooperation with the Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOT) Maryland Transit Administration (MTA), FRA then published and circulated a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) in 2003, for a MAGLEV system linking downtown Baltimore, MD, BWI Thurgood Marshall International (BWI Marshall) Airport and Union Station in Washington, DC. In 2007, MDOT/MTA, in cooperation with FRA, prepared but did not finalize a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). The revitalization of the Project is due in large part to the commitment of private and international funding for both the NEPA study and design and construction and because of technological advancements over the last decade that make project construction and operations more economically feasible.

In November 2015, the Maryland Public Service Commission approved the Baltimore Washington Rapid Rail's (BWRR) application to acquire a passenger railroad franchise to deploy a SCMAGLEV system between Baltimore, MD and Washington, DC. BWRR is a private corporation and, as the Project Sponsor and developer of the proposed SCMAGLEV system, will work with Federal and state agencies, including FRA, on this Environmental Impact Statement. In 2016, through the Safe Accountable Flexible Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), FRA awarded funds to MDOT to prepare preliminary engineering and conduct the NEPA process for the SCMAGLEV Project.

2.2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed system will utilize SCMAGLEV technology and build upon previous planning and environmental review efforts to provide a service between Baltimore and Washington. The Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV Project involves the proposed construction and operation of a high-speed superconducting MAGLEV train system between downtown Washington, DC and downtown Baltimore, MD with an intermediate stop at BWI Marshall Airport. The Project will include construction of a guideway (track) and three stations, a rolling stock storage depot, maintenance facility, power substations, vent plants, and an operations facility.

The study area (Figure 1) between Baltimore and Washington is approximately 40 miles long and 10 miles wide. The proposed SCMAGLEV system would be designed to run on a new, high-quality guideway with bidirectional service, an automatic train control system, and no at-grade crossings. The proposed SCMAGLEV design is anticipated to provide service between Baltimore and Washington in approximately

15 minutes of travel time. The Project Team, (members described in **Section 3.1**), anticipates the Project would be funded by federal and private funding, and would include construction of the new SCMAGLEV guideway, stations, and support facilities.

The purpose of the SCMAGLEV Project is to evaluate, and ultimately construct and operate, a safe, revenue-producing, high-speed ground transportation system that achieves the optimum operating speed of the SCMAGLEV technology to significantly reduce travel time in order to meet the capacity and ridership needs of the Baltimore-Washington region. To achieve the operational and safety metrics needed for a SCMAGLEV system, the Project must include:

- Infrastructure, vehicles, and operating procedures required for the SCMAGLEV system.
- An alignment which allows the highest practical speed that can be attained by SCMAGLEV technology at a given location and which avoids the need for reduction in speed other than that imposed by the normal acceleration and braking curves into and out of stations.
- A system that complies with federal safety requirements.
- Avoidance, minimization, and mitigation of impacts to the human and natural environment.

The objectives of the SCMAGLEV Project are to:

- Improve redundancy and mobility options for transportation between the metropolitan areas of Baltimore and Washington, DC.
- Provide connectivity to existing transportation modes in the region (e.g., heavy rail, light rail, bus, air).
- Provide a complementary alternative to future rail expansion opportunities on adjacent corridors.
- Support local and regional economic growth.

The purpose of the Project has been derived from the following needs:

- Increasing population and employment;
- Growing demands on the existing transportation network;
- Inadequate capacity of the existing transportation network;
- Increasing travel times;
- Decreasing mobility; and
- Maintaining economic viability.

FRA published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS for the SCMAGLEV Project in the Federal Register on November 25, 2016. An Environmental Impact Statement Scoping Document was also made available to the public in May 2017, via the Project website (www.bwmaglev.info).

FRA will coordinate with cooperating and participating agencies during development of the EIS pursuant to NEPA (23 USC 139) and Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Section

1501.6). FRA will also consult with the Maryland and District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs), Federally recognized tribes, and other consulting parties pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

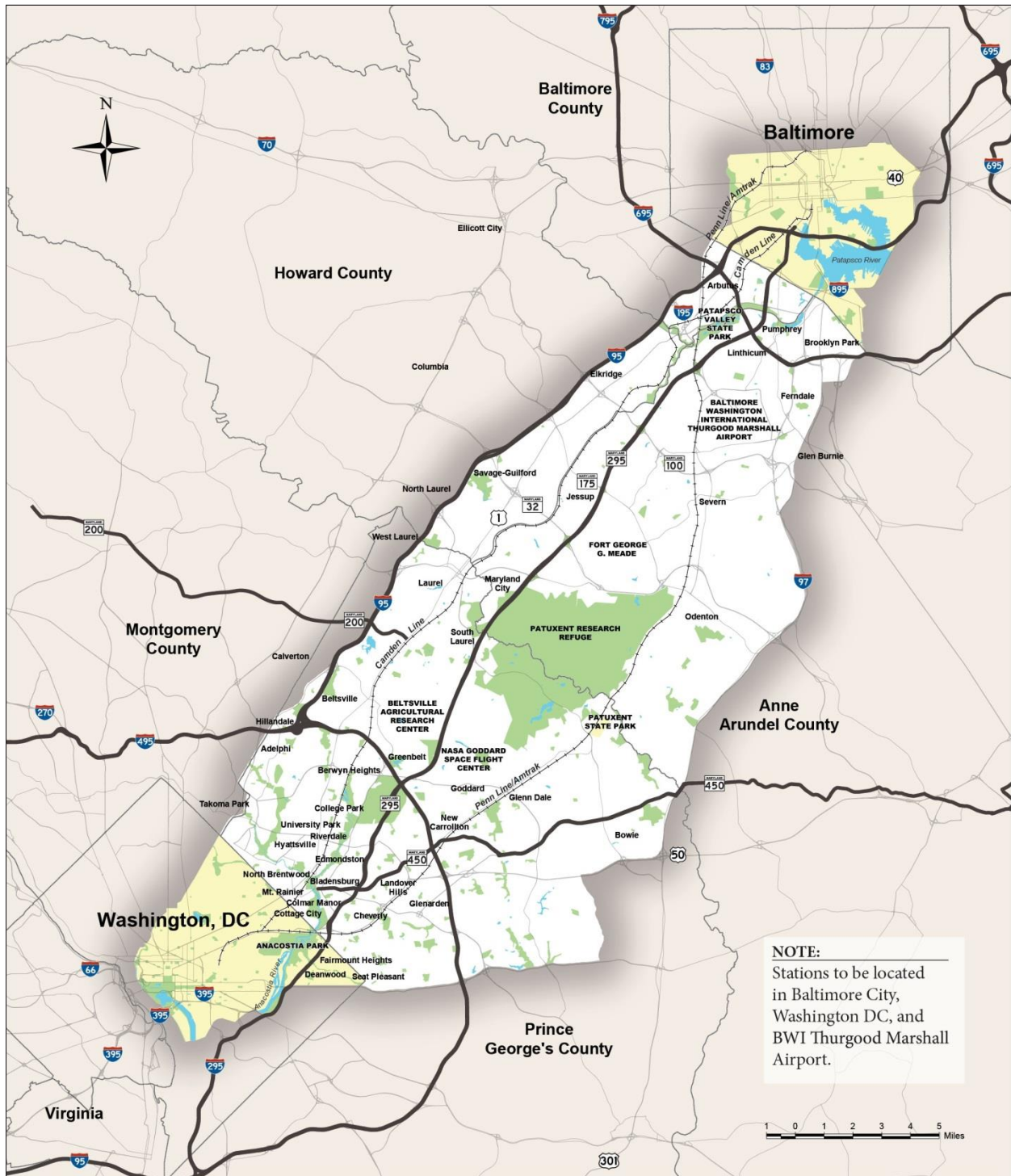


Figure 1: SCMaglev Study Area

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3 LEAD/COOPERATING/PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

3.1 AGENCIES, ROLES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES

There are many Federal, District, state, regional, and local agencies with varied interests in the SCMAGLEV Project. In accordance with 40 CFR 1501.5 and 23 U.S.C. § 139, agency roles and responsibilities are defined below.

Lead Agencies and Project Sponsor

For projects subject to NEPA, the lead agencies are responsible for ensuring that the environmental review process is conducted properly and in accordance with all applicable environmental regulations. FRA is the lead Federal agency for the Project, and MDOT, as the grantee, is the joint lead agency. As the lead Federal agency, FRA is responsible for identifying, inviting, and proactively involving cooperating and participating agencies as well as the public.

BWRR, as the private Project Sponsor and developer of the proposed SCMAGLEV system, will work with FRA to carry out preliminary engineering throughout the NEPA process.

Cooperating Agencies

The CEQ regulations (40 CFR 1508.5), define a Cooperating Agency as “any Federal agency other than a lead agency which has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposal (or a reasonable alternative) for legislation or other major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.” A state or local agency of similar qualifications or when the effects are on a reservation, an Indian Tribe may, by agreement with the lead agency, become a cooperating agency. At this time, there are no state or local agencies or Indian Tribes that are also Cooperating Agencies.

In accordance with (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR 1501.6 and 23 USC 139), each Cooperating Agency shall:

- Participate in the NEPA process at the earliest possible time.
- Participate in the scoping process.
- Assume, on request of the lead agency, responsibility for developing information and preparing environmental analyses including portions of the environmental impact statement concerning which the cooperating agency has special expertise.
- Make available staff support at the lead agency’s request to enhance the latter’s interdisciplinary capability.
- Normally use its own funds. However, the lead agency shall, to the extent available funds permit, fund those major activities or analyses it requests from cooperating agencies. Potential lead agencies shall include such funding requirements in their budget requests.

A Cooperating Agency with jurisdiction may adopt an EIS prepared by another agency without re-circulating the EIS as the lead agency when, after an independent review of the EIS, the Cooperating Agency concludes that its comments and suggestions have been satisfied. This provision is particularly important for permitting agencies that, as Cooperating Agencies, routinely adopt environmental documents prepared by the USDOT. Cooperating agencies will be provided the opportunity to review and

comment on Administrative (Admin) Draft EIS or Admin Final EIS.

Participating Agencies

Participating Agencies are Federal, state, or local agencies or Federally recognized tribal governmental organizations with an interest in the Project. The standard for Participating Agency status is more encompassing than the standard for Cooperating Agency status. Therefore, Cooperating Agencies are, by definition, Participating Agencies. However, not all Participating Agencies are designated as Cooperating Agencies. Cooperating Agencies have a higher degree of authority, responsibility, and involvement in the environmental review process than participating agencies. As the lead Federal agency, FRA considered the distinctions noted above in deciding whether to invite an agency to serve as a cooperating agency or a participating agency. The role of participating agencies is to:

- Provide input on defining the Project's purpose and need, the range of alternatives to be considered, and the methodologies and level of detail required in the alternatives analysis;
- Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews, as appropriate;
- Provide timely comments on unresolved issues.

Concurring and Commenting Agencies

The NEPA Team for the SCMAGLEV Project is using Maryland's Streamlined Environmental and Regulatory Process to establish concurrent coordination of Section 106, Endangered Species Act, Clean Air Act, and Clean Water Act Section 404.

Concurring Agencies will review, comment and provide formal concurrence at three key milestones to comply with Maryland's Streamlined Environmental and Regulatory Process for issuance of required wetlands and waterways permits following the NEPA phase. Milestones are: 1) purpose and need; 2) alternatives retained for detailed study; and 3) selected alternative and conceptual mitigation. Concurring Agencies provide agreement to the decisions made at key milestones, unless there are substantial changes to the proposed action or significant new circumstances or information relevant to the environmental concern.

Cooperating and participating agencies will review and provide formal comments at the above three milestones. Both concurring and commenting agencies work closely with other Federal, state, and local resource agencies during the NEPA phase of the Project.

Summary

FRA has invited applicable federal, state, county, and local government regulatory and jurisdictional agencies within the SCMAGLEV study area to be cooperating and participating agencies. The invited agencies are listed in **Table 1**. As study alternatives are developed and potential property impacts are determined, additional public landowners will be invited to participate in the NEPA process.

Table 1 lists the lead agencies as well as the agencies that have been invited and agreed to serve as cooperating or participating agencies for the Project, with their responsibilities associated with the applicable area of jurisdiction or expertise. Any Federal agency that is invited by the lead agency to participate in the environmental review process for a project shall be designated as a Participating Agency by the lead agency unless the invited agency declines in writing; other agencies must accept in writing. FRA sent letters in late November 2016, inviting agencies to be either cooperating or participating agencies and to participate in scoping for the Project. The invitations requested written responses by December 23, 2016.

Table 1: Lead Agencies and Invited Cooperating and Participating Agencies

Agency	Accepted Invitation	Responsibilities
Lead Agencies		
Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)	NA	Manage environmental review process; prepare EIS and NEPA decision document; provide opportunity for public and agency involvement; arbitrate and resolve issues.
Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)	NA	Administer federal grant funding in amount of \$27.8M; oversee environmental studies and preliminary engineering being performed by other state agencies, including MEDCO and the MTA for BWRR's proposal; and oversee the public outreach process.
Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA)	NA	Oversee EIS documentation, which is being prepared by the Environmental Consultant, AECOM.
Cooperating Agencies		
Federal Agencies		
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)****	Yes	Regulatory authority over BWI Marshall Airport. Consultation related to airport planning and FAA Form 7460-1, Notice of Proposed Construction or Alteration.
Federal Transit Administration (FTA)	Yes	Consultation related to transit services and facilities including MTA Commuter Bus, Commuter Rail and Light Rail and WMATA Metrorail and Commuter Bus services.
National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC)	Yes	Approval authority over Federal projects within the District, including all land transfers and physical alterations to Federal property, pursuant to the National Capital Planning Act of 1952. Federal properties noted within the study area include the Baltimore-Washington Parkway, Greenbelt Park, Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens, U.S. National Arboretum; Anacostia Park; Beall's Pleasure, and the L'Enfant Plan Reservation 173 & 174.
U.S. Department of Interior (USDOI)-National Park Service (NPS)	Yes	NPS is responsible for managing the National Park System, including permitting on NPS land. The NPS has jurisdiction over Federal park land in the Study Area including Baltimore- Washington Parkway, Kenilworth Park, and Anacostia Park. There are several National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-listed properties in the study area, including L'Enfant Plan (Reservation 173), the Baltimore and Washington Parkway, Greenbelt, and portions or all of the property that would be "used" (and thus are subject to review under Section 4(f) of the USDOT Act). Actions that would require an NPS decision will require that NEPA compliance for this Project be easily adoptable by NPS (43 CFR 46.120) and should meet the policies set forth in NPS's Director's Order 12: Conservation, Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-Making (DO-12) and the NPS Compliance Handbook (2015).
Surface Transportation Board (STB)	Yes	STB has not determined if it has jurisdiction over construction of the SCMAGLEV Project. If the Board finds that it does have jurisdiction, then it will become a cooperating agency.
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)****	Yes	Review and permitting for impacts to rivers, streams, and wetlands under Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 10, and Clean Water Act (CWA) Sections 401 and 404. Oversees selection of the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative (LEDPA) pursuant to CWA Section 404 before the NEPA process is completed.
U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)***	No	Consultation on the permitting of bridge construction in or over navigable waterways (Patapsco River, Anacostia River).
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)-Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC)	Yes	Provide protection to human health and the environment of BARC and the U.S. National Arboretum (USNA) through compliance with all environmental related management requirements; specifically, through complying with Executive Order 13693.
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)****	Yes	NEPA Compliance, Hazardous Materials, Environmental Justice, Air Quality, Water Quality.

Agency	Accepted Invitation	Responsibilities
National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Goddard Space Flight Center (NASA/GSFC)	Yes	Consultation related to impacts to their property and operations.
National Security Agency (NSA)	Yes	Consultation related to impacts to their property and operations including potential impacts from SCMAGLEV's electromagnetic fields.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)****	Yes	Consultation related to Federally Listed Threatened & Endangered Species, Jurisdiction of Patuxent Research Refuge- USFWS accepted invite on May 17, 2018

Participating Agencies

Federal Agencies		
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)*	Yes	Provides consultation related to the planning, construction, and maintenance of roadways within the study area.
Fort George G. Meade (U.S. Army)**	Yes	Consultation related to potential impacts to their property. Ft. Meade is a Participating Agency, but if an alternative impacting their property is in the DEIS, they will become a cooperating agency.
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	Yes	Consultation related to resilience and floodplain issues.
U.S. Secret Service (USSS)**	Yes	Consultation related to impacts to their property and operations.
U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA)	Yes	Review design proposals for public and private properties in the National Capital, as they affect the federal interest and preserve the dignity of the nation's capital.
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) - National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)	Yes	Consultation related to the federal management of United States fisheries under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and regarding management plans and regulations.
General Services Administration (GSA)	Yes	Consultation related to properties and federal lands operated and maintained by the GSA
U.S. Department of Labor	Yes	Consultation related to properties and federal lands operated and maintained by the U.S. Department of Labor
State		
Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA)	Yes	Consultation related impacts for compliance with requirements of FAA Orders 1050.1F.
Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR)	Yes	Consultation related to development within Chesapeake Bay Critical Area; resources regulated by Maryland's Forest Conservation Act; the presence of state listed rare, threatened and endangered species and critical habitat; and significant fisheries resources.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maryland Park Service • Wildlife and Heritage Service • Maryland Environmental Trust 		<p>Consultation related to Patapsco Valley State Park.</p> <p>Consultation related to rare, threatened, and endangered species.</p> <p>Consultation related to environmental easements</p>
Maryland Department of Planning (MDP)	Yes	Consultation related to comprehensive plans, ordinances, and state and county level geographic information.
Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)	Yes	Consultation related to compliance with Maryland's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements; Erosion and Sediment Control/Stormwater Management requirements; and Tidal and Nontidal Wetlands, Waterways and Floodplains.
Maryland Historical Trust (MHT)	Yes	Part of the MDP, the MHT serves as Maryland's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) pursuant to the NHPA Section 106 for compliance.
Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC)***	No***	Consultation related to compliance with requirements for operation of rail passenger services in Maryland.
Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA)	Yes	Consultation related to SHA's transportation system including its infrastructure, operations, safety, public space, and right of way.

Agency	Accepted Invitation	Responsibilities
Regional		
Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)	Yes	Administers the Baltimore region's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Constrained Long Rang Transportation Plan (CLRP), and CAA compliance. BMC provides oversight for the regional transportation network and programming.
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG)	No (declined)	Administers the region's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Constrained Long Rang Transportation Plan (CLRP), and CAA compliance. MWCOG provides oversight for the regional transportation network and programming.
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)	Yes	Consultation related to Metrorail facilities within the study area, including its station facilities, rail alignments, ridership statistics, and future plans.
County		
Anne Arundel County Transportation Division	Yes	Consultation related to planning and engineering for SCMAGLEV Project and its impact to County transportation operations and adequate public facilities requirements.
Baltimore County Planning Office	No (declined)	Consultation related to County's land uses, development, and neighborhood planning.
Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning	Yes	Consultation related to County's land uses, development, and neighborhood planning.
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC)	Yes	Consultation related to proposed impacts to Prince George's County parks, trails and recreations facilities. Consultation related to plans and studies used to guide future growth and physical development throughout the County, i.e. Master Sector Plans. Consultation related to transportation (bicycle/pedestrian/roadway) policies that guide growth and development while providing a countywide perspective.
• Community Planning		
• Countywide Planning		
• Park Planning and Development		Consultation related to the subdivision review, site plan review, and review of zoning applications related to parks and recreation.
Prince George's Public Works and Transportation	Yes	Consultation related to the county maintained roadway network impacts and transit connectivity.
Local		
Baltimore City Department of Planning	Yes	Consultation related to City's land uses, development, and neighborhood planning.
Baltimore City Department of Transportation (BCDOT)	Yes	Consultation related to City's transportation system including its infrastructure, operations, safety, public space, and right of way.
District of Columbia Department of Transportation (DDOT)*	Yes	Consultation related to DDOT's transportation system including its infrastructure, operations, safety, public space, and right of way.
District of Columbia Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE)	Yes	Consultation related to wildlife and habitat review; compliance with the CWA; regulatory review of stormwater management, sediment and erosion control, and floodplain management; oversight and compliance with Underground Storage Tank regulations (Risk Based Corrective Action process) and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERLCA).
District of Columbia Department of Public Works (DPW)	Yes	Consultation related to District waste management, parking enforcement, and fleet management.
District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO)	Yes	Review for National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 compliance in the District.
District of Columbia Office of Planning (DCOP)	Yes	Consultation related to District land uses, development, and neighborhood planning.
District of Columbia Public Service Commission	No (declined)	Regulatory agency responsible for landline telephone, electricity, and gas utility companies operating within the District.

* Agency was sent a Cooperating Agency invitation but chose to be designated as a Participating Agency instead.

** Agency was sent an invitation to upgrade from a Participating Agency to a Cooperating Agency since they are impacted by proposed alternatives. They did not respond at the time of this writing.

*** Agency was sent a Cooperating or Participating Agency invitation, and they did not respond at the time of this writing.

**** Agency is also a Concurring Agency

3.2 AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Table 2 lists the primary point of contact for each of the cooperating and participating agencies for the SCMAGLEV Project.

Table 2: Primary Point of Contact

Agency	Name	Address
Lead Agencies		
Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)	Brandon Bratcher	1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, MS-20, Washington DC 20590
Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)	Jacqueline Thorne	7201 Corporate Center Drive, Hanover, MD 21076
Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration (MDOTMTA)	Lauren Molesworth	6 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, MD 21202
Cooperating Agencies		
Federal Agencies		
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)	Andrew Brooks	Federal Aviation Administration, Eastern Regional Office; 1 Aviation Plaza, Jamaica, NY 11434
Federal Transit Administration (FTA)	Daniel Koenig; Ryan Long	1990 K Street NW, Suite 510, Washington, DC 20006
National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC)	Michael Weil; Matthew Fils	401 Ninth Street NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20004
U.S. Department of Interior (USDOI)-National Park Service (NPS)	Tammy Stidham; Matt Carroll; Joel Gorder; Laurel Hammig	1100 Ohio Drive SW, Washington, DC 20242
Surface Transportation Board (STB)	Victoria Rutson; Adam Assenza	Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20423
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	Joe DaVia; Matthew Hynson	2 Hopkins Plaza, Baltimore, MD 21201
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)–Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC)	LeAnn Blomberg	10300 Baltimore Avenue, Building 003, Room 117, Beltsville, MD 20705
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Tim Whitman	1650 Arch Street, MS-3EA30, Philadelphia, PA 19103
National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Goddard Space Flight Center (NASA/GSFC)	Lizabeth Montgomery	8800 Greenbelt Road, Code 250, Building 26 Room N250, Greenbelt, MD 20771
National Security Agency (NSA)	Corey M. Stacy; Jeffrey Williams; Lydia Bednarski	9800 Savage Road, Fort George G. Meade, MD, 20755
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	Jennifer Greiner; Raymond Li; Sandy Spencer; Tarik Adams	177 Admiral Cochrane Drive, Annapolis, MD 21401 12100 Beech Forest Road, Suite #138, Laurel, MD 20708-4036 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD 20708-4027
Participating Agencies		
Federal Agencies		
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)	Jeanette Mar	31 Hopkins Plaza, Suite 1520, Baltimore, MD 21201
Fort George G. Meade (U.S. Army)	LTC Allan Floyd	4551 Llewellyn Avenue, Fort Meade, MD 20755
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	Stephanie Everfield	615 Chestnut Street, 6th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19106

Public/Agency Coordination Plan



Agency	Name	Address
U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)	Hal Pitts	Fifth Coast Guard District, 431 Crawford Street, Portsmouth VA 23704
U.S. Secret Service (USSS)	Anthony Knight; Lauren Evans	9200 Powder Mill Road, Laurel Maryland 20708
U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA)	Frederick J. Lindstrom	401 F Street NW, Suite 312, Washington, DC 20001
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)	Karen Greene	74 Magruder Rd, Highlands, NJ, 07732
General Services Administration (GSA)	Missy Mertz	100 S Independence Mall West, Philadelphia, PA 19106
U.S. Department of Labor	Daniel Cornish	200 Constitution Ave, NW Washington, DC 20210
State		
Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA)	Robin Bowie; Shawn Ames; Kevin Clarke	PO Box 8766, BWI Airport, MD 21240
Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR)	Greg Golden; Tony Redman	580 Taylor Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21401
• Maryland Park Service	Shane Johnston	580 Taylor Avenue, Annapolis, MD 24104
• Wildlife and Heritage Service	Lori Byrne	580 Taylor Avenue, Annapolis, MD 24104
• Maryland Environmental Trust	Jon Chapman	100 Community Place, 3rd Floor, Crownsville, MD 21032
Maryland Department of Planning (MDP)	Bihui Xu	301 W. Preston Street, Suite 1101, Baltimore, MD 21201
Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)	Amanda Sigillito	1800 Washington Blvd, Suite 430, Baltimore, MD 21230-1708
Maryland Historical Trust (MHT)	Elizabeth Cole	100 Community Place, 3rd Floor, Crownsville, MD 21032
Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC)	Anthony Myers	6 St Paul Street, 6th Floor, Baltimore MD 21202
Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA)	Eric Beckett	707 North Calvert Street, Mail Stop C-502, Baltimore, MD 21202
Regional		
Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)	Todd Lang	1500 Whetstone Way, Suite 300, Baltimore, MD 21230
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)	James Ashe	600 5th Street NW, Washington, DC 20001
County		
Anne Arundel County Transportation Division	Ramond A. Robinson	2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD 21401
Howard County Office of Transportation	David Cookson	3430 Courthouse Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC)		14741 Governor Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
• Community Planning	Scott Rowe	
• Countywide Planning	Tom Masog	
• Park Planning and Development		7833 Walker Drive, Suite 300, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Prince George's Public Works and Transportation	Victor Weissberg	Department of Public Works and Transportation, 9400 Peppercorn Place, Suite 300, Largo, MD 20774
Local		
Baltimore City Department of Planning	Kyle B. Leggs	417 E. Fayette Street, 8th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202
Baltimore City Department of Transportation (BCDOT)	Charles Penny	417 E. Fayette Street, 5th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202

Agency	Name	Address
District of Columbia Department of Transportation (DDOT)*	Aaron Zimmerman; Austina Casey	55 M St SE, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20003
District of Columbia Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE)	Apurva Patil	1200 First Street NE, 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20002
District of Columbia Department of Public Works (DPW)	Christopher Geldart	2000 14th Street NW, 6th Floor, Washington, DC 20009
District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO)	Andrew Lewis	1100 4th Street SW, Suite E650, Washington, DC 20024
District of Columbia Office of Planning (DCOP)	Sakina Khan; Rogelio Flores	1100 4th Street SW, Suite 650 East, Washington DC 20024

4 COORDINATION POINTS AND ANTICIPATED COMPLETION DATES

Timeframes and review periods for the Project's NEPA review have been established in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500 1508), FRA's Procedures for Considering Environmental Impacts (FRA's Environmental Procedures) (64 FR 28545, May 26, 1999, as updated in 78 FR 2713, January 14, 2013), and 23 USC 139. The key coordination points are summarized below, and **Table 3** provides a schedule of key milestone dates

- **Publish Notice of Intent (NOI):** The NOI was published in the Federal Register on November 25, 2016.
- **Scoping:** The Scoping Document was made available on the Project website in May 2017. Although not specified in the regulation, scoping comment periods are customarily a minimum of 30 days. For this Project, the comment period extended 15 additional days until January 9, 2017 for the public and until January 31, 2017 for participating and cooperating agencies (following January 31, agency meeting); comments received after these dates were also accepted. For additional information on scoping meetings held for this Project, see Section 5.2.3.
- **Invite Cooperating and Participating Agencies:** 23 USC 139 requires that within 45 days of the NOI (i.e., by January 9, 2017), FRA will invite any other Federal and non-Federal agencies that may have an interest in the Project to become participating agencies in the Project.

Letters were distributed to the agencies listed in **Table 1** above in November 2016, informing them about the initiation of NEPA, inviting them to attend the scoping meetings, and inviting them to serve as cooperating or participating agencies for the Project.

- **Coordination Plan:** As required by 23 USC 139, this Coordination Plan details the plan for agency and public involvement for the Project, including the anticipated milestones for involvement. This Coordination Plan includes a proposed schedule for completion of the environmental review (see **Table 3**), and upon finalization, will have been established in consultation with each of the participating agencies for the Project. Once established, this environmental review schedule will be made available to the public and the participating agencies via the Permitting Dashboard for Federal Infrastructure projects, including any subsequent updates to the established schedule.
- **Ongoing Coordination with Agencies:** Following the establishment of the Coordination Plan, FRA will conduct regular outreach with the Project's cooperating and participating agencies. This will include Interagency Meetings via face-to face interaction, webinars, or at the Project site (typically on a monthly basis depending on the level of Project activity) to keep participants informed of the Project's progress. FRA will coordinate certain key milestones with Interagency Meeting briefings, as indicated in **Table 3**.
- **Project Documentation:** Cooperating and participating agencies will have an opportunity to comment on the following Project documents: Purpose and Need; Preliminary Alternatives Screening Report; Alternatives Report; and DEIS and FEIS documentation. 23 USC 139(g)(2)(B) requires the lead agency to establish comment deadlines for agency comments at a maximum of 30 days from the date of availability, unless otherwise agreed to by the agencies.

- **Section 106:** For this Project, FRA will conduct outreach and consultation required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act concurrently with the NEPA process. The Section 106 approach is discussed in Section 5 below.
- **Permitting:** Following and/or concurrent to the completion of the NEPA process, BWRR will obtain the required permits for the Project. The approach for permitting is discussed in Section 5 below.

Key milestones and coordination points are shown in **Table 3**. The Project Team will engage agency and public stakeholders to ensure relevant issues, constraints, and reasonable alternatives are addressed early in the NEPA process. Moreover, at various milestones throughout the process, the Project Team will provide additional opportunities for engagement, such as at interagency meetings and public meetings.

Table 3: Schedule of Key Milestone Dates for Baltimore Washington SCMAGLEV NEPA Study

Milestone	Original Anticipated Completion Date	Revised Actual/Expected Completion Date (red text is actual completion date)
Scoping & Purpose and Need		
	Fall 2016 – Spring 2017	Fall 2016 – Spring 2017
Notice of Intent Published	November 25, 2016	November 25, 2016
Public Scoping Comment Period	November 25, 2016 through January 9, 2017	November 25, 2016 through January 9, 2017
Cooperating and Participating Agencies Invited	November 25, 2016	November 25, 2016
Public Scoping Meetings	December 10 through December 15, 2016	December 10 through December 15, 2016
Interagency Meetings re. Purpose and Need and Scope	January 18, 2017; January 31, 2017	January 18, 2017; January 31, 2017
Scoping Document Available	May 17, 2017	May 17, 2017
Section 106 Consultation Initiated with MHT and the SHPO	May 15, 2017	May 15, 2017
Interagency Meeting re. Purpose and Need Comments	June 12, 2017	June 12, 2017
Joint Evaluation Meeting re. Purpose and Need	June 28, 2017	June 28, 2017
Interagency Concurrence on Purpose and Need	October 2017	October 2017
Development of Alternatives		
	Spring 2017 – Spring 2018	Spring 2017 – Fall 2018
Interagency Meeting re. Initial Alternatives	March 24, 2017; March 30, 2017	March 24, 2017; March 30, 2017
Public Meeting re. Initial Alternatives	April 10, 2017 through April 14, 2017	April 10, 2017 through April 14, 2017
Interagency Field Meetings re. Initial Alternatives	July 19 and July 26, 2017	July 19 and July 26, 2017
Joint Evaluation Meeting re. Prelim. Alternatives Screening Results	August 30, 2017	August 30, 2017
Interagency Meeting re. Preliminary Alternatives Screening Results	October 3, 2017	October 3, 2017
Public Meetings re. Preliminary Alternatives Screening Results	October 14 - 25, 2017	October 14 - 25, 2017
Final Preliminary Alternatives Screening Results	January 2018	January 30, 2018
Draft Alternatives Report	February 2018	June 8, 2018
FRA Comments to Team		July 19, 2018
Revised Draft Alternatives Report to FRA		August 27, 2018
Final Alternatives Report to Agencies	April 2018	August 31, 2018
Interagency Concurrence on Alternatives Report (ARDS)	May 2018	October 3, 2018
Final Agency Concurrence on Alternatives Report		October 30, 2018

Milestone	Original Anticipated Completion Date	Revised Actual/Expected Completion Date (red text is actual completion date; green text is expected completion date)
Preparation of Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)	Winter 2018 – Summer 2019	Spring 2018 – Spring 2021
Environmental Evaluations/Technical Reports	February 2018 - June 2018	May – September 2020
Admin Draft DEIS completed	August 2018	October 19, 2020
Admin DEIS sent to cooperating agencies, DDOT and Federal Agencies with direct impacts to their property for review	October 2018	October 19, 2020
Comment Period Ends		November 13, 2020
DEIS Completed; Publish Draft EIS Notice of Availability	January 2019	January 22, 2021
DEIS Public Hearings	February 2019	February 2021
DEIS Public Comment Period (45 days)/Close of Availability	April 2019	January 22, 2021 – March 8, 2021
Preparation of Final Environmental Impact Statement/Record of Decision (FEIS/ROD)	Summer 2019 – Winter 2019	Spring 2021 – Winter 2022
Admin DEIS sent to cooperating agencies, DDOT and Federal Agencies with direct impacts to their property for review	September 2019	October 2021
Notice of Availability of FEIS/ROD	November 2019	January 28, 2022

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5 AGENCY COORDINATION AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

5.1 AGENCY COORDINATION

5.1.1 COOPERATING AND PARTICIPATING AGENCY COORDINATION

FRA and MDOT will collaborate with cooperating and participating agencies in defining the Project's purpose and need, range of alternatives, and methodologies for documenting environmental conditions and assessing impacts and in preparing for future permit applications. While consensus is not required in the development of impact assessment methodologies, FRA and MDOT must consider the views of the agencies with relevant interests before making a decision on a particular methodology. After collaboration has taken place, FRA will make the decision on the methodology and level of detail to be used.

Agencies will be notified of the availability of key Project documents, including the Scoping Report, Preliminary Alternatives Screening Report, Alternatives Report, DEIS and FEIS/ROD, and given appropriate comment opportunities. After release and circulation of the DEIS for public comment, FRA intends to issue a single document that consists of a combined FEIS and ROD under 23 U.S.C. 139(n)(2) unless it determines the statutory criteria or practicability considerations preclude issuing a combined document. Following issuance of the FEIS/ROD, the NEPA Team will consult the appropriate agencies to complete any necessary permits for the Project.

5.1.2 SECTION 106 CONSULTATION

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR Part 800) requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of their undertakings on historic properties that are listed or meet the eligibility criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. A Federal undertaking is defined as a project, activity, or program either funded, permitted, licensed, or approved by a Federal Agency. The Section 106 process has a specific public involvement component. In particular, the implementing regulations require that the Federal agency (FRA), in consultation with the SHPOs (in this case, the Maryland State Historic Preservation Office [MD SHPO] and District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office [DC HPO]) as applicable, identify appropriate points for seeking public input regarding the identification of historic properties in the Project's Area of Potential Effects (APE), assessment of the Project's effects to those properties, and resolution of any adverse effects.

Public outreach for purposes of NEPA will satisfy Section 106 public outreach requirements, by providing information regarding the Project's effects on historic properties at NEPA public meetings and in the EIS. The public will be given the opportunity to provide FRA with comments on the identification and evaluation of effects to historic properties during the DEIS public comment period. Members of the public with a demonstrated interest in the Project (due to the nature of their legal or economic relation to the undertaking or affected properties, or their concern with the undertaking's effects on historic properties) may participate as Section 106 Consulting Parties.

"Consulting parties" are a component of the Section 106 public involvement process. FRA formally initiated Section 106 consultation with DC SHPO and MD SHPO in letters dated May 15, 2017. As stipulated in 36 CFR Part 800.2 (c)(3), as part of the Section 106 initiation step, FRA identified agencies and organizations that may be interested in participating as consulting parties in the Section

106 process and requested DC SHPO and MD SHPO feedback on the proposed list of consulting parties, including those recommended for removal or addition.

DC SHPO responded via letter on June 27, 2017 and MD SHPO responded via letter on August 15, 2017 with additional groups that may be interested in participating as consulting parties.

On January 17, 2018, FRA invited all of the agencies and organizations that had been identified by that date to be Section 106 consulting parties. As the Project boundaries have been refined, additional consulting parties and federally recognized Indian Tribes have been identified, and subsequent correspondence has been issued.

As of December 21, 2020, FRA has invited the following agencies and organizations to participate as consulting parties in the Section 106 process:

- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
- Anacostia Trails Heritage Area/Maryland Milestones
- Anacostia Watershed Society
- Arboretum Neighborhood Association
- Architect of the Capitol
- Anne Arundel County Historical Society
- Anne Arundel County Planning and Zoning
- Apple, Inc.
- Baltimore City Comprehensive Planning Division
- Baltimore City Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation
- Baltimore City Historical Society
- Baltimore County Planning Office
- Baltimore Heritage
- Baltimore National Heritage Area
- Cedarville Band of Piscataway Indian, Inc.
- Choptico Band of Piscataway
- City of Bowie
- City of Bowie Museums
- City of College Park
- Capitol Hill Restoration Society
- The Committee of 100 on the Federal City
- CSX Transportation
- Delaware Nation, Oklahoma
- Delaware Tribe of Indians
- District of Columbia (Office of Federal and Regional Affairs; Mayor; Deputy Mayor of Planning and Economic Development; Ward 5 Councilmember; DC Advisory Neighborhood Commissions 1B, 2B, 2C, 2F, 5A, 5B, 5C, 5D, 5E, 6A, 6C, 7C, 7D; Department of Energy and Environment; Department of General Services; Department of Parks and Recreation; Department of Transportation; Office of Planning; Metropolitan Police Department)
- DC Historic Preservation Office (DC HPO)
- DC Preservation League

- DC Water
- Events DC
- Friends of the National Arboretum
- Greenbelt Homes, Inc.
- Historical Society of Baltimore County
- Laurel Historical Society
- Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs
- Maryland Historical Society
- Maryland State Historic Preservation Office (Maryland Historical Trust)
- Montgomery County Historical Society
- Montgomery County Planning and Zoning
- Mount Vernon Triangle Community Improvement District
- NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
- National Capital Planning Commission
- National Park Service (Baltimore-Washington Parkway, National Capital Parks – East, National Capital Region)
- The National Railway Historical Society, Washington, D.C. Chapter, Inc.
- National Trust for Historic Preservation
- Pamunkey Indian Tribe
- Patapsco Heritage Greenway
- PEPCO Engineering
- Preservation Howard County
- Piscataway Conoy Tribe
- Piscataway Indian Nation
- Preservation Maryland
- Prince George’s County Historical Society
- Prince George’s County Planning and Zoning (Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission)
- Savage Historical Society
- Seneca-Cayuga Nation
- Union Station Redevelopment Corporation
- U.S. Commission of Fine Arts
- U.S. Department of the Interior Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, U.S. National Arboretum)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (APE Chesapeake Bay Program Office, Water Protection Division, Region III)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Chesapeake Bay Field Office, Patuxent Research Refuge)
- U.S. House of Representatives DC Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton
- U.S. General Services Administration
- Virginia Railway Express
- Washington Gas
- Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
- City of Greenbelt

As of December 21, 2020, of the invited agencies and organizations, the following have accepted the invitation to be consulting parties:

- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
- Anacostia Trails Heritage Area/Maryland Milestones
- Anacostia Watershed Society
- Arboretum Neighborhood Association
- Architect of the Capitol
- Anne Arundel County Planning and Zoning
- Baltimore City Comprehensive Planning Division
- Baltimore City Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation
- Baltimore City Historical Society
- Baltimore Heritage
- City of College Park
- Capitol Hill Restoration Society
- The Committee of 100 on the Federal City
- CSX Transportation
- Delaware Nation, Oklahoma
- Delaware Tribe of Indians
- District of Columbia (DC Advisory Neighborhood Commissions 1B, 2C, 5B, 6C, 7D; Department of General Services; Department of Transportation)
- DC Historic Preservation Office (DC HPO)
- Friends of the National Arboretum
- Greenbelt Homes, Inc.
- Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs
- Maryland State Historic Preservation Office (Maryland Historical Trust)
- NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
- National Capital Planning Commission
- National Park Service
- Patapsco Heritage Greenway
- Prince George's County Planning and Zoning (Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission)
- Savage Historical Society
- U.S. Commission of Fine Arts
- U.S. Department of the Interior Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. General Services Administration
- Virginia Railway Express
- Washington Gas
- City of Greenbelt

FRA will continue to consult with DC SHPO and MHT to identify additional organizations or persons that should be invited to participate as Section 106 consulting parties. FRA will continue to coordinate to identify, accept, and notify interested parties of their status as Section 106 Consulting Parties.

Information presented to the Consulting Parties (or to be presented) includes the results of the historic architectural and archaeological surveys, as well as any potential effects to historic properties within the APE or larger study area. The Consulting Parties have the opportunity to comment on the identification and evaluation of historic properties, provide their views on effects to these properties and participate in the consideration of measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects on historic properties. Consulting party coordination is on-going and will continue through the completion of this project. To date, several NHPA Section 106 and SHPO coordination efforts have been conducted, including:

- An initial NHPA Section 106 consulting party meeting was held at MDOT headquarters in Hanover, Maryland, during which FRA presented the project overview, cultural resources methodology, and information on previously identified cultural resources. March 14, 2018
- A second consulting party meeting was held at DDOT headquarters in Washington, DC, in which FRA provided updates on the project and presented the proposed areas of potential effect (APE). September 11, 2018
- FRA sent the consulting parties a letter with updates to the above-ground APE and methodology for survey and determinations of eligibility in Washington, DC. October 31, 2018
- FRA sent the SHPOs letters updating the agencies on the alternatives screening process, public involvement, consulting parties, area of potential effects delineation, the programmatic agreement, identification of historic properties, and assessment of effects. September 20, 2018
- DC HPO responded with comments September 28, 2018
- MD SHPO responded with comments October 4, 2018
- FRA responded to the SHPOs October 31, 2018
- DC HPO responded with additional comments November 30, 2018
- FRA submitted to DC HPO a draft Determination of Eligibility (DOE) April 15, 2019
- DC HPO responded to DOE with comments May 10, 2019
- FRA responded to DC HPO comments June 19, 2019
- FRA submitted the draft Section 106 Programmatic Agreement August 2, 2019
- FRA submitted to MHT a draft DOE August 19, 2019
- MHT responded to DOE September 5, 2019
- FRA hosted a Programmatic Agreement Meeting December 5, 2019
- FRA consulted with DC HPO regarding new DOEs June 4, 2020
- DC HPO responded to DOE consultation July 7, 2020
- FRA hosted a Consulting Parties Meeting July 20, 2020
- FRA continued consulting with DC HPO regarding new DOEs July 28, 2020
- DC HPO responded to DOE consultation August 6, 2020
- FRA submitted Section 106 Programmatic Agreement Draft #2 to Signatories August 24, 2020
- FRA hosted a Programmatic Agreement Meeting September 3, 2020
- FRA continued consulting with DC HPO regarding new DOEs September 14, 2020
- FRA submitted an updated APE to DC HPO September 28, 2020
- DC HPO responded to DOE consultation October 13, 2020

• FRA submitted an updated APE to MD SHPO	October 15, 2020
• DC HPO responded to updated APE	October 23, 2020
• FRA hosted a Programmatic Agreement meeting	November 2, 2020
• FRA hosted an APE meeting with DC HPO and MD SHPO	November 10, 2020
• FRA hosted a Programmatic Agreement meeting	November 13, 2020
• FRA hosted a Programmatic Agreement Meeting	November 18, 2020
• MD SHPO responded to updated APE	November 18, 2020
• FRA hosted a Programmatic Agreement meeting	November 30, 2020
• FRA submitted new DOEs and Phase IA Archaeological Assessment to DC HPO	December 11, 2020
• FRA submitted new DOEs and Phase IA Archaeological Assessment to MD SHPO	December 11, 2020
• FRA submitted Section 106 Programmatic Agreement Draft #3 to Signatories	December 14, 2020

5.1.3 SECTION 4(f) COORDINATION

FRA will provide opportunities for coordination and comment to the official(s) with jurisdiction over any Section 4(f) resource that may be affected by the Project as well as to the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), and as appropriate, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Resources protected under Section 4(f) include public parks, wildlife refuges, and historic resources. Section 4(f) historic sites, parks, and wildlife refuge properties will be identified through the Section 106 process and NEPA process, in consultation with MHT, DC SHPO, and any other relevant Consulting Parties or resource agencies. The public is provided an opportunity to review and comment on the Project's Section 4(f) evaluation in coordination with the NEPA public review periods.

The NEPA Team conducted the following meetings with NPS:

- Joint meeting with NPS and USFWS on 4/19/17 to discuss agencies goals and concerns and present initial alternatives and early screening results.
- Meeting with NPS on 8/28/17 to discuss NPS questions and concerns related to preliminary alternatives.
- Meeting with NPS on 11/20/17 to discuss NPS questions and concerns related to screening results, alternatives remaining for detailed study, and Section 4(f) requirements and next steps.
- Meeting with NPS on 1/30/2018 as part of continued Section 4(f) coordination to extend through the Alternatives and DEIS periods.
- Meeting with NPS on 3/29/2018 as part of continued Section 4(f) coordination to discuss refinements to the Alternatives Retained for Detailed Study.
- Meeting with NPS on 10/23/2018 as part of continued Section 4(f) coordination to summary Section 4(f) requirements and methodology and to review the list of Section 4(f) properties.
- Meeting with NPS on 12/11/2018 the fresh air and emergency egress facility were explained; NPS to review and comment on lists of Section 4(f) properties; discussion of cut and cover construction along New York Avenue; and,
- Meeting on 2/26/2019 NPS clarified the resources they own/manage; NPS identified potential impacts to existing utilities along New York Avenue as a concern; the absence of flyover ramps over the Baltimore-Washington Parkway in the Build Alternative J/Patapsco Avenue TMF scenario is preferred by NPS to having flyovers.
- Meeting on 5/23/2019 NPS to further discuss potential impacts and mitigation options.

5.1.4 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE OUTREACH

Executive Order (EO) 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, dated February 11, 1994, requires consideration of whether a proposed action would disproportionately affect minority or low-income groups (59 Fed Reg. 7629 [1994]). FRA will prepare an environmental justice analysis for the Project to identify and address disproportionate adverse impacts to environmental justice populations and to ensure that environmental justice populations are included in public outreach efforts throughout the life of the Project (during and after the NEPA process).

The environmental justice analysis for the SCMAGLEV Project follows the guidance and methodologies recommended in CEQ's Environmental Justice Guidelines under the National Environmental Policy Act (December 1997), the USDOT's Final Order 5610.2(a) on Environmental Justice (April 1997 and updated May 2012), the FTA's Environmental Justice Policy Guidance for Federal Transit Administration Recipients, Circular 4703.1, effective August 15, 2012, and relevant guidance from the State of Maryland and the District of Columbia.

Minority populations covered by the Executive Order include Native American or Alaskan Native, Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, Asian, Black and not of Hispanic origin, Hispanic, and populations of two or more races. Minority populations should be identified where either: 1) the minority population of the affected area exceeds 50 percent, or 2) the minority population percentage of the affected area is meaningfully greater than the minority population percentage in the general population or other appropriate unit of geographic analysis.

Low-income populations are any readily identifiable group of low-income persons who live in geographic proximity, and, if circumstances warrant, geographically dispersed/transient persons who will be similarly affected by a proposed FRA program, policy, or activity. Low-income is defined as a person whose median household income is at or below the Department of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines.

It is the intent of the EIS process for this Project to ensure that stakeholders are provided opportunities to be heard and to participate meaningfully from the outset of the Project and throughout all phases of Project development. Preliminary research has identified potential environmental justice communities in the Project's study area. As part of the NEPA process, the local potential environmental justice communities within the Project's study area will be included in the public outreach process, to ensure that they can participate meaningfully in review of the Project and its potential effects on the human environment.

FRA will use demographic data from the U.S. Census Bureau to identify environmental justice communities by analyzing the composition of potentially affected populations and geographic distribution by race, ethnicity, and income. FRA will coordinate with the District of Columbia Office of Planning, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince George's Public Works and Transportation, Anne Arundel County Transportation Division, Howard County Office of Transportation, Baltimore City Department of Transportation and other appropriate city and/or county departments (e.g., Health and Human Services) to identify potentially affected minority and low-income populations within their jurisdiction and to identify community facilities and organizations serving those communities. FRA will use the information to connect with individuals and/or groups (e.g., religious organizations, civic associations, business/ trade associations, labor organizations, legal aid providers, community and social service providers, neighborhood associations, tribal governments,

educational institutes) to conduct targeted outreach to potentially affected communities. Targeted outreach may consist of small group meetings with targeted communities, media placements regarding public meetings in publications utilized by these communities, making information available in multiple languages, and making translation services available at public meetings upon advance request.

As a general rule, the following principles will be utilized by the NEPA Team to support involvement of the local environmental justice communities in the Project Study Area:

- Documents, notices, and meetings will be made concise, understandable, and readily accessible to the public;
- When appropriate, notices and meeting materials will be provided in both English and Spanish, as Spanish is the second most common language in the study area, and is spoken by many of the members of the environmental justice communities in the study area;
- The Project website is available in multiple languages in addition to English;
- Informational material will be made available through a variety of outlets, such as the Project website, public meetings, and flyers;
- All public events will be scheduled at convenient and accessible locations and times; and
- Various community leaders and groups will be contacted to increase public participation of constituent communities.

5.1.5 LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP) OUTREACH

Individuals who do not speak English as their primary language and who have a limited ability to read, speak, write, or understand English are considered “limited English proficient,” or LEP. Federal laws concerning language access rights and obligations include Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Executive Order 13166. Executive Order 13166, “Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency,” was signed on August 11, 2000 and states that people who are LEP should have meaningful access to Federally conducted and funded programs and activities. The Executive Order requires Federal agencies to examine the services they provide, identify any need for services to those with limited English proficiency, and develop and implement a system to provide those services so LEP persons can have meaningful access to them.

The SCMAGLEV Project is taking steps to provide meaningful access to those LEP individuals expected to be most regularly encountered. This includes providing Project materials and meeting notices in Spanish, advertising accommodation for LEP individuals, including the ability for LEP individuals to have translation services available at public meetings upon advance request. Language interpretation and translation needs in the Project Study Area predominantly involve Spanish speaking individuals. In addition, instantaneous web-translation of the Project website is available on-line in multiple languages.

5.1.6 AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT COMPLIANCE

Public meetings will be held in locations that comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to accommodate disabled or elderly attendees. Sign language interpreters will be available at public meetings, and other meetings, if requested in advance.

Public notices announcing public meetings will provide instructions for requesting other special accommodations. The Project website has been designed to accommodate people with visual impairments (i.e., adjustable text size, compatibility with screen readers).

5.1.7 PERMITTING AND APPROVALS

The Project Team will identify potential permits, approvals or other actions which may be necessary to implement the Preferred Alternative. Following completion of the NEPA process, BWRR will obtain the required permits for the Project. The approach for permitting is discussed below.

Clean Water Act: A joint federal and state permit for the alteration or occupation of Waters of the U.S. that identifies compensatory mitigation must be obtained for all unavoidable impacts. For the Proposed Action, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Maryland Department of Environment, and the District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment have jurisdiction over wetland and waterway resources. There is a public involvement process associated with the Clean Water Act permitting process that involves all adjacent property owners of impacted resources. Those property owners will be a part of the Project's mailing list.

Protected Species and Habitats: Multiple regulations including the Endangered Species Act, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Magnuson-Stevens Conservation and Management Act, and Maryland Forest Conversation Act provide for the conservation and management of protected species and habitats including rare, threatened and endangered species, and Essential Fish Habitats. FRA will coordinate with all environmental regulatory agencies, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Department of the Environment, and the District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment.

National Park Service Lands: Segments of the Proposed Action that would affect National Park Service (NPS) property would require coordination with NPS. The SCMAGLEV study area includes Anacostia Park, the Baltimore-Washington Parkway, and many other parcels under the National Park Service jurisdiction. As such, the National Park Service is a NEPA Cooperating Agency and will most likely be a NHPA Consulting Party. Therefore, FRA will coordinate closely with NPS to ensure that NEPA compliance will meet the policies set forth in NPS's Director's Order 12: Conservation, Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision Making (DO 12) and the NPS Compliance Handbook (2015).

National Capital Planning Act of 1952: Pursuant to the National Capital Planning Act of 1952, federal property transfers in the District require National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) approval.

All property transfers require submission of an official legal plat with a signature line for the NCPC's Chair, and all property transfers will be addressed in the Draft and Final EIS/ ROD. If necessary, the FEIS/ROD will include a separate section for each land transfer along with a signature line for NCPC's Executive Director. FRA will submit changes to Federal property for NCPC review with appropriate supporting documentation.

5.1.8 AGENCY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

The following meetings will be held to engage agency participation in the Project.

- Interagency Meetings
- Joint Evaluation Meetings
- Field Meetings
- One-on-one Meetings

FRA will meet regularly with agencies via Interagency Meetings and Joint Environmental Committee (JE) meetings. These meetings will be held at NEPA milestones and will be held in both Maryland and DC. Locations and format (in-person and webinar) will vary depending on agency availability and preference. FRA, in coordination with the Project Team, will send the meeting invitations to Lead Agencies, Cooperating Agencies, and Participating Agencies. For those who cannot attend, the meetings will be conducted via a webinar, when possible. The presentation and meeting summary will be emailed following the meeting.

The purpose of Interagency meetings is to provide agencies an opportunity to:

- Provide comments, responses, or insight on those areas within the special expertise or jurisdiction of the agency;
- Provide meaningful input at Project milestones;
- Keep abreast of the Project's progress and schedule; and
- Provide timely review and comment on environmental documentation.

Cooperating and participating agencies will be provided an opportunity to comment on and/or concur upon the following Project documents:

- The Draft Purpose and Need (Comment and Concur*);
- Preliminary Alternatives Screening Report (Comment during Interagency Meeting);
- Alternatives Report (Comment and Concur*);

Cooperating agencies, DDOT and Federal agencies with direct impacts to their property will also be provided an opportunity to comment on Admin DEIS and Admin Final EIS and ROD.

*Concurring Agencies listed in **Table 1** are required to comment and/or concur (or not concur).

5.2 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

5.2.1 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

The SCMAGLEV Project will include an open, participatory environmental review process. FRA will inform and solicit early and continued feedback from the public; encourage open discussion of Project details and issues; and provide opportunities for comments and questions.

The goals of the public involvement plan for the Project are as follows:

- To provide an opportunity and a mechanism for public participants to engage in the development of the EIS and give relevant input to the Project.
- To focus public input in a structured manner that will allow decisions to be made with the maximum benefit from public involvement.
- To ensure that elected officials, agencies, stakeholders, and the general public are adequately informed about the Project and its implications for their communities, and to identify potential issues so that they can be addressed and resolved before the completion of the EIS process.

5.2.2 COVID-19 RESPONSE

As detailed below, the project team will engage and communicate with members of the public, with

Public/Agency Coordination Plan

special attention given to the safety and health of all parties involved by adhering to and/or exceeding CDC guidelines and safe practices mandated by local jurisdictions related to the COVID-19 Pandemic. It has become even more pressing to consider alternative means of consulting with members of the public during the current Coronavirus pandemic, where it is more difficult to hold outreach events in public venues.

The project team will utilize their resources to identify and utilize virtual tools and platforms that provide an opportunity to engage and consult a wide public audience from their computer or mobile device at any time during the project outreach and consultation period.

The virtual platform could provide project informational materials through a variety of potential interfaces, such as: pop up banners, table plans, drawings, videos, sound demonstrations and interactive mapping. These elements will seek to add to the users experience while providing the opportunity to access all the materials and documentation required to ensure a robust outreach and comment response interaction.

Should the health and safety concerns and corresponding regulations related to the pandemic relax and subside during this project, the project team will work to determine if in-person outreach meetings would be appropriate.

5.2.3 COMMUNICATING WITH THE PUBLIC

The public involvement plan includes a number of different outreach tools and activities to involve the public. These include the following:

- **Permitting Dashboard:** The SCMAGLEV Project has been added to the Permitting Dashboard for Federal Infrastructure Projects (<https://www.permits.performance.gov/>), an online tool for Federal agencies, project developers and interested members of the public to track the Federal government's permitting and review process for large or complex infrastructure projects.
- **Project Website:** The SCMAGLEV Project website was launched on November 25, 2016 and can be found at www.bwmaglev.info. The website includes an overview of the Project and access to information on superconducting magnetic levitation technology, the NEPA process, Project documents, past and upcoming public meeting dates and locations, and public meeting displays and materials. The Project website allows interested parties to become involved in the NEPA process by joining the mailing list and locating contact information to reach out to Project Team members. The Project website will be the main source of Project information for the public and will be updated regularly. Project information developed for the website and social media platforms will be formatted for optimized viewing on mobile devices. All public meeting advertisements and additional public outreach materials will contain the website address and will encourage readers to visit the site.

In addition to the Project website, other federal, regional, and local jurisdictions and transportation agencies' websites, including websites for MDOT, FRA, MTA, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Administration, and District Department of Transportation, may be used to periodically post Project information such as meeting dates and locations for upcoming Project milestones.

- **Social Media:** The use of social media platforms is an effective way to disperse information quickly to a large audience. The Project Team will use social media platforms to increase Project and superconducting magnetic levitation technology awareness, as well as provide information such as important dates, documents, and Project milestones. The Project Team utilized social media to advertise for the scoping meeting, and currently posts on the MTA's Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram social media outlets. Going forward, the FRA will continue

to refine its social media strategy to expand the use of social media for the Project given that many of the cooperating and participating agencies, as well as the local jurisdictions, have a social media presence.

- **Mailing List:** The Project Team had developed and is in the process of developing a new mailing list that includes stakeholders such as community groups, chambers of commerce, neighborhood associations, and elected officials. The initial list was used to send postcards announcing the scoping meetings in December 2016 and preliminary alternatives meetings in October 2017. The Project Team is continuing to refine our process for additional interested parties such as the general public and businesses by developing an updated electronic mailing list using buffer areas surrounding the proposed alternatives for bulk mailings instead of using zone areas for bulk mail. The mailing lists will be used to inform interested parties about the Project status and meeting notifications. Stakeholders may request to be added to the mailing lists at public meetings, via the website, email, reaching out to Project Team members, or during public and interagency meetings. The Project Team will continue to add stakeholders to these lists throughout the Project.
- **Project Fact Sheets:** Project fact sheets (in both English and Spanish) were developed at key milestones for the Project, for the purpose of educating the general public about the EIS process, providing information on the Project as it progresses, announcing public participation opportunities, and providing Project Team contact information.
- **Mass Email:** Email blasts have been used to inform the public about upcoming meetings and significant stages in the EIS development. Future email blasts will be used for future meeting updates and Project activities, and to disseminate newsletters electronically.
- **Local government and stakeholder briefings:** The lead agencies will brief the appropriate local government entities and stakeholders to provide information, answer questions, and receive feedback.
- **Public comment periods at specific NEPA milestones:** NEPA requires public comment periods to provide an opportunity for public input at critical points during the environmental review. The public will be provided an opportunity to comment on the project at any time via the project website and project email. Formal public comment periods are also provided during scoping, alternatives development, DEIS, and FEIS reviews. During these periods, public meetings will be held, and the public will have an opportunity to provide comments orally or in writing.
- **News and Print Media:** In addition to social media and the Project website, the Project Team will use additional media outlets to advertise for upcoming meetings. The Project Team advertised the public scoping process and scoping meetings in a variety of local media sources. Advertisements were featured on afro.com, patch.com, desktop and mobile pages for Anne Arundel County and Takoma Park, the Prince George's County Sentinel, Baltimore Sun desktop and touchscreen pages, the Transportation Research Board (TRB) iPad and mobile applications, and The Washington Post desktop and mobile pages. Additional media platforms, including print, internet, radio, television, and billboards will be considered as the Project progresses.
- **Meeting flyers:** The flyers will be in English and Spanish, and will be mailed or emailed to the Project mailing list. Flyers will also be distributed to libraries and community centers.
- **Mass Transit Advertisements:** As appropriate, the Project Team will develop Project advertisements for use with regional and local mass transit agencies that operate within the study area. The ads will be featured in bus and train stations, at stops, airports, and on vehicles and trains. The ads will be used to inform current transit users about the Project and direct the public to the Project website.

- **ADA and Section 508 Compliance:** As noted previously in Section 5.1.6 of this document, public outreach materials have been generated to comply with ADA and Section 508 requirements to accommodate disabled or elderly citizens. In addition, all meeting materials and communications have been designed with the intent to fully accommodate people with hearing and/or visual impairments (i.e., written transcripts, closed captioning, adjustable text size, and compatibility with computer automated screen readers). MDOT MTA also offers additional assistance through the Office of Customer and Community Relations at 410-767-3999 or 866-743-3682 or TTY 410-539-3497, through which sign language interpreters, foreign language interpreters, and assistance for the visually impaired are available upon request.
- **Other stakeholder outreach:** Project staff members are available to meet with any interested parties. The communications detailed above will indicate staff availability for meetings.

5.24 PUBLIC MEETINGS

Opportunities for public input throughout the Project will include the following (See **Section 5.2.2** for details on how the COVID-19 Pandemic may affect Public Meetings):

- **Public Scoping Meetings:** Although NEPA does not explicitly require that a scoping meeting be held, scoping meetings were held for this Project between December 10 and December 15, 2016. The purpose of the meetings was to gather input and feedback from members of the public and elected officials on the draft purpose and need statement; goals and objectives; scope for potential alternatives for consideration; issues to be addressed in the environmental review; and methodologies to be used to evaluate impacts. Outreach and notification were conducted via the NOI; the Project website; local newspapers; social media; postcard mailings to community groups, chambers of commerce, and neighborhood associations; letters and phone calls to elected officials; and flyer distribution at community centers, recreation centers, libraries, and community organizations. The five scoping meetings included an open house where Project staff were available to talk informally about the Project with interested members of the public.
- **Public Information Meetings:** The Project Team held two rounds of public informational meetings via open houses to present initial alternatives and to highlight the findings of the preliminary alternatives screening analysis. Open houses for both initial alternatives and preliminary alternatives screening results were held in April 2017 and October 2017 respectively, and included informal discussions between Project Team staff and meeting attendees at five locations throughout the study area. An open house for the new Baltimore area station and trainset maintenance facility concepts/preliminary alternatives and facilities being considered in the Baltimore area was held on December 13, 2018.
- **Public Hearings:** Following publication of the Draft EIS, there will be public hearings. The public hearing will include an open house, a presentation, and an opportunity for oral testimony. The oral testimony will be recorded by a stenographer. FRA will not respond to the oral testimony at the meeting, and conversations with Project staff during the open house portion of the meeting will not be reflected in the Project record.

The public meetings and information open houses will be accessible to persons with disabilities and persons with LEP. Translation will be provided in Spanish. Special services, such as an interpreter or sign language services, will also be available upon request. Public notices announcing these meetings will provide instructions for requesting these services.

5.2.5 STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

FRA will seek out the involvement of community leaders, elected officials, and other stakeholders in the Project Study Area. These individuals and organizations will assist FRA in understanding and addressing local concerns, including those of the environmental justice communities that could be affected by the Project. Stakeholder involvement activities will include:

- **Elected Officials Briefings:** Briefings will be held with elected officials and other key stakeholders before such events as the public scoping meetings and DEIS publication. These will be informal meetings where discussions can be held.
- **Section 106 Consulting Party Participation:** See discussion above (Section 5.1).
- **Environmental Justice Outreach:** The Project will include outreach efforts specifically targeted to reach environmental justice communities located in the Project Study Area in Project development.
- **Stakeholder Meetings:** Meetings may be held with individuals or small groups to discuss specific Project considerations.

Table 4: Public Involvement by NEPA Milestone

	Milestone						
	NOI	Scoping	Initial Alternatives	Preliminary Alternatives	Retained Alternatives	DEIS	Final EIS & ROD
Website	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Social Media	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mailing List	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
News and Print Media	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Public Meetings (PM) and Hearings (H)		✓ (PM)	✓ (PM)	✓ (PM)		✓ (H)	
Advertisement using MTA Outreach Tools			✓	✓		✓	✓

5.2.6 PROJECT DOCUMENT REPOSITORIES

Local document repositories enable members of the public to examine Project documents, including EIS documents, and other informational materials. The document repositories include agency and municipal offices and public libraries.

5.2.7 COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Comment periods are required as part of the NEPA process at specific times during the life of a project. Agencies must allow comments during the NEPA Scoping phase and after the publication of the DEIS. A formal public hearing is also conducted after the publication of the DEIS. These comment periods must be advertised prior to the beginning of the commenting period and extend 45 days after they are announced. Comments received during the required comment periods are subsequently addressed in corresponding documents.

In addition to these required commenting periods, the Project Team will encourage feedback and comments from the public throughout the Project. The Project website includes a comment form

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and contact information for Project Team staff. During all scheduled public meetings and during all Project meetings with citizens, businesses, advocacy groups, and other stakeholders, feedback and comments will be actively solicited from participants via onsite paper and electronic comment cards. For comments received outside of the comment periods, the Project Team will collect and file the comments in a database. Comments will be filed by category based on subject matter. Comments seeking response from the Project Team will be filed as “response needed” and will be forwarded to the correct Project Team discipline lead for a response.

6 REVISION HISTORY

1. Table 1: Lead Agencies and Invited Cooperating and Participating Agencies, was updated; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA NMFS)'s response for Participating Agency changed from No to Yes based on their recent correspondence. (Jan 25, 2018)
2. Table 2: Primary Point of Contact – Contact information for Prince George's Public Works and Transportation was updated based on their recent correspondence. (Jan 25, 2018)
3. Section 1.2 Coordination Plan Updates and Revisions, was added as per FRA's request. (Jan 25, 2018).
4. Table 1: Lead Agencies and Invited Cooperating and Participating Agencies, was updated; National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Goddard Space Flight Center (NASA/GSFC), National Security Agency (NSA), and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) were elevated to the status of Cooperating Agency based on their invitation acceptances. (June 20, 2018)
5. Table 2: Primary Point of Contact – Contact information for agencies was updated based on their recent correspondences. (November 29, 2018)
6. Table 3: Schedule of Key Milestone Dates for Baltimore Washington SCMAGLEV NEPA Study – Revised Anticipated Completion Dates was added per FRA's direction. (November 29, 2018)
7. Agency contact information updated. (April 03, 2020)
8. Project Schedule updated (May 15, 2020)
9. Section 106 section modified and updated (May 15, 2020)
10. General updates and modifications to make text current with latest project developments (May 15, 2020)
11. Updates to text made in accordance with comments provided by Agency Partners (July 24, 2020)
12. Additional general updates and modifications to make text current with the latest project developments (September 16, 2020)
13. Added US Department of Labor as a Participating Agency and updated select point of contact (October 15, 2020)
14. Added City of Greenbelt as a Section 106 Consulting Party and updated Section 106 list of meetings and dates (December 21, 2020)