



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration

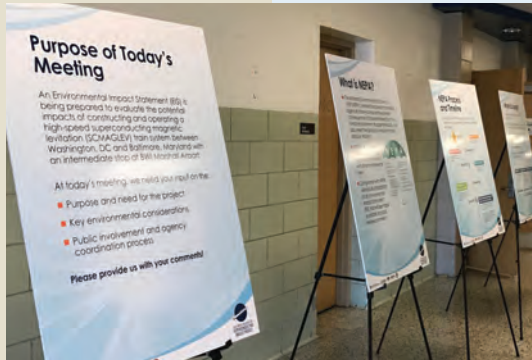


BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON SUPERCONDUCTING MAGLEV PROJECT



FINAL Scoping Report

May 2017



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1 INTRODUCTION

This Scoping Report presents the public and agency outreach and involvement efforts conducted, along with a summary of comments received, during the Baltimore-Washington Superconducting Maglev (SCMAGLEV) Project scoping process. Several appendices containing meeting outreach and presentation materials, written comments received, and other relevant agency and elected official coordination materials are included as part of this report.

The purpose of the scoping process is to introduce the project and receive input from members of the public, elected officials, as well as federal, state and local agencies during the preliminary stages of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) development. A high-level summary of the comments received, and initial project team responses, are provided in **Section 2**. Agency outreach, coordination, and comments received are summarized in **Section 3**.

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV Project (“the project”) involves the study and preliminary design of the proposed construction and operation of a high-speed superconducting maglev train system between Washington, DC and Baltimore, MD, with an intermediate stop at Baltimore Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI Marshall Airport). Currently, the project team is investigating three potential station locations, including one in Washington, DC, one at BWI Marshall Airport, and one in Baltimore City.

The proposed system will utilize SCMAGLEV technology, and build upon previous efforts to provide a service between Baltimore and Washington that has independent utility. As such, this study will only focus on the alignment between Baltimore and Washington, with a study area approximately 40 miles long and 10 miles wide (see **Figure 1-1**). 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 project team anticipates implementation of the project would be funded by a mix of federal, international, and private funding, and would include construction of the new SCMAGLEV guideway, stations, tunnel ventilation facilities, switches, and associated maintenance and operations facilities.

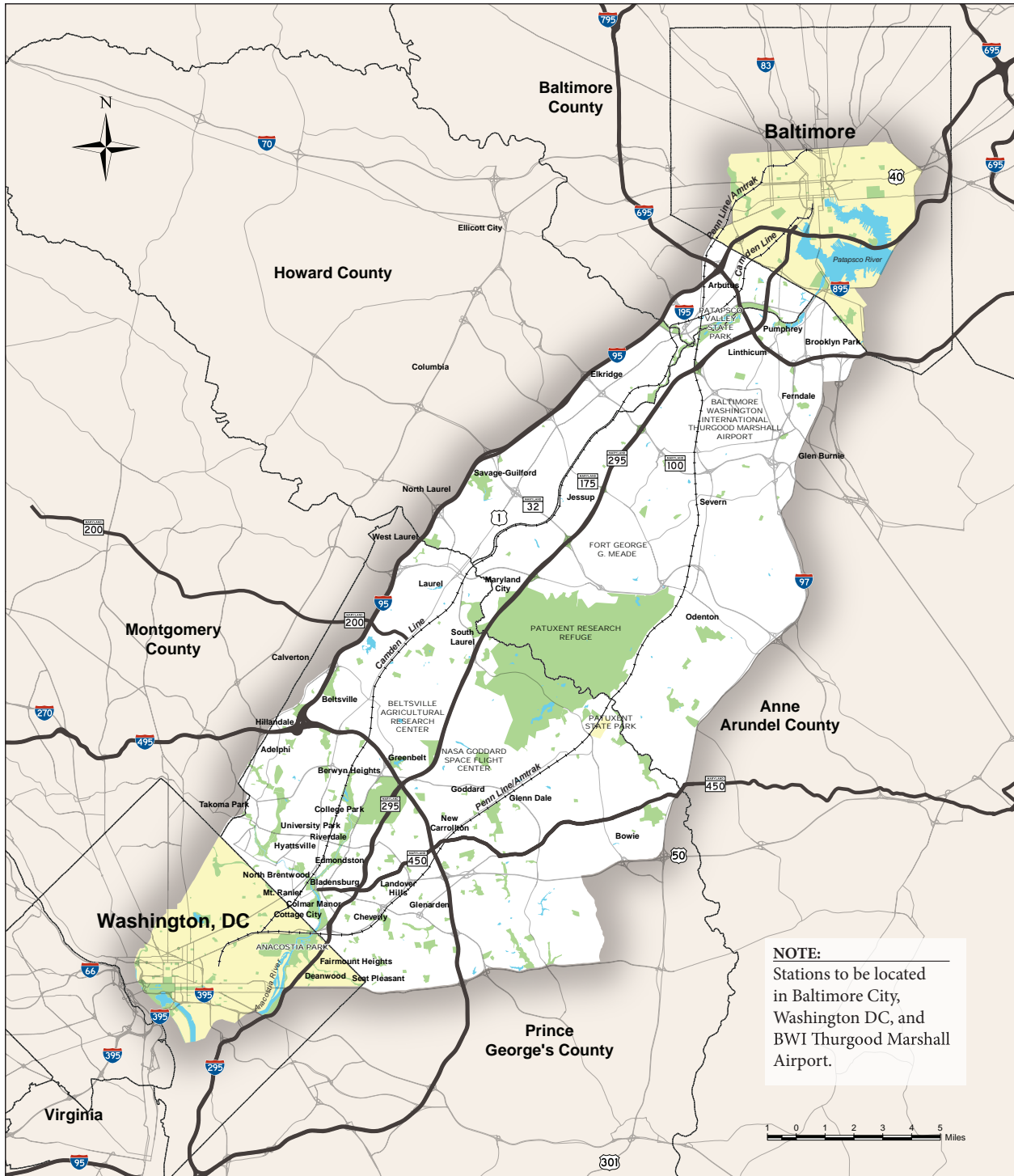


Figure 1-1: Project Study Area

1.2 NEPA AND THE SCOPING PROCESS

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) created the process that federal agencies follow to analyze the potential consequences of proposed projects on the human environment, engage the public, and document the analysis to ensure informed decision making. NEPA is an “umbrella” law (see **Figure 1-2**) that encourages integrated compliance with other environmental laws. Compliance with NEPA will include preparation of an EIS that will be made available for public review and comment. The EIS will document the following:

- Compliance with all appropriate legal requirements, agency regulations, policies, and guidance;
- A range of reasonably feasible build alternatives, and the selection of a Preferred Alternative to be evaluated against the forecasted future No-Build conditions;
- The evaluation of potential effects to environmental resources; and
- The inclusion of the general public, and all appropriate federal, state, and local agencies in the decision-making process.

As the lead federal agency, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is responsible for overseeing the safety of railroad operations within the United States, including the safety of any proposed rail ground transportation system. FRA is also authorized to provide, subject to appropriations, funding for intercity passenger rail and rail capital investments. In 2016, FRA awarded Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) a grant to prepare this EIS and supporting engineering for the Proposed Action. Specifically, Sections 1101(a)(18) and 1307 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) (Pub. L. 109-59), as amended by section 102 of the SAFETEA-LU Technical Corrections Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-244), authorized funding for pre-construction planning activities for eligible Maglev transportation projects located east of the Mississippi River and between Las Vegas and Primm, Nevada. In 2016 FRA awarded \$27.8 million in SAFETEA-LU Maglev funds to MDOT to prepare preliminary engineering and a NEPA analysis for the Proposed Action. No construction funding, however, has been appropriated at this time.

The Scoping Process takes place at the start of the EIS process to:

- Notify agencies, organizations, and the public that an EIS is being prepared for the project;
- Solicit input from agencies and the public on potential environmental considerations;
- Guide the scope of the EIS and the NEPA decision-making process; and
- Ensure the public understands the EIS process and how to get involved.

The project team invites comments from the public and encourages broad public participation throughout the NEPA process. More specifically, the project team invites comments from the public, federal, state, and local agencies, and all interested parties, on the scope of the EIS including:

- The Purpose and Need for the project;
- Alternatives to be studied;
- The selection of alternatives;
- Environmental, Section 106 (historic), and Section 4(f) (public lands) effects to consider and evaluate;
- Methodologies to use for evaluating effects;

- The approach for public and agency involvement; and
- Mitigation measures associated with the potential future construction, operation, and maintenance of the Proposed Action.

The project team expects this engagement with concerned stakeholders will ensure all relevant issues, constraints, and reasonable alternatives are addressed early in the development of the EIS. Moreover, at various milestones during the development of the EIS, the project team will provide additional opportunities for public involvement, such as public meetings and hearings, open houses, and requests for comment on the Draft EIS.



Figure 1-2: NEPA Umbrella Laws

2 PUBLIC SCOPING PROCESS AND COMMENTS

Members of the public, elected officials, and community organizations play an important role in the NEPA process. Public input gathered during the scoping phase as well as development of the project's Purpose and Need will help guide the development of alternatives and the identification of potential concerns.

Public notification of the project and the NEPA process began in November 2016. The Notice of Intent (NOI) published in the *Federal Register* on November 25, 2016 marked the official beginning of the scoping outreach process and comment period. The public scoping comment period ended on January 9, 2017 after 45 days. However, feedback from the public and any stakeholder will be accepted throughout the EIS process.

2.1 NOTICE OF INTENT

The Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS was published in Volume 81, Number 227 of the *Federal Register* on Friday, November 25, 2016. The notice included the following:

- A brief description of the project;
- Contact information for members of the project team;
- An explanation of project team member roles;
- A list of applicable laws and executive orders;
- Project funding information;
- The project's Draft Purpose and Need Statement;
- Background on NEPA and the scoping process; and
- Dates of public scoping meetings.

The full NOI is included in **Appendix A**.

2.2 OUTREACH AND NOTIFICATION

Outreach and notification was conducted via the NOI published in the *Federal Register*; the project website; social media (i.e., Facebook, Instagram, etc.); 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. Outreach and notification activities utilized Census and GIS data from the geographic extent of the defined study area to develop a coordinated mailing list that would emphasize communication with Environmental Justice (EJ) communities.

2.2.1 Website

The project website (see link below **Figure 2-1** – website screen capture) launched November 25, 2016, and includes an overview of the project, superconducting magnetic levitation technology, and the NEPA process.

The project website also provides ways for visitors to become involved in the EIS development and provide input. The website includes the purpose, dates, times, and locations of past and upcoming public meetings and associated materials, an option to join the project mailing list, and contact information for website visitors to send comments via e-mail or US mail. The website will be updated as the project progresses.



Figure 2-1: Screen Capture of Project Website

2.2.2 Mailings

A total of 669 postcard mailings were sent out to community groups, chambers of commerce, and neighborhood associations in early December 2016. The mailing list was determined by the project team based upon proximity to proposed alternative alignments and area of potential affects

Letters were sent to elected officials whose jurisdictions intersect the project study area. These included:

- U.S. Senators and Representatives;
- State of Maryland Senators and Delegates;
- Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Howard, and Prince George's County Executives and Councilmembers;
- Councilmembers and Mayors representing 23 cities and towns, including Baltimore, MD and Washington, DC; and
- District of Columbia Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) Chairpersons.

Letters to elected officials featured a description of the project, a list of relevant laws, the deadline for sending scoping comments, a map of the project study area, information on the upcoming public scoping meetings, and addresses (both e-mail and physical) for comments. A sample letter sent to elected officials is included in **Appendix B**.

Follow-up phone calls and/or e-mails were placed from project team members to each state-wide, district-wide, and county-wide elected official within the study area during the week of December 5, 2016. Phone calls were also placed to at least one elected representative for each town, municipality, and ANC (in DC).

2.2.3 Advertisements

The public scoping process and scoping meetings were advertised in a variety of local media sources. Advertisements were featured on the Maryland Transit Administrations (MTA)'s Instagram and Facebook pages; afro.com; the patch.com; desktop and mobile pages for Anne Arundel County and the City of Takoma Park; the *Prince George's County Sentinel*; *The Baltimore Sun* desktop and touchscreen pages; the Transportation Research Board (TRB) iPad and mobile applications, and *The Washington Post* desktop and mobile pages. These advertisements garnered over 500,000 impressions.

2.2.4 Flyer Distribution

Environmental Justice (EJ) communities, populations with high concentrations of minority and/or low-income individuals, may be less likely to view online communications. In order to reach these communities, hard copy flyers were distributed on December 5, 2016 by the project team in person or via mail to the 58 different location types listed in **Table 2-1** and shown in **Figure 2-2** (the addresses of the flyer distribution locations are provided in **Appendix C**).

Table 2-1: Flyer Distribution

Location Type	District of Columbia	Prince George's County	Anne Arundel County	Baltimore City	Total
Community Organizations	5	2	0	4	11
Libraries	6	4	0	5	15
Community Centers	0	10	0	0	10
Recreation Centers	8	1	1	2	12
Health Centers	0	1	0	1	2
Transit Stops	0	0	0	8	8
Total	19	18	1	20	58

2.3 PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES

The project team conducted five public open houses throughout the project study area in mid-December 2016. These open houses provided opportunities for members of the public and elected officials to learn about the project by speaking with the project team and viewing the display boards shown in **Appendix D**. Attendees could also submit their comments and concerns via comment forms and survey cards. Approximately 150 people attended the open houses and 57 people submitted comments at the meetings, as shown in **Table 2-2**.

Table 2-2: Open House

Date	Time	Location	Address	Sign-Ins	Comments
Saturday, December 10, 2016	10 am – 12 pm	Lindale Middle School	415 Andover Road, Linthicum, MD 21090	44	32
Monday, December 12, 2016	5 pm – 7 pm	Arundel Middle School	1179 Hammond Lane, Odenton, MD 21113	29	11
Tuesday, December 13, 2016	5 pm – 7 pm	Coppermine Du Burns Arena, Harbor Side Hall	3100 Boston Street, Baltimore, MD 21224	37	7
Wednesday, December 14, 2016	5 pm – 7 pm	Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library	901 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001	24	5
Thursday, December 15, 2016	5 pm – 7 pm	West Lanham Hills Fire Hall	8501 Good Luck Road, Lanham, MD 20706	18	2
Total				152	57

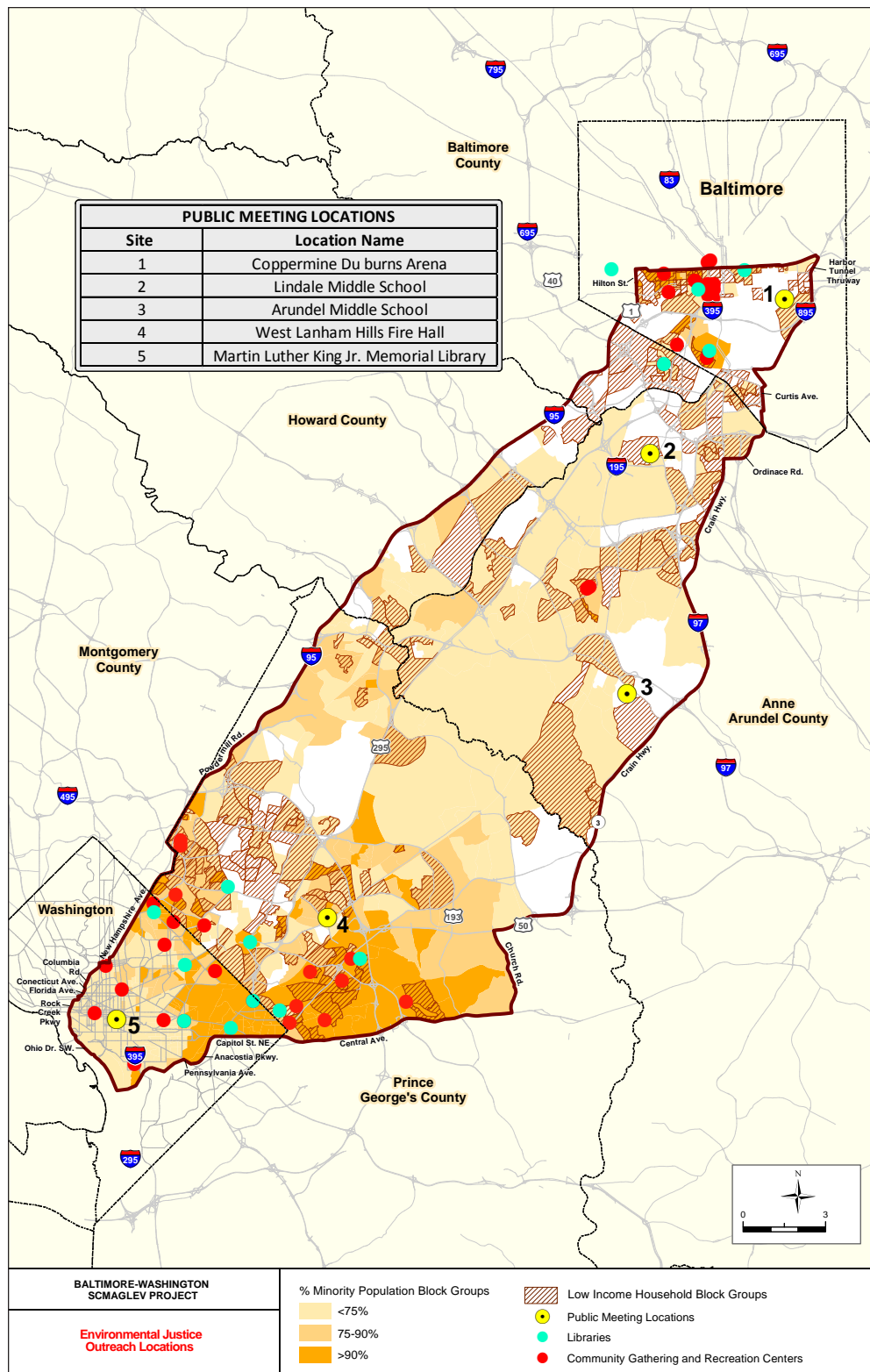


Figure 2-2: Environmental Justice Communities and Flyer Distribution Locations

2.4 PUBLIC COMMENTS MATRIX

In addition to the 57 comments submitted at the public meetings, 16 comments were submitted via the project e-mail and two comments were submitted via mail, for a total of 75 comments. All 75 public comments are shown in **Appendix E**. To organize the response process, these comments were categorized into 20 topics by the project team, as shown in **Table 2-3**.

Table 2-3: Comments by Topic

Topic	Number of Comments*	Percent of Comments*
Alignment	19	25%
Cost (total project cost or ticket price too high)	18	24%
Station Locations/Number of Stations	17	23%
Support Project	16	21%
Oppose Project	16	21%
Outreach	15	20%
Improve Existing Infrastructure	13	17%
Financing (Public vs. Private funding, Federal vs. State funding, etc.)	13	17%
Safety	10	13%
Wildlife	8	11%
Noise	7	9%
Technology	6	8%
Traffic	5	7%
Parking	4	5%
Operations	4	5%
Air Quality (includes climate change-related concerns due to carbon emissions)	2	3%
Floodplains, Wetlands, and Waterway	2	3%
Construction	2	3%
Environmental Justice	1	1%
Aesthetics	1	1%

*Number of comments totals more than 75 because many comments addressed more than one topic. Similarly, percent of comments totals greater than 100%. Percentages are rounded to the nearest 1%.

2.5 PUBLIC COMMENT RESPONSES

Based on the categorizations in **Table 2-3**, the project team summarized each group of comments. This summary comprises the first paragraph of each of the following sections. The paragraph(s) after that represent the project team response in italics. The topics are ordered from the most common to the least common.

2.5.1 Alignment

Summary of Comments

Nineteen comments or approximately one quarter of comments received, included questions, comments, or concerns about the location of a maglev alignment. Most of these comments requested more specific information. Some suggested alignments, such as along existing rail tracks or along the median of existing highway infrastructure. Other commenters were concerned about impacts related to any potential alignment that passed through their town or neighborhood.

Response

The project team is preparing to begin the development of the design specifications, alternative alignments, and associated infrastructure needs of the project during the next phase of the study, and will take into consideration the suggestions and concerns expressed by stakeholders during the scoping period. The impacts of potential construction and operation activities for all reasonable alternatives will be evaluated and documented in the EIS. There will be additional public and agency outreach during these phases, allowing for continuous communication between stakeholders and the project team members as the alternatives are developed and refined.

2.5.2 Cost

Summary of Comments

Eighteen comments or approximately 24 percent of comments received, questioned the overall cost of the project and/or noted concerns that the price of the tickets would be too high. In regards to ticket pricing, commenters were often concerned that the train would only serve wealthy patrons or that it would not attract enough ridership to generate the revenue needed to fund the operation and maintenance of the train system. Likewise anticipated high ticket prices could be out of reach for many low income citizens and should be considered an EJ issue. One commenter offered a guess of the ticket costs for a family and then compared that cost to the estimated gasoline and toll cost for the same trip.

Response

The initial cost of the Baltimore-Washington superconducting magnetic levitation train is currently being evaluated. This cost estimate will be refined as alternatives are evaluated. Initial cost, ticket pricing, ridership, revenue estimates, maintenance and operations costs, and socio-economic/EJ factors will be considered in the EIS. In addition, the project team intends to evaluate and document the cost/benefit of the construction and operation of the proposed system. There will be additional opportunities for cost-related comments during the outreach periods associated with later phases of the project.

2.5.3 Station Locations/Number of Stations

Summary of Comments

Over 20 percent of comments, from 17 different commenters, dealt with station location. Several of these comments asked if there would be, or requested, additional stations beyond the three listed at Baltimore, Washington, and BWI Marshall Airport. Commenters also asked where specifically the stations at those destination points would be located.

Response

Currently, there are only three stations planned, one in the City of Baltimore, one in Washington, DC, and one at BWI Marshall Airport. The specifics of these station locations will be further refined during the alternatives development phase. Members of the public and elected officials are encouraged to continue providing input on station location as the project progresses.

2.5.4 Support Project

Summary of Comments

Sixteen comments, or 21 percent of comments received, explicitly expressed support for the project. In some cases, these commenters still expressed concerns about potential project impacts, but thought that, overall, the project should go forward.

Response

The project team will take opposition from members of the public and elected officials into account.

2.5.5 Oppose Project

Summary of Comments

Eleven percent of comments, received from 10 individuals, expressed direct opposition to the project. In most cases, these comments included reasons for opposition, which are addressed under other topic areas.

Response

The project team will take opposition from members of the public and elected officials into account.

2.5.6 Outreach

Summary of Comments

Approximately 20 percent of comments, or 15 comments, referenced the outreach process itself. Six of these comments were received on survey cards that were distributed at the meetings that asked attendees “How can MDOT communicate more effectively?” Answers to this question ranged from using social media to printing a newspaper article. Some complimented the project team and its outreach efforts, while others wondered if their input made a difference or were frustrated by the vague answers at this point in the process. A few simply asked the project team to keep them abreast of project developments. One commenter asked why District Department of Transportation (DDOT) was not a Cooperating Agency.

Response

The project team appreciates feedback on the outreach process and will take it into account during upcoming outreach events. The project team does take public input seriously, and understands that, during the scoping period, answers and information may seem vague. Information and answers to questions will become more specific as the alternatives are developed and project impacts are evaluated.

DDOT was invited to participate as a cooperating agency (see Section 3.0). In a letter dated January 9, 2017, DDOT responded to this invitation and requested the status of Participating Agency during the review process. See Section 3 for further information.

The project team is preparing the Public and Agency Coordination Plan that will describe the outreach process and planned outreach activities to be conducted over the duration of the study. In addition, the project team is in the process of developing a more comprehensive outreach plan to notify the public about upcoming project meetings. The next round of public meetings will focus on presenting more detailed information related to the preliminary alternatives and their corresponding potential impacts. A goal of these meetings is to provide attendees an opportunity to focus their discussions and feedback on better defined project elements and the potential effects of implementation.

2.5.7 Improve Existing Infrastructure

Summary of Comments

Thirteen comments, or 17 percent of the total comments received, noted a preference for improvements to existing infrastructure. In most cases, this was coupled with opposition to the project due to limited financial resources, lack of commuter benefit, and problems with existing systems.

Response

The EIS will evaluate a No Build alternative where planned transportation improvements and expansions in the corridor will be described along with both positive and negative impacts.

2.5.8 Financing

Summary of Comments

Thirteen comments, or 17 percent of the total comments received, referenced project financing. As opposed to the project cost topic, this topic focuses on the source of funds to complete the project. Several commenters simply asked for clarification on how the project will be funded. Some commenters asked if the train would generate enough revenue to cover costs or stated they would only support the project if it were privately funded. Others asked if their taxes would increase. One commenter advocated for the passage of the Glass-Steagall Act and the establishment of National Bank.

Response

The project sponsors have not fully identified funding for construction and operation of the system should a Build Alternative be selected at the end of the EIS process. As stated in the Notice of Intent to prepare the EIS, a mix of Federal, state and private funds is anticipated. While, not a requirement of the NEPA or EIS process, the project sponsors will likely continue with revenue/construction cost studies in order to attract investment or secure federal transportation grants. The passage of the Glass-Steagall Act or the establishment of a National Bank is beyond the scope of the project.

2.5.9 Safety

Summary of Comments

There was a variety of safety concerns, from ten commenters or 13 percent of the total comments received, relating to:

- NSA and NASA security;
- Onboard security;
- Effect of technology on health;
- Safety record in other countries;
- Fencing;
- Train speed;
- Snow accumulation;
- Conductor visibility; and
- Debris on tracks.

Response

Safety and security for areas adjacent to the train facilities, as well as on-board trains and at train facilities will be evaluated and taken into consideration as part of preliminary design and documented in the EIS through coordination with relevant agencies, stakeholders, and technical experts. The project team will research and document safety issues and best practices related to personal safety and security for passengers as well as address the safety and security of operating superconducting magnetic levitation trains under various conditions and environmental factors, such as snow events and during times of poor conductor visibility.

2.5.10 Wildlife

Summary of Comments

Eight comments, or 11 percent of the total comments received, referred to wildlife. Commenters either addressed the effects of the train system, such as the electromagnetic field, on wildlife in the area or addressed the potential effects of wildlife coming into direct contact with the train or guideway.

Response

The impact of the train system on wildlife and vice versa will be considered as part of the EIS process. Special attention will be given to any threatened or endangered species within the project study area. The project team will research issues and best practices associated with wildlife populations around superconducting magnetic levitation train operations. In addition, the project team will investigate wildlife deterrent measures aimed at preventing wildlife from accessing the guideway.

2.5.11 Noise

Summary of Comments

Seven comments, or nine percent of the total comments received, were requests for more information on noise levels associated with the maglev or expressed concerns related to noise.

Response

Noise impacts for potential, reasonable alternatives will be evaluated in the EIS. All sonic mitigation measures will be presented during the EIS stage. Members of the public and elected officials can obtain more information and provide further input on noise during later stages of outreach.

2.5.12 Technology

Summary of Comments

Six comments, or eight percent of the total comments received, were about the superconducting magnetic levitation technology. Questions and concerns included the amount and source of electricity required to operate the train and the effects of curves on train speed.

Response

The ultimate design of the rail alignment and power needs will dictate the details regarding power amounts and sources; however, it is assumed that power substations along the route will provide power through cables with variable-frequency outputs to the Propulsion Coils mounted in the guideway sidewalls.

Curves in the alignment dictate train speed. High speed rail operations mandate minimum tolerance for curvature. The effect of curves on train speed will be further considered during the alternatives phase of the EIS.

2.5.13 Traffic

Summary of Comments

Five comments, or seven percent of the total comments received, included questions or concerns about traffic. Three of these commenters were worried about traffic impacts in Linthicum due to the proposed BWI Marshall Airport station. Two commenters stated that they thought the project would improve traffic by re-directing people from cars to trains.

Response

The impact of the Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV project on traffic will be evaluated for each potential, reasonable alternative as part of the EIS, with a specific focus on traffic impacts at stations. The study will also look at the potential for SCMAGLEV to improve person throughput and provide possible congestion relief between Baltimore and Washington. Members of the public and elected officials will have additional opportunities to provide feedback when project traffic impacts are known.

2.5.14 Parking

Summary of Comments

Four comments, or five percent of the total comments received, expressed concern about how many people would park to access the BWI Marshall Airport station and where these train riders would park. They were concerned about the lack of sufficient parking at BWI Marshall Airport and in Linthicum.

Response

The impact of the Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV project on existing parking and new parking needs, including in Linthicum and around BWI Marshall Airport, will be evaluated for each potential, reasonable alternative as part of the EIS. Members of the public and elected officials will have additional opportunities to provide feedback when project parking impacts and needs are known.

2.5.15 Operations

Summary of Comments

Four comments, or five percent of the total comments received, addressed train operations. A Town of Cheverly councilmember asked for detailed operations plans as well as information on delays or service interruptions experienced by other magnetic levitation systems. Comments were also submitted about commuter passes, rain and snow effects, scheduling, and maintenance.

Response

Maintenance and operations plans, including schedules, fare/pass structure, and weather contingencies will become more detailed as the project progresses through the alternatives development and EIS phases.

The project team will research maintenance and operations performance specifications of the SCMAGLEV system under construction in Japan.

2.5.16 Air Quality

Summary of Comments

Two comments, or three percent of total comments received, noted the potential for improved air quality or reduced emissions due to reduced automobile use and the benefits lower emissions could have on addressing climate change concerns.

Response

Air quality and emissions will be evaluated for each potential, reasonable alternative as part of the EIS. The project team notes the potential support for mass transit and improved person throughput. Members of the public and other stakeholders will have the opportunity to learn more about the project's air quality and climate change impacts as the project progresses. They will also have the opportunity to submit comments once air quality and emissions impacts are better known.

2.5.17 Floodplains, Wetlands, and Waterways

Summary of Comments

Two comments, or three percent of the total comments received, advised the project team to consider floodplains, wetlands, and waterways.

Response

Floodplains, wetland, and waterways represent key natural resources that require protection to ensure continued clean water and healthy habitats for all ecosystems within the study area. The project team will review and assess the proposed alternatives to better understand and minimize potential impacts and address necessary mitigation for unavoidable impacts as part of the preliminary design and EIS process. There will be further opportunities for comment once potential impacts are known.

2.5.18 Construction

Summary of Comments

Two comments, or three percent of the total comments received, addressed the construction phase, asking how long it would take.

Response

The EIS and preliminary design will address the estimated length of the construction phase as well as construction-related impacts. There will be further opportunities to comment on the construction phase as more details become available.

2.5.19 Environmental Justice

Summary of Comments

One comment, representing one percent of total comments received, specifically requested “more information on the economic impact as well as the environmental impact on those with lower socio-economic states...”

Response

The EIS will consider environmental and economic impacts to low-income and minority communities. The project team will continue its efforts to reach out to environmental justice communities to ensure full and fair participation in the decision-making process as the project continues.

2.5.20 Aesthetics

Summary of Comments

One comment, or one percent of the total comments received, states that citizens would be concerned about aesthetics.

Response

The project team will evaluate aesthetics and will conduct a full Section 106 – historic preservation assessment as part of the preliminary design and EIS process. There will be opportunities for public comment as more details become available.

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3 AGENCY SCOPING PROCESS AND COMMENTS

Agency scoping began in November 2016, when FRA sent letters and e-mails directly to representatives at federal, state, regional and local agencies, inviting them to participate in the project as a Cooperating or Participating Agency and announcing a 45-day EIS scoping comment period (see **Appendix F** for a sample of this letter). Agencies were also encouraged to visit the project website, submit comments, and attend the Public Open Houses. **Table 3-1** lists the agencies invited as a Cooperating or Participating Agency.

Table 3-1: Agencies Invited to Participate in the Project

Cooperating Agencies	
Federal & Regional	Federal Aviation Administration
	Federal Transit Administration
	National Capital Planning Commission (regional)
	National Park Service (U.S. Department of Interior)
	National Security Agency
	Surface Transportation Board
	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
	U.S. Coast Guard
	U.S. Department of Agriculture – Beltsville Agricultural Research Center
	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*	
State	District of Columbia Department of Transportation*
Participating Agencies	
Federal	National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)**
	Federal Emergency Management Agency
	Fort George G. Meade (U.S. Army)*
	Federal Highway Administration*
State	District of Columbia Department of Energy & Environment
	District of Columbia Department of Public Works
	District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office
	District of Columbia Office of Planning
	District of Columbia Public Service Commission (declined)
	Maryland Aviation Administration
	Maryland Department of Natural Resources
	Maryland Department of Planning
	Maryland Department of the Environment
	Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Public Service Commission	
Maryland State Highway Administration	

Table 3-1: Agencies Invited to Participate in the Project *cont'd.*

Participating Agencies	
Regional	Baltimore Metropolitan Council
	Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
	Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (declined)
	National Railroad Passenger Corporation (AMTRAK) (declined)
	Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
Local	Anne Arundel County Transportation Division
	Baltimore City Department of Planning
	Baltimore City Department of Transportation
	Baltimore County Planning Office
	Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning

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

**NASA is likely to become a Cooperating Agency if directly impacted by proposed improvements.

Note: Agencies listed in **bold** accepted the invitation to participate in the project as a Cooperating and/or Participating Agency. Agencies not in bold did not respond to the invitation letter.

3.1 AGENCY SCOPING MEETINGS

The agencies listed above in **Table 3-1** were invited to attend two agency scoping meetings. One meeting was held via webinar on January 18, 2017 as part of Maryland State Highway Administration's monthly Interagency Review Meeting. Another meeting was held in-person on January 31, 2017 at the National Park Service National Capital Region Headquarters in Washington, DC. The purpose of these meetings was to provide an opportunity for the early identification of significant issues related to the Project. Attendees at the agency scoping meetings included representatives from the following agencies:

- Amtrak
- Anne Arundel County Transportation Division
- Baltimore City Department of Planning (BCDP)
- Baltimore City Department of Transportation (BCDOT)
- Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
- District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE)
- District of Columbia Department of Public Works (DPW)
- District of Columbia Department of Transportation (DDOT)
- District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office (DCSHPO)
- Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)
- Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
- Howard County Office of Transportation
- Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA)
- Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)
- Maryland Department of Planning (MDP)
- Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)
- Maryland Economic Development Corporation (MEDCO)
- Maryland Historical Trust (MHT)

- Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC)
- Maryland Transit Administration (MTA)
- Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- National Park Service (NPS)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- U.S. Army, Fort George G. Meade
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

See **Appendix F** for a copy of the presentation given at the agency scoping meetings. Sign-in sheets from the meetings are also provided.

Comments and questions were received from agencies at the agency scoping meetings. When answers were known, the project team responded with available information during the meeting. Many other comments and questions will be responded to as the project continues through the development of the EIS. Questions and comments from the agencies included:

- Has the Baltimore City Mayor and City Council President been involved?
- A Federal Aviation Administration finding will need to be issued for this project.
- The SCMAGLEV alignment will need to be shown on the BWI Master Plan.
- Will the study include benefit-cost and indirect and cumulative effects analyses?
- What is the northern study area boundary?
- When are scoping comments due?
- What is the study area for indirect and cumulative effects?
- When will impacts to wetlands be known and what mitigation measures will be considered?
- Consider lead time for coordinating with BMC to incorporate the project in the TIP and air quality plans.
- How is the District of Columbia being engaged in this project?
- Is the project team considering the Union Station expansion project?
- Have the station locations been decided?
- Has a specific right-of-way been identified for the alignment?
- The Section 106 process should occur simultaneously with the NEPA process.
- Cultural resources should be identified early and factored into the alternatives development process.
- Is the entire I-95 right of way within the project study area?
- When can USACE anticipate the project's permit application?
- Will the project utilize SHA's streamlined environmental process (such as piggy-backing off the monthly IRM meetings)?
- Will there be a Beltway station or the opportunity to add other intermediate stops (i.e. in Prince George's County or Anne Arundel County)?
- Does the train have to travel at over 300 miles per hour?
- To what extent has the project team engaged Prince George's County Department of Public Works and the county executive?
- Comments from Prince George's County residents will likely focus on station location. Residents may not want to travel north to BWI or south to DC to access the system.
- What will residents of Prince George's County and Anne Arundel County gain from the project?
- How does the project relate to FRA's high-speed rail initiatives?

- Why was the 2003 EIS process halted?
- What are the schedule drivers for this project?
- Provide more details on anticipated project funding.
- Have mitigation costs been factored into the project cost?
- Since only fifty percent of funding has been identified, would you consider phasing the project?
- How will concurrence be obtained (via concurrence forms or official letters)?
- How many trains would be in operation?

3.2 ADDITIONAL AGENCY COMMENTS

Agencies were able to submit comments via the same methods as the public, including the project website, the project e-mail address, and the project mailing address. The project team received comments regarding the scope of the EIS for the Project from the following agencies: the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA), National Park Service (NPS), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Amtrak, and Howard County Office of Transportation. Comments in the section below are summarized by agency. Agency scoping comments are provided in **Appendix F**.

3.2.1 DDOT

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) commented that they would like to be consulted when identifying the specific study area boundaries for individual resources. DDOT requested that other ongoing projects and studies be considered in the development of alternatives and the ridership assessment for the No Build and for the Build Alternative, including the Washington Union Station Expansion Project EIS, Long Bridge EIS, Southeast High Speed Rail EIS, and the NEC FUTURE Tier 1 EIS.

DDOT also requested to be involved in developing, reviewing, and screening alternatives for the Project to ensure that considerations of project terminus, multimodal access, visual effects, environmental justice, safety, security and other elements receive the full and due diligence of the project team. DDOT will be interested in a careful analysis of both benefits and impacts to the region versus impacts and benefits to the District during alternative development and later project phases. The location and potential impacts of terminal facilities, including the surrounding multi-modal transportation network, as well as the impacts of any right-of-way needed for connection to the terminal are of particular interest to DDOT.

DDOT encouraged MDOT and FRA to conduct extensive public outreach in the potentially affected parts of the District and noted that public outreach should be conducted in locations, languages, and in formats accessible to District residents.

3.2.2 NCPC

The National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) stated that they generally support the Project purpose, which appears to be consistent with the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital: Federal Elements*. They encouraged the project team to coordinate with other regionally significant transportation initiatives such as the NEC FUTURE Project, Washington Union Station Expansion Project, Long Bridge Study,

DC2RVA Project, WMATA's Momentum plan, and DDOT's DC Streetcar Project. NCPC requested that the environmental document analyze short and long term impacts to pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular circulation.

NCPC commented that the project has the potential to affect the character of the Union Station and surrounding historic resources and requested that the project team specifically analyze the impacts to viewsheds and historic properties in the vicinity of Union Station. They are particularly interested in how the proposed project might affect the resources covered by the L'Enfant Plan and the McMillian Plan, both of which specifically address the preservation of the U.S. Capitol building and grounds, Union Station, the Russell Senate office building, Federal Home Loan Bank Board Building, the National Mall, and DC's historic post office building. Additionally, NCPC commented that the EIS should evaluate potential impacts from station and infrastructure design on historic, natural and cultural resources, and the visitor's experience at the several national parks (i.e., Brentwood Maintenance Facility, Anacostia Park, Fort Lincoln, and Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens) and other significant stream valleys and watersheds (i.e., Northeast Branch stream valley, Northwest Branch stream valley, Paint Branch stream valley, Anacostia River watershed, Patuxent River watershed, and the Western Branch watershed) encompassed by the Project's study area. In their December 2016 letter to MDOT, NCPC noted that any proposed changes to existing park plans within the study area would be subject to their review and approval under the Capper-Cramton Act. Changes to park plans include those proposed in both DC and Prince George's County. NCPC advised that every effort should be made to avoid construction in the floodplain (100 and 500-year); to remove trees in excess of the number of new trees planted as mitigation; and to avoid sensitive ecological and wildlife areas along the corridor.

NCPC requested that several environmental topics be analyzed in the EIS. These include:

- Changes in air, light and noise pollution;
- Changes in vegetation and tree canopy;
- Stormwater runoff and management to meet federal, state and local requirements.
- Impervious surfaces;
- Energy use; and
- Short term impacts from construction.

3.2.3 USACE

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) commented that the EIS should thoroughly evaluate project alternatives as part of the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative (LEDPA) requirements, and identify any permanent and temporary impacts to waters of the U.S., including jurisdictional streams and wetlands, and the Corps public interest factors, which include: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands and streams, historic and cultural resources, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, water quality, considerations of property ownership, air and noise impacts, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

USACE acknowledged that the project will likely result in discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S.; therefore, the project will require Department of the Army authorization under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. USACE advised the project team to ensure the information presented in the EIS is adequate and comprehensively evaluated to fulfill the requirements of the Corps regulations, the Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines, and the Corps public interest review process.

3.2.4 EPA

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) commented that the EIS should contain a clearly identified purpose “defined in relationship to the need for the action.” The project need should describe the underlying problem or deficiency using supporting facts and analysis and should explain how the agency mission relates to the need. EPA stated that the alternatives analysis is central to the EIS and that a rationale for choosing a preferred alternative should be clearly presented. EPA noted that the project area should be described and quantified, along with any regulatory requirements, permits, and approvals that are applicable to that area.

EPA stated that the EIS should address potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts as well as proposed mitigation measures related to the following categories:

- Air resources, including criteria pollutants and construction emissions;
- Water resources, such as surface water, groundwater, drinking water, stormwater, wastewater, wetlands, oceans, and watersheds;
- Physiography, including topography, climate, geology, and soils;
- Species, especially endangered, threatened, invasive, and bat species;
- Hazardous waste;
- Historic properties;
- Noise;
- Socioeconomic and cultural resources;
- Environmental justice populations;
- Traffic and transportation; and
- Children’s health.

The EPA also suggested that the EIS consider climate adaption measures and LEED certification in the EIS. Finally, EPA commented that the EIS should include a Distribution List of agencies, organizations, and persons to who copies of the document were sent.

3.2.5 DNR

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) stated that they will coordinate and provide additional information on a variety of State natural resource categories and resource topics, including forestry resources and forest conservation, state listed rare, threatened, and endangered species; sensitive terrestrial habitats; fisheries and aquatic resources; stream resources, assessments, and designations; geology; DNR managed public lands; and State Scenic and Wild Rivers. In addition, DNR noted that they will assist with the documentation of Environmental and Conservation Easements placed on certain land parcels, the State Forest Conservation Act, and various specific stream designations (Stream Use Classifications, Tier II waters and catchments, Stronghold Watersheds). Additionally, DNR suggested that the ecosystems category should be further organized into sub-categories such as fisheries resources; wildlife habitats; forest interior habitat; and habitat for rare, threatened, and endangered species (state and/or federally listed).

DNR also suggested that as part of advanced levels of scoping or further resource documentation, they can provide, discuss, and/or review more specifically identified resource elements and geographical

features, such as specific State Parks (Patapsco for example), watersheds (Anacostia, Patuxent, Patapsco for example), rare species habitats (individual Sensitive Species Project Review Areas mapped in GIS polygons, Ecologically Significant Areas, etc.), and other mapped and delineated natural resource areas. DNR Foresters can provide guidance on the Forest Conservation Act, and their conservation easement experts can provide information on such easements. Additionally, DNR staff experts on Chesapeake Bay Critical Areas and Coastal Zone Management can provide guidance on those categories in relation to identified alignment and design alternatives.

3.2.6 FAA

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) noted that encroachment on BWI Marshall Airport would necessitate a separate finding by FAA. In order to make this finding, Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA) will need to submit BWI layout plans showing the SCMAGLEV alignment to FAA for review.

Additionally, FAA will review the project EIS. FAA indicated that, to facilitate its finding, the project EIS should address the following environmental impact categories:

- Air quality;
- Biological resources;
- Climate;
- Coastal resources;
- Department of Transportation Act Section 4(f) resources;
- Farmlands;
- Hazardous materials, solid waste, and pollution prevention;
- Historical, architectural, archaeological, and cultural resources;
- Land use;
- Natural resources and energy supply;
- Noise and compatible land use;
- Socioeconomics, environmental justice, and children's environmental health and safety risks;
- Visual effects (including light emissions); and
- Water resources (including wetlands, floodplains, surface waters, groundwater, and wild and scenic rivers).

3.2.7 MAA

The Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA) noted that encroachment on MAA land at BWI Marshall Airport would necessitate a separate finding by FAA. FAA will need to review SCMAGLEV alignments and the BWI station layout plan in order to make this finding.

MAA also noted that master planning for BWI Marshall Airport is occurring simultaneously with the SCMAGLEV EIS process, so coordination is needed for consistency purposes.

3.2.8 NPS

The National Park Service (NPS) identified and described two federal parks within the project study area. First, NPS identified the 29-mile Baltimore-Washington Parkway, of which NPS manages a 19-mile stretch between the DC line and MD 175. The parkway is a scenic artery listed as a historic district in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). It is considered a Section 4(f) resource. NPS stated that "any

SCMAGLEV alignment impacting the Baltimore-Washington Parkway corridor will require analysis to determine the feasibility and identify associated mitigation measures.”

Second, NPS identified Greenbelt Park in Prince George’s County, a 1,106 acre wooded site used for recreation and travel stopover.

3.2.9 USFWS

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) stated that it would like to be included in the alternatives development process. USFWS also provided copies of comments submitted to the FRA during the Northeast Corridor Future Plan process. USFWS emphasized that Patuxent Research Refuge in Laurel, MD is found within the project study area. Patuxent is a “wildlife and experiment research refuge” as well a reservation for migratory birds. In addition, USFWS noted in a January 2017 email to FRA that, trying to run through the Patuxent Refuge is probably “a non-starter”.

3.2.10 Amtrak

Amtrak stated that its NEC Future plan already analyzed passenger rail needs between Baltimore and Washington, discarded the new alignment alternative, and agreed with stakeholders on processes to develop and implement long-term investment plans for the corridor. Significant public and private investments have already been used, secured, or planned to improve the existing infrastructure. Amtrak “questions the competing priorities between the Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV project...and the NEC Future’s EIS.” Amtrak also questioned whether or not the EIS scope “provide[s] true independent utility” due to the discussion of potential future extensions.

Finally, Amtrak expressed concern that environmental consequences of the new technology are not fully known at this point.

3.2.11 Howard County Office of Transportation

Howard County Office of Transportation provided a list of topics to consider when developing alternatives and drafting the EIS. These topics included land use, transportation, open space, environmental resources, and historic resources. For each topic, the county provided web links to relevant plans or direction on which county departments to contact for further information.

Howard County also commented that the EIS should assess the impact of the project on MARC lines.

3.2.12 Prince George’s County

Prince George’s County representatives submitted to FRA that they are “extremely concerned that this SCMAGLEV Project will take people speeding through Prince George’s County, literally and figuratively bypassing our communities, parks & recreational resources, economic development and more”. In addition, it was noted that the county did not “sign on” to the previous Maglev EIS study due to concerns that the county’s population is largely not served by this project, and is merely “bypassed” by a system that is designed for serving DC, Baltimore, and BWI travelers, but not necessarily the suburban riders.

4 NEXT STEPS

As noted previously, the project team will document and utilize input submitted during the scoping phase to help guide the development of the Draft EIS. The ideas, concerns, questions, and recommendations communicated by the public during the scoping process, as well as those received through the duration of this study, are considered by the project team and appropriately addressed as part of the overall project development and documentation process.

Public and agency involvement continues well beyond the scoping phase and will be a key component of the project as the team progresses through the development of preliminary alternatives, the definition of the project Purpose and Need, screening and evaluation criteria, the refinement of alternatives, and evaluation of potential environmental effects. The project website and future public meetings afford interested stakeholders the opportunity to access up-to-date information. In addition, federal, state, and local agencies are to receive up-to-date information on project developments via regular correspondence and periodic interagency meetings.

The results of the scoping process and the initial feasibility screening are used by the project team to identify the alternatives considered in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS will also include documentation of the affected environment, which includes identifying existing conditions and potential opportunities and constraints relative to the proposed project. Based on this information, the potential impacts of each of the remaining project alternatives are assessed and documented by the project team. The project alternatives will also undergo a detailed evaluation based on potential impacts and their performance relative to the project Purpose and Need, the project goals and objectives, as well as financial feasibility.

In the near future, several additional Public Open House Meetings are planned to be held to provide a communication forum for project team members to present the most current project information from the Draft EIS and seek feedback from interested members of the public. In addition, the project team will host a formal Public Hearing after the completion of the Draft EIS where stakeholders will have an opportunity to provide official testimony as part of public record on the project.

Once the project team has completed the Draft EIS, a Notice of Availability is published and the Draft EIS is circulated to all interested parties and those having jurisdiction over the proposed action. The Draft EIS will also be available for public review for a minimum period of 45 days. The Draft EIS provides decision-makers with valuable information on which to base the selection of a preferred alternative.

A Final EIS will then be prepared, documenting the preferred alternative and comparing its impacts to the No Build Alternative and responding to comments received on the Draft EIS. In the Final EIS, a greater level of detail on design, impacts and mitigation, and mitigation commitments, where applicable, will be provided. FRA intends to issue a combined Final EIS and Record of Decision under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) unless it determines the statutory criteria or practicability considerations preclude issuing a combined document.

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Appendix A

- **Notice of Intent**

Elwood F. Gorom (WA)
 Mike W. Holland (IL)
 Dan M. McAllister (WI)
 Paul F. Rivers (MN)
 Marcus V. Romo (ID)
 Wayne L. Snyder (OH)
 Justin K. Zimmerschied (KS)

The drivers were included in Docket Nos. FMCSA–2011–0383. Their exemptions are effective as of April 27, 2016 and will expire on April 27, 2018.

As of April 30, 2016, and in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315, the following 2 individuals, have satisfied the renewal conditions for obtaining an exemption from the rule prohibiting drivers with ITDM from driving CMVs in interstate commerce (79 FR 10612; 79 FR 14579; 79 FR 28590; 79 FR 27685):

Charles L. Bryant (PA)
 Christopher P. Martin (NH)

The drivers were included in Docket Nos. FMCSA–2014–0012; FMCSA–2014–0013. Their exemptions are effective as of April 30, 2016 and will expire on April 30, 2018.

Each of the 47 drivers in the aforementioned groups qualifies for a renewal of the exemption. They have maintained their required medical monitoring and have not exhibited any medical issues that would compromise their ability to safely operate a CMV during the previous 2-year exemption period.

These factors provide an adequate basis for predicting each driver's ability to continue to drive safely in interstate commerce. Therefore, FMCSA concludes that extending the exemption for each of the 47 drivers for a period of two years is likely to achieve a level of safety equal to that existing without the exemption. The drivers were included in docket numbers FMCSA–2011–0382; FMCSA–2011–0383; FMCSA–2013–0194; FMCSA–2014–0012; FMCSA–2014–0013.

Request for Comments

FMCSA will review comments received at any time concerning a particular driver's safety record and determine if the continuation of the exemption is consistent with the requirements at 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315. However, FMCSA requests that interested parties with specific data concerning the safety records of these drivers submit comments by December 27, 2016.

FMCSA believes that the requirements for a renewal of an exemption under 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315 can be satisfied by initially granting the renewal and then requesting and evaluating, if needed,

subsequent comments submitted by interested parties. As indicated above, the Agency previously published notices of final disposition announcing its decision to exempt these 47 individuals from rule prohibiting persons with ITDM from operating CMVs in interstate commerce in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(3). The final decision to grant an exemption to each of these individuals was made on the merits of each case and made only after careful consideration of the comments received to its notices of applications. The notices of applications stated in detail the medical condition of each applicant for an exemption from rule prohibiting persons with ITDM from operating CMVs in interstate commerce. That information is available by consulting the above cited **Federal Register** publications.

Interested parties or organizations possessing information that would otherwise show that any, or all, of these drivers are not currently achieving the statutory level of safety should immediately notify FMCSA. The Agency will evaluate any adverse evidencesubmitted and, if safety is being compromised or if continuation of the exemption would not be consistent with the goals and objectives of 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315, FMCSA will take immediate steps to revoke the exemption of a driver.

Submitting Comments

You may submit your comments and material online or by fax, mail, or hand delivery, but please use only one of these means. FMCSA recommends that you include your name and a mailing address, an email address, or a phone number in the body of your document so that FMCSA can contact you if there are questions regarding your submission.

To submit your comment online, go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and in the search box insert the docket numbers FMCSA–2011–0382; FMCSA–2011–0383; FMCSA–2013–0194; FMCSA–2014–0012; FMCSA–2014–0013 and click the search button. When the new screen appears, click on the blue "Comment Now!" button on the right hand side of the page. On the new page, enter information required including the specific section of this document to which each comment applies, and provide a reason for each suggestion or recommendation. If you submit your comments by mail or hand delivery, submit them in an unbound format, no larger than 8½ by 11 inches, suitable for copying and electronic filing. If you submit comments by mail and would like to know that they reached the

facility, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope.

We will consider all comments and material received during the comment period. FMCSA may issue a final determination at any time after the close of the comment period.

Viewing Comments and Documents

To view comments, as well as any documents mentioned in this preamble, go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and in the search box insert the docket number FMCSA–2011–0382; FMCSA–2011–0383; FMCSA–2013–0194; FMCSA–2014–0012; FMCSA–2014–0013 and click "Search." Next, click "Open Docket Folder" and you will find all documents and comments related to this notice.

Issued on: November 16, 2016.

Larry W. Minor,

Associate Administrator for Policy.

[FR Doc. 2016–28369 Filed 11–23–16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–EX–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Environmental Impact Statement for the Baltimore-Washington Superconducting Maglev (SCMAGLEV) Project, Between Baltimore, Maryland and Washington, DC

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

SUMMARY: FRA announces its intent to prepare an EIS for the Baltimore-Washington Superconducting Magnetic Levitation (Maglev) (SCMAGLEV) Project (Proposed Action) jointly with the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT). The Proposed Action consists of the construction and operation of a high-speed SCMAGLEV train system between Washington, DC and Baltimore, MD with an intermediate stop at Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall (BWI) Airport. FRA and MDOT will develop the EIS in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*

DATES: Written comments on the scope of the Project EIS should be provided to the address below by December 27, 2016. Public scoping meetings are anticipated for December 2016 and January 2017. Additional updated information and scoping materials is available through the Project Web site:

<http://www.BaltimoreWashingtonSCMAGlevProject.com>.

ADDRESSES: The public and other interested parties are encouraged to submit written scoping comments by mail, by email, or in person at the scoping meetings. Scoping comments can be sent by mail to Bradley M. Smith, Director of the Office of Freight and Multimodalism, Maryland Department of Transportation, 7201 Corporate Center Drive, Hanover, Maryland 21076, 410-865-1097; or via email to: bsmith9@mdot.state.md.us.

Comments may also be provided orally or in writing at scoping meetings. See the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for meeting times and addresses.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Brandon Bratcher, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDOT Federal Railroad Administration, Office of Program Delivery, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., MS-20, Washington, DC 20590; 202-493-0844; brandon.bratcher@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: FRA is an operating administration of DOT and is responsible for overseeing the safety of railroad operations, including the safety of any proposed rail ground transportation system. FRA is also authorized to provide, subject to appropriations, funding for intercity passenger rail and rail capital investments. In 2016, FRA awarded MDOT a grant to prepare an EIS for the Proposed Action. No funding, however, has been appropriated at this time to fund construction of the Proposed Action.

FRA is the lead Federal agency under NEPA; MDOT is the joint lead agency (40 CFR 1501.5(b) and 1506.2(a)). FRA and MDOT will prepare the EIS in compliance with: NEPA; the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500-1508); FRA Procedures for Considering Environmental Impacts (FRA's Environmental Procedures) (64 FR 28545, May 26, 1999; 78 FR 2713, Jan. 14, 2013); 23 U.S.C. 139; and 49 U.S.C. 24201. After release and circulation of a Draft EIS for public comment, FRA intends to issue a single document that consists of the Final EIS and Record of Decision under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) (Pub. L. 112-141, Section 1319(b)) unless it determines the statutory criteria or practicability considerations preclude issuing a combined document.

The EIS will document compliance with applicable Federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations, including: Section 106 of the National

Historic Preservation Act; the Clean Air Act; the Clean Water Act; Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (Section 4(f)); the Endangered Species Act; Executive Order 11988 and DOT Order 5650.2 on Floodplain Management; Executive Order 11990 on Protection of Wetlands; the Magnuson-Stevens Act; the Coastal Zone Management Act; and Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice. The EIS is intended to be a project-level EIS and will serve as the NEPA compliance for potential future funding or other federal, state, and local approvals of the Proposed Action as appropriate.

Project Background

Sections 1101(a)(18) and 1307 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) (Pub. L. 109-59), as amended by section 102 of the SAFETEA-LU Technical Corrections Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-244), authorized funding for pre-construction planning activities for eligible Maglev transportation projects located east of the Mississippi River and between Las Vegas and Primm, Nevada. In 2016 FRA awarded \$27.8 million in SAFETEA-LU Maglev funds to MDOT to prepare preliminary engineering and a NEPA analysis for the Proposed Action.

Previously, in 2003, FRA and the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) prepared a Draft EIS and Section 4(f) Evaluation (2003 Draft EIS) for a similar proposed project authorized under the Magnetic Levitation Transportation Technology Deployment Program (23 U.S.C. 322). The 2003 Draft EIS studied the potential impacts of construction of a Maglev alignment between Washington, DC and Baltimore, MD, as well as potential station locations: One in downtown Washington, DC; one at BWI; and one in downtown Baltimore, MD. FRA and MTA published a Final EIS in 2007 (2007 Final EIS), but FRA did not issue a Record of Decision and the project was not advanced further.

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 service between Baltimore, MD and Washington, DC, will work with Federal and state agencies, including FRA and MDOT, to carry out the project.

Project Description

FRA and MDOT will complete the environmental and engineering studies for a proposed Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV train system between Washington, DC and Baltimore, MD, with an intermediate stop at BWI Airport. FRA and MDOT anticipate the study area will be approximately 40 miles long and 10 miles wide. The proposed study area is roughly bounded on the west by Interstate 95 and on the east by the former Washington-Baltimore & Annapolis Electric Railroad alignment. It includes portions of the City of Baltimore, Baltimore County, Howard County, Anne Arundel County, and Prince George's County in Maryland, and Washington, DC. BWRR has indicated it wishes to develop a SCMAGLEV system, potentially extending as far north as Boston, MA and south to Charlotte, NC. Such a project or projects will not be addressed in the EIS FRA and MDOT are preparing, but could be subject to separate NEPA review in the future, as appropriate.

BWRR's proposed SCMAGLEV system would be designed to provide approximately 15-minute service between the new Baltimore and Washington stations, and would run on a new, high-quality guideway with bi-directional service, an automatic train control system, and no at-grade crossings. BWRR anticipates the project would be funded by a mix of federal, international, and private funding, and would include construction of the new SCMAGLEV guideway, stations, and maintenance facilities.

Purpose and Need Statement

The purpose of BWRR's Proposed Action is to increase capacity, reduce travel time, and improve both reliability and mobility options between Baltimore and Washington. The population in the Baltimore-Washington area makes up one of the largest and densest population centers in the United States. Over the next 30 years the population in the area is projected to increase by approximately 30 percent. Similarly, the demand on the transportation infrastructure between Baltimore and Washington will continue to increase along major roadways and railways including Interstate 95, the Baltimore-Washington Parkway (MD 295), US 29, US 1, and the Northeast Corridor (NEC) thereby decreasing the level of service, reliability, mobility, and potentially decreasing safety.

The Baltimore-Washington area is served by the NEC rail network that runs parallel to Interstate 95 in the area

and spans from Washington, DC to Boston, MA. Amtrak, commuter railroads, and freight railroads operate a variety of services on the NEC. In the Baltimore-Washington area, Amtrak runs intercity passenger rail service, Maryland Area Regional Commuter operates commuter rail service, and CSX Transportation and Norfolk Southern Railway run freight trains during off-peak times over portions of the NEC between Baltimore and Washington. Each of these services competes for operational times for service on the existing NEC and demand continues to increase.

Without additional transportation improvements and capacity within the Baltimore-Washington area, economic development and growth opportunities will be restricted. As congestion increases on the NEC and on the region's highways, the demand for continued economic development will be impacted, including, for example, tourism.

To address these issues, in 2012 FRA launched the NEC FUTURE program to consider the role of rail passenger service in the context of current and future transportation demands and to evaluate the appropriate level of capacity improvements to make across the NEC. Through NEC FUTURE, FRA will determine a long-term vision and investment program for the NEC documented in a Tier 1 EIS and Service Development Plan. FRA published a Tier 1 Draft EIS in November 2015; however, the Draft EIS evaluated steel-wheel technologies as a way to serve the passenger rail needs of the region. It left open the possibility and did not preclude the study of and investment in advanced guideway and other new technologies, such as SCMAGLEV, to meet the transportation needs of the Northeast, including the Baltimore-Washington area. Additional information on the NEC FUTURE Program is available at: <http://www.necfuture.com/>.

Proposed Alternatives To Consider

The EIS evaluating the SCMAGLEV proposal will consider a range of reasonable alternatives that FRA and MDOT will develop based on the purpose and need for the Proposed Action, information obtained through the scoping process, and previous studies, including the 2003 Draft EIS and 2007 Final EIS. The 2003 Draft EIS identified three concepts that FRA and MDOT have included in the initial range of alternatives to be considered in the EIS. FRA and MDOT will evaluate and screen those earlier concepts as well as additional options for

elimination or further refinement during the NEPA process. Alternatives will include a no-build alternative and a reasonable range of build alternatives. Each build alternative will include alignments that serve Washington, DC, Baltimore, MD, and BWI Airport. A final alignment has not been determined.

Possible Effects

The EIS will analyze the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the alternatives on the social, economic, and environmental resources in the study area. This analysis will include identification of study areas appropriate for each resource, documentation of the affected environment, and identification of measures to avoid and/or mitigate significant adverse impacts.

FRA and MDOT will evaluate the impacts of the Proposed Action using data and field analyses. The analysis of resources will be consistent with NEPA, CEQ regulations and FRA's Environmental Procedures.

Scoping, Public Involvement, and Agency Coordination

This Notice initiates the scoping process under NEPA. FRA and MDOT invite comments from the public and encourage broad public participation throughout the NEPA process. In particular, FRA and MDOT invite comments from the public, Federal, state, and local agencies, and all interested parties on the scope of the EIS including: The purpose and need for the Project; alternatives to study; the selection of alternatives; environmental effects to consider and evaluate; methodologies to use for evaluating effects; the approach for public and agency involvement; and mitigation measures associated with the potential future construction, operation, and maintenance of the Proposed Action. This will ensure all relevant issues, constraints, and reasonable alternatives are addressed early in the development of the EIS. FRA and MDOT will contact directly the appropriate Federal, state, and local agencies as well as private organizations with a known interest in the Proposed Action. FRA and MDOT will request federal agencies with jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to potential environmental issues to act as a cooperating agency in accordance with 40 CFR 1501.16.

At various milestones during the development of the EIS, FRA and MDOT will provide additional opportunities for public involvement, such as public meetings and hearings, open houses, and requests for comment on the Draft EIS.

Currently, scoping meetings for this Project are scheduled for the dates and locations below:

December 10, 2016: 10 a.m.–12 p.m.,
Lindale Middle School, 415 Andover Rd., Linthicum Heights, MD
December 12, 2016: 5 p.m.–7 p.m.,
Arundel Middle School, 1179 Hammond Ln., Odenton, MD
December 13, 2016: 5 p.m.–7 p.m., Du Burns Coppermine Fieldhouse, 3100 Boston St., Baltimore, MD
December 14, 2016: 5 p.m.–7 p.m.,
Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, 901 G St. NW., Washington, DC

Additional information, including updated meeting schedule, is located on the Project Web site (<http://www.BaltimoreWashingtonSCMaglevProject.com>).

Jamie Rennet,

Director, Office of Program Delivery.

[FR Doc. 2016–28285 Filed 11–23–16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket Number FRA–2016–0002–N–27]

Proposed Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), this notice announces that the renewals and reinstatements of the information collection requests (ICRs) abstracted below are being forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The ICRs describe the information collections and their expected burden. On September 23, 2016, FRA published a notice providing a 60-day period for public comment on the ICRs.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before December 27, 2016.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Robert Brogan, Information Collection Clearance Officer, Office of Railroad Safety, Safety Regulatory Analysis Division, RRS–21, Federal Railroad Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Mail Stop 25, Washington, DC 20590, (202) 493–6292, or Ms. Kimberly Toone, Information Collection Clearance Officer, Office of

Appendix B

- **Sample Elected Official Correspondence**



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

December 7, 2016

The Honorable Eric Costello
100 Holliday Street, Suite 527
Baltimore, Maryland, 21202

Re: Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV Project Initiation and Scoping Period

Dear Councilmember Costello:

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), in coordination with the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)'s Maryland Transit Administration (MTA), is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Baltimore-Washington Superconducting Magnetic Levitation (SCMAGLEV) project. The Proposed Action is the construction and operation of a high-speed SCMAGLEV train system between Washington, DC and Baltimore, Maryland with an intermediate stop at Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI Marshall) proposed by the private company, Baltimore Washington Rapid Rail, LLC, through an agreement with the Maryland Economic Development Corporation (MEDCO). The EIS will be prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et. seq.*) (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality NEPA regulations (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), FRA NEPA Procedures (64 FR 28545 dated May 26, 1999 and 78 FR 2713 dated January 14, 2013), Section 139 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act of 2015 (23 U.S.C. 139), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106), Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act, as well as other related statutes and regulations.

The purpose of this letter is to:

- 1) Inform you and your constituents of the Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV project; and to
- 2) Announce a 45-day EIS scoping comment period beginning November 25, 2016 and ending January 9, 2017.

Project Background

Over the past 25 years, the FRA and others have been studying the possibility of maglev service along the Baltimore-Washington corridor. An earlier Baltimore-Washington maglev initiative was appropriated \$13 million in funding authorized by the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), which established the Maglev Deployment Program in 1998. In 2003, FRA in cooperation with MDOT's Maryland Transit Administration, prepared a site-specific Draft EIS on a proposal to build a maglev project linking downtown Baltimore to BWI Marshall Airport and Union Station in Washington, DC. That project never completed a Final EIS.

In 2016, MDOT was awarded a \$27.8 million grant under the FRA Notice of Funding Availability and Solicitation of Applications for Magnetic Levitation Projects to complete environmental and engineering studies for the current project. The current project will utilize SCMAGLEV technology, and build upon the previous efforts to provide maglev service between Baltimore and Washington, DC with an intermediate stop at BWI Marshall Airport (see attached study area map).

The purpose of the project is to increase capacity; reduce travel time; and improve reliability and mobility options between Baltimore and Washington by providing a high-speed SCMAGLEV system. With projected growth and development, continued improvements to the transportation infrastructure are needed. Similarly, demand on transportation infrastructure will continue to increase along major roadways thereby decreasing level of service, reliability, and mobility. Finally, regional rail services continue to compete for service and this demand continues to increase.

EIS Scoping

The goal of the EIS is to provide FRA with information to assess alternatives that will meet the Proposed Action's purpose and need; evaluate potential environmental impacts that could result from the alternatives; identify avoidance/mitigation measures associated with potential environmental impacts; and select a Preferred Alternative.

A Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare the EIS will be published in the Federal Register. Following the NOI publication, a 45-day public scoping period will commence on November 25, 2016. Five public scoping meeting dates are scheduled for the following dates/locations:

- Saturday, December 10, 2016 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm – Lindale Middle School located at 415 Andover Road in Linthicum Heights, Maryland
- Monday, December 12, 2016 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm – Arundel Middle School located at 1179 Hammond Lane in Odenton, Maryland
- Tuesday, December 13, 2016 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm – Du Burns Coppermine Fieldhouse located at 3100 Boston Street in Baltimore, Maryland
- Wednesday, December 14, 2016 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm – Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library located at 901 G Street Northwest in Washington, DC
- Thursday, December 15, 2016 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm – West Lanham Hills Fire Hall located at 8501 Good Luck Road in Lanham, Maryland

Please visit the project website, www.baltimorewashingtonscmaglevproject.com, for additional information. Comments can be submitted via e-mail to info@BaltimoreWashingtonSCMaglevProject.com or by mail to SCMaglev Project c/o Bradley M. Smith, Maryland Department of Transportation, 7201 Corporate Center Drive, Hanover, Maryland, 21076. Written EIS scoping comments will be accepted through January 9, 2017.

The Honorable Eric Costello
Page Three

Please share the project information and public scoping meeting dates with your constituents. We look forward to your involvement in this project. You may submit comments, questions and any other requests for additional information to Brandon Bratcher, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDOT Federal Railroad Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, MS-20, Washington, DC 20590 or brandon.bratcher@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

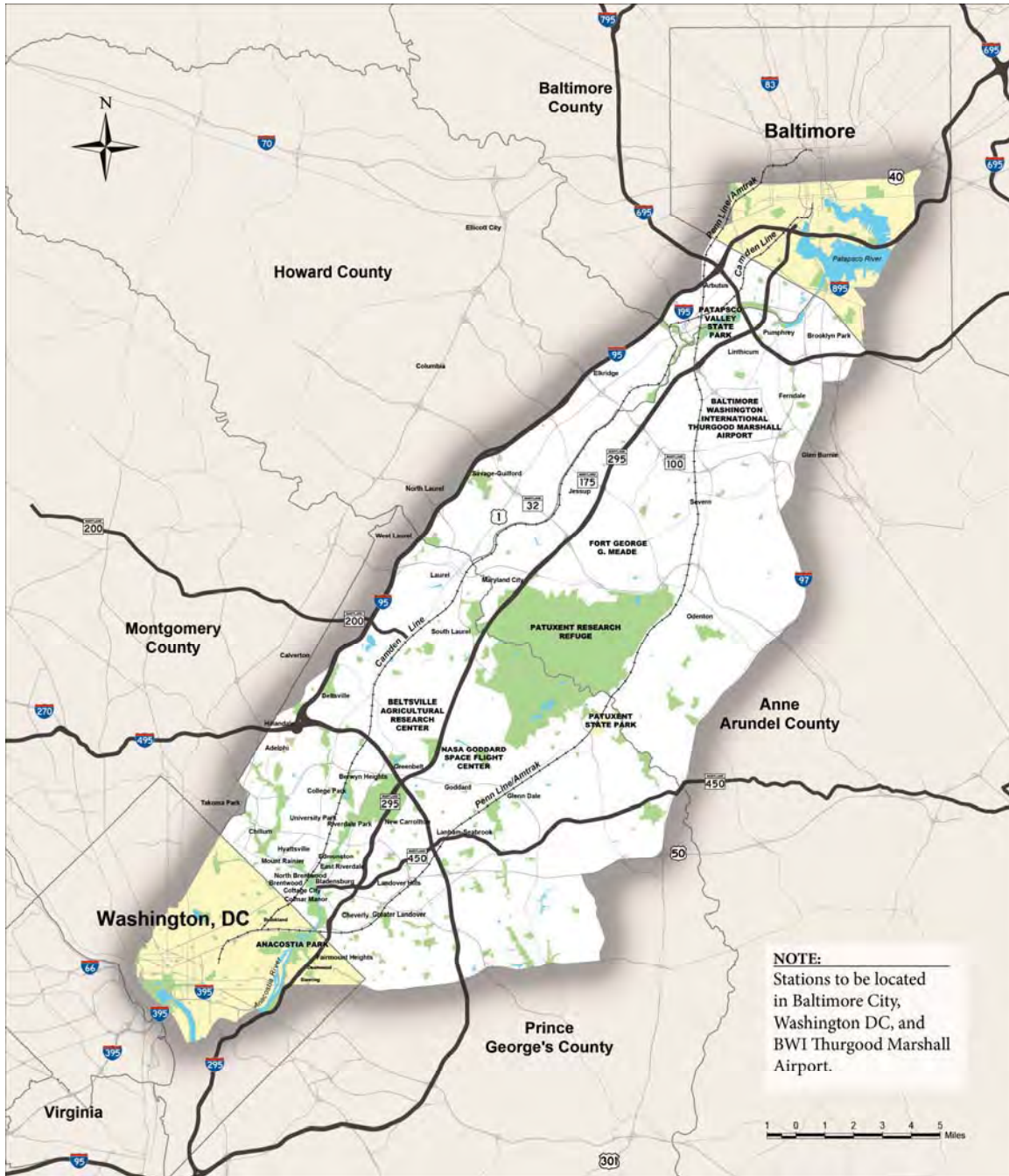


Brandon Bratcher
FRA, Environmental Protection Specialist

Attachment: Study Area Map

cc: Mr. Bradley M. Smith, Director, Office of Freight and Multimodalism, MDOT
Mr. Paul Comfort, Esq., Administrator and CEO, MTA
Mr. Suhair Al Khatib, Deputy Administrator & Chief Planning, Program and Engineering Officer, MTA
Ms. Danyell Diggs, Deputy Director, Office of Planning and Programming, MTA
Ms. Kelly Lyles, Environmental Manager, Office of Planning and Programming, MTA

Attachment: Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV Project Study Area Map



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Appendix C

- **Flyer Distribution**

Flyer Distribution Locations – EJ Outreach

Number	Location Type	Name	Address
Anne Arundel County			
1	Recreation Center	Meade Boys and Girls Club	1710 Meade Village Circle Severn, MD 21144
Baltimore City			
1	Library	Enoch Pratt Free Library – Washington Village	856 Washington Boulevard Baltimore, MD 21230
2	Library	Orleans Street Branch Library	1303 Orleans Street Baltimore, MD 21231
3	Library	Enoch Pratt Free Library – Federal Hill	1251 Light Street Baltimore, MD 21230
4	Library	Edmonson Avenue Branch Library	4330 Edmonson Avenue Baltimore, MD 21229
5	Recreation Center	Lakeland Recreation Center	2921 Stranden Road Baltimore, MD 21230
6	Recreation Center	Bentalou Recreation Center	220 N Bentalou Street Baltimore, MD 21223
7	Transit Stop	Camden Yards Light Rail Station	W Conway Street and I-395 Baltimore, MD 21201
8	Transit Stop	Transportation Center at Camden Yards	W Conway Street and S Howard Street Baltimore, MD 21201
9	Transit Stop	Bus Stop (southbound)	Greene Street and Pratt Street Baltimore, MD 21201
10	Transit Stop	Convention Center Light Rail Station	South Howard Street between W Pratt Street and W Camden Street Baltimore, MD 21201
11	Transit Stop	Hamburg Street Light Rail Station (northbound)	W Hamburg Street and S Howard Street Baltimore, MD 21230
12	Transit Stop	Hamburg Street Light Rail Station (southbound)	W Hamburg Street and S Howard Street Baltimore, MD 21230
13	Transit Stop	Bus Stop (northbound)	Russell Street and W Hamburg Street Baltimore, MD 21230
14	Transit Stop	Centre Street Light Rail Station (southbound)	W Centre Street and N Howard Street Baltimore, MD 21201
15	Community Organization	Mount Vernon Marketplace	520 Park Avenue Baltimore, MD 21202
16	Community Organization	Food Depot – Mill Hill	2495 Frederick Avenue Baltimore, MD 21223
17	Community Organization	Greater Baltimore Urban League	512 Orchard Street Baltimore, MD 21201
Baltimore County			
1	Library	Lansdowne Library	500 3 rd Avenue Halethorpe, MD 21227
2	Community Organization	YMCA Lansdowne/ Baltimore Highlands	3290 Kessler Road Baltimore, MD 21227
3	Health Center	Lansdowne Baltimore Highlands Senior Center	3290 Kessler Road Baltimore, MD 21227
District of Columbia			
1	Library	Deanwood Neighborhood Library	1350 49 th Street, NE Washington, DC 20019
2	Library	Dorothy I. Height/ Benning Neighborhood Library	3935 Benning Road, NE Washington, DC 20019

3	Library	Lamond-Riggs Neighborhood Library	5401 South Dakota Avenue, NE Washington, DC 20011
4	Library	Rosedale Neighborhood Library	1701 Gales Street, NE Washington, DC 20002
5	Library	Woodridge Neighborhood Library	1801 Hamlin Street, NE Washington, DC 20018
6	Library	Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library	901 G Street, NW Washington, DC 20001
7	Community Organization	Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce	910 17 th Street, NW Suite 1150 Washington, DC 20006
8	Community Organization	Greater Washington Urban League	2901 14 th Street, NW Washington, DC 20009
9	Community Organization	Latino Economic Development Center	641 S Street, NW Washington, DC 20001
10	Community Organization	F.H. Fauntery Community Enrichment Center	4800 Nannie Helen Burroughs Avenue, NE Washington, DC 20019
11	Community Organization	L. Lloyd D. Smith Center	3917 Benning Road, NE Washington, DC 20019
12	Recreation Center	Deanwood Recreation Center	1350 49 th Street, NE Washington, DC 20019
13	Recreation Center	King Greenleaf Recreation Center	201 N Street, SW Washington, DC 20024
14	Recreation Center	North Michigan Park Recreation Center	1333 Emerson Street, NE Washington, DC 20017
15	Recreation Center	Riggs LaSalle Recreation Center	501 Riggs Road, NE Washington, DC 20011
16	Recreation Center	Rosedale Community Center	1701 Gales Street, NE Washington, DC 20002
17	Recreation Center	Sherwood Recreation Center	640 10 th Street, NE Washington, DC 20002
18	Recreation Center	Theodore Hagans Cultural Center	3201 Fort Lincoln Drive, NE Washington, DC 20018
19	Recreation Center	Turkey Thicket Recreation Center	1100 Michigan Avenue, NE Washington, DC 20017
Prince George's County			
1	Library	Hyattsville Branch Library	6530 Adelphi Road Hyattsville, MD 20782
2	Library	Bladensburg Branch Library	4820 Annapolis Road Bladensburg, MD 20710
3	Library	Fairmount Heights Library	5904 Kolb Street Fairmount Heights, MD 20743
4	Library	Glenarden Library	8724 Glenarden Parkway Glenarden, MD 20706
5	Community Organization	Adelphi/ Langley Family Support Center	8908 Riggs Road Aldephi, MD 20783
6	Community Organization	CASA Multicultural Center	8151 15 th Avenue Hyattsville, MD 20783
7	Recreation Center	Mt. Ranier Neighborhood Recreation Center	4701 31 st Place Mount Ranier, MD 20712
8	Community Center	Seat Pleasant Community Center	5720 Addison Road Seat Pleasant, MD 20743
9	Community Center	Lake Arbor Community Center	10100 Lake Arbor Way Mitchellville, MD 20721

10	Community Center	Glenarden Community Center	8615 McClain Avenue Glenarden, MD 20706
11	Community Center	Rollingcrest-Chillum Community Center	6120 Sargent Road Chillum, MD 20782
12	Community Center	Cedar Heights Community Center	1200 Glen Willow Drive Seat Pleasant, MD 20743
13	Community Center	Kentland Community Center	2411 Pinebrook Avenue Landover, MD 20785
14	Community Center	Langley Park Community Center	1500 Merrimac Drive Langley Park, MD 20783
15	Community Center	Palmer Park Community Center	7720 Barlowe Road Landover, MD 20785
16	Community Center	Peppermill Community Center	610 Hill Road Landover, MD 20785
17	Community Center	Prince George's Plaza Community Center	6600 Adelphi Road Hyattsville, MD 20782
18	Health Center	Mary's Center Family Health Clinic	5908 Riggs Road Adelphi, MD 20783

Appendix D

Open House Materials

- **Open House Postcard**
- **Afro Article (Screen Shot)**
- **Baltimore Sun Open House Ad**
- **Online Announcement (Spanish)**
- **Print Advertisement (Spanish)**
- **Flyer**
- **MTA Facebook Announcement**
- **MTA Instagram Announcement**
- **Open House Display Boards**
- **Comment Form**

Open House Postcard



**BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON
SUPERCONDUCTING MAGLEV PROJECT**



Join us for one of these dates!

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) are preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential impacts of constructing and operating a high-speed superconducting magnetic levitation (SCMAGLEV) system proposed by the private company, Baltimore Washington Rapid Rail (BWRR), between Washington, DC and Baltimore, Maryland with an intermediate stop at BWI Airport.

The FRA and MDOT will hold a series of Open Houses on the SCMAGLEV project. You are invited to attend an Open House anytime between the hours listed. No formal presentation will be given. At the Open House you can:

- Meet the project team
- Learn about the project
- Provide comments on the scope of the EIS
- Share ideas and ask questions

We welcome your input and encourage you to identify and discuss project-related issues throughout the planning process.

Can't attend? Meeting materials will also be posted on our website:
www.baltimorewashingtonscmaglevproject.com



December 10 (10:00 am - 12:00 pm)
Lindale Middle School
415 Andover Rd, Linthicum, MD 21090

December 12 (5:00 pm - 7:00 pm)
Arundel Middle School
1179 Hammond Ln, Odenton, MD 21113

December 13 (5:00 pm - 7:00 pm)
Coppermine Du Burns Arena, Harbor Side Hall
3100 Boston St, Baltimore, MD 21224

December 14 (5:00 pm - 7:00 pm)
Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library
901 G St NW, Washington, DC 20001

December 15 (5:00 pm - 7:00 pm)
West Lanham Hills Fire Hall
8501 Good Luck Rd., Lanham, MD 20706



**BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON
SUPERCONDUCTING MAGLEV PROJECT**

Maryland Department of Transportation
c/o Bradley M. Smith
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, MD 21076

New high-speed train project getting under way...

Your opinions matter!
(see other side)

Locations are accessible for people with disabilities. Please contact the department listed below to make arrangements for: special assistance or additional accommodations; printed material in an alternate format or translated; hearing impaired persons; and persons requesting an interpreter. All requests must be received one week in advance.

Los sitios tienen acceso para personas con discapacidades. Por favor comuníquese con el departamento listado a continuación para concertar arreglos para: ayuda especial o adaptaciones adicionales; material impreso en un formato alternativo o traducido; personas sordas y personas que solicitan un(a) intérprete. Todas las solicitudes deben ser recibidas con una semana de antelación.

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이들 장소에는 장애인들도 접근할 수 있습니다. 아래에 기재된 부서에 연락하시어 장 애인 특별 지원 또는 부가 시설, 다른 양식이나 언어로 제공되는 인쇄물, 청각장애인 및 통역사가 필요한 분을 위해 요청하시기 바랍니다. 상기 사항들은 일주일 전까지 미리 요청하여 주시기 바랍니다.

MTA Office of Customer and Community Relations
410-767-3999 • 866-743-3682 • TTY 410-539-3497

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
APDM

Afro Article (Screen Shot)

Nov. 30 - Dec. 15, 2016

The screenshot shows the Afro.com website interface. At the top, the browser address bar displays "http://www.afro.com/". The website header includes the date "Monday, December 5, 2016" and navigation links for "Baltimore News", "Washington D.C. News", and "Prince George's County News". The main logo "AFRO" is prominently displayed. Below the logo is a navigation menu with categories: GOVERNMENT, NATIONAL, MARYLAND, WASHINGTON, SPORTS, HEALTH, ARTS & ENT, BUSINESS, OPINION, RELIGION, and ARCHIVES. A "TRENDING NOW" section lists "North Carolina Gov. McCrory Concedes He Lost Re-Election Bid". The main article features a photo of Barack Obama and Mavis Staples at the Kennedy Center Honors. The article title is "Standing Ovation for Obama at His Last Kennedy Center Honors". The text begins with "WASHINGTON (AP) — The longest, loudest standing ovation of the Kennedy Center Honors gala wasn't reserved for Al Pacino, Mavis Staples or the Eagles. Instead, it went to the man sitting to their left, attending his eighth and most likely his last honors presentation: President Barack Obama. While politics were absent from the tributes to". To the right of the article is a sidebar with social media follow buttons for Facebook (778 Followers) and Twitter (7,407 Followers), a "BlackHealth" advertisement, and an "AFRO BRIEFS" section with two news items: "Lawsuit Settled over Black Man's Death after Virginia Officers Repeatedly Used..." and "North Carolina Gov. McCrory Concedes He Lost Re-Election Bid". The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the time as 5:55 PM on 12/5/2016.

Baltimore Sun Open House Ad

Dec. 2, 2016



BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON
SUPERCONDUCTING MAGLEV PROJECT



Join us at one of our open houses!

December 10 (10:00 am - 12:00 pm)

Lindale Middle School
415 Andover Rd, Linthicum, MD 21090

December 12 (5:00 pm - 7:00 pm)

Arundel Middle School
1179 Hammond Ln, Odenton, MD 21113

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Coppermine Du Burns Arena, Harbor Side Hall
3100 Boston St, Baltimore, MD 21224

December 14 (5:00 pm - 7:00 pm)

Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library
901 G St NW, Washington, DC 20001

December 15 (5:00 pm - 7:00 pm)

West Lanham Hills Fire Hall
8501 Good Luck Rd., Lanham, MD 20706

New high-speed train study getting underway...

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) are preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential impacts of constructing and operating a high-speed superconducting magnetic levitation (SCMAGLEV) system proposed by the private company, Baltimore Washington Rapid Rail (BWRR), between Washington, DC, and Baltimore, Maryland, with an intermediate stop at BWI Airport.

anytime between the hours listed. No formal presentation will be given. At the Open House you can:

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- Learn about the project
- Provide comments on the scope of the EIS
- Share ideas and ask questions

The FRA and MDOT will hold a series of Open Houses on the SCMAGLEV project. You are invited to attend an Open House

Can't attend? Meeting materials also will be posted on our website:

baltimorewashingtonscmaglevproject.com

Locations are accessible for people with disabilities. Please contact the department listed below to make arrangements for: special assistance or additional accommodations; printed material in an alternate format or translated; hearing impaired persons; and persons requesting an interpreter. All requests must be received one week in advance.

Los sitios tienen acceso para personas con discapacidades. Por favor comuníquese con el departamento listado a continuación para concertar arreglos para: ayuda especial o adaptaciones adicionales; material impreso en un formato alternativo o traducido; personas sordas y personas que solicitan un(a) intérprete. Todas las solicitudes deben ser recibidas con una semana de antelación.

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MTA Office of Customer and Community Relations: 410-767-3999 • 866-743-3682 • TTY 410-539-3497

Online Announcement (Spanish)

Nov. 30 - Dec. 15, 2016



**BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON
PROYECTO SUPERCONDUCTOR MAGLEV**

**¡Se aproxima
el estudio del Proyecto
para el nuevo tren
de alta velocidad!**

**Acompañanos a la
reunion informativa.**

Print Advertisement (Spanish)

Dec. 8, 2016

REMLINE•3x5.5_Layout 1 11/30/16 2:21 PM Page 1



BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON
SUPERCONDUCTING MAGLEV PROJECT

Se aproxima el estudio del Proyecto para el nuevo tren de alta velocidad...

¡Acompañanos a las reuniones informativas!

La Administración Federal de Ferrocarriles (FRA) y el Departamento de Transporte de Maryland (MDOT) están preparando una Declaración de Impacto Ambiental (EIA) para evaluar los impactos potenciales de la construcción y operación de un sistema superconductor de alta velocidad de levitación magnética (Scmaglev) propuesto por la empresa privada, Baltimore-Washington tren rápido (BWRR), entre Washington, DC y Baltimore, Maryland, con una parada intermedia en el aeropuerto BWI.

La FRA y MDOT llevarán a cabo una serie de jornadas de puertas abiertas en el proyecto Scmaglev. Usted está invitado a asistir a una jornada de puertas abiertas en cualquier momento entre las horas que se indican a continuación. No se dará ninguna presentación formal.

En las jornadas de puertas abiertas, se puede:

- Conocer al equipo de proyecto
- Aprender sobre el proyecto
- Proporcionar comentarios sobre el alcance del estudio de impacto ambiental
- Compartir ideas y hacer preguntas

No puede asistir?

Visite nuestro sitio web y conozca más del proyecto:

baltimorewashingtonscmaglevproject.com



10 de diciembre de 2016 (10 a.m.-12:00p.m.)
Lindale Middle School
415 Andover Rd, Linthicum Heights, MD 21090

12 de diciembre de 2016 (17:00-19:00)
Middle School Arundel
1179 Hammond Ln, Odenton, MD 21113

13 de diciembre de 2016 (17:00-19:00)
Coppermine Arena Du Burns
Puerto Side Hall, 3100 Boston St.
Baltimore, MD 21224

14 de diciembre de 2016 (17:00-19:00)
Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library
901 G St NW, Washington, DC 20001

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West Hills Lanham Fire Hall
8501 Good Luck Rd, Lanham, MD 20706

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MTA Oficina de relación con el cliente y la comunidad:
410-767-3999 • 866-743-3682 • TTY 410-539-3497

Flyer (Front)



BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON
SUPERCONDUCTING MAGLEV PROJECT

New high-speed train study getting underway...



Join us for one of these dates!

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) are preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential impacts of constructing and operating a high-speed superconducting magnetic levitation (SCMAGLEV) system proposed by the private company, Baltimore Washington Rapid Rail (BWRR), between Washington, DC, and Baltimore, Maryland, with an intermediate stop at BWI Airport.

The FRA and MDOT will hold a series of Open Houses on the SCMAGLEV project. You are invited to attend an Open House anytime between the hours listed. No formal presentation will be given. At the Open House you can:

- Meet the project team
- Learn about the project
- Provide comments on the scope of the EIS
- Share ideas and ask questions

Can't attend?

Meeting materials also will be posted on our website:
www.baltimorewashingtonscmaglevproject.com

Locations are accessible for people with disabilities. Please contact the department listed below to make arrangements for: special assistance or additional accommodations; printed material in an alternate format or translated; hearing impaired persons; and persons requesting an interpreter. All requests must be received one week in advance.

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Open Houses

December 10 (10:00 am - 12:00 pm)

Lindale Middle School
415 Andover Rd, Linthicum, MD 21090

December 12 (5:00 pm - 7:00 pm)

Arundel Middle School
1179 Hammond Ln, Odenton, MD 21113

December 13 (5:00 pm - 7:00 pm)

Coppermine Du Burns Arena, Harbor Side Hall
3100 Boston St, Baltimore, MD 21224

December 14 (5:00 pm - 7:00 pm)

Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library
901 G St NW, Washington, DC 20001

December 15 (5:00 pm - 7:00 pm)

West Lanham Hills Fire Hall
8501 Good Luck Rd, Lanham, MD 20706

MTA Office of Customer and Community Relations: 410-767-3999 • 866-743-3682 • TTY 410-539-3497



Flyer (Back)

Se aproxima el estudio del Proyecto para el nuevo tren de alta velocidad...



¡Acompañanos a las reuniones informativas!

La Administración Federal de Ferrocarriles (FRA) y el Departamento de Transporte de Maryland (MDOT) están preparando una Declaración de Impacto Ambiental (EIA) para evaluar los impactos potenciales de la construcción y operación de un sistema superconductor de alta velocidad de levitación magnética (Scmaglev) propuesto por la empresa privada, Baltimore-Washington tren rápido (BWRR), entre Washington, DC y Baltimore, Maryland, con una parada intermedia en el aeropuerto BWI.

La FRA y MDOT llevarán a cabo una serie de jornadas de puertas abiertas en el proyecto Scmaglev. Usted está invitado a asistir a una jornada de puertas abiertas en cualquier momento entre las horas que se indican a continuación. No se dará ninguna presentación formal.

En las jornadas de puertas abiertas, se puede:

- Conoce al equipo de proyecto
- Aprender sobre el proyecto
- Proporcionar comentarios sobre el alcance del estudio de impacto ambiental
- Compartir ideas y hacer preguntas

No puede asistir?

Visite nuestro sitio web y conozca más del proyecto:
www.baltimorewashingtonscmaglevproject.com

Puertas Abiertas

10 de diciembre (10:00 - 12:00)

Lindale Middle School
415 Andover Rd, Linthicum, MD 21090

12 de diciembre (17:00 - 19:00)

Arundel Middle School
1179 Hammond Ln, Odenton, MD 21113

13 de diciembre (17:00 - 19:00)

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MTA Facebook Announcement

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The Federal Railroad Administration and the Maryland Department of Transportation along with MTA will hold a series of open-houses on the proposed high-speed superconducting magnetic levitation (MAGLEV) system between Baltimore and Washington, DC, beginning this Saturday, December 10 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at Lindale Middle School 415 Andover Rd, Linthicum, MD 21090. For the full schedule and detailed information on the MAGLEV project visit <http://baltimorewashingtonscmaglevproject.com/index.php/public-involvement/upcoming-meetings> #WeAreYourMTA #MDOTNews



BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON SUPERCONDUCTING MAGLEV PROJECT

Join us for one of these dates!

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) are preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential impacts of constructing and operating a high-speed superconducting magnetic levitation (SCMAGLEV) system proposed by the private company, Baltimore Washington Rapid Rail (BWRR) between Washington, DC, and Baltimore, Maryland, with an intermediate stop at BWI Airport.

The FRA and MDOT will hold a series of Open Houses on the SCMAGLEV project. You are invited to attend an Open House anytime between the hours listed. No formal presentation will be given. At the Open House you can:

- Meet the project team
- Learn about the project
- Provide comments on the scope of the EIS
- Share ideas and ask questions

We welcome your input and encourage you to identify and discuss project-related issues throughout the planning process.

Can't attend? Meeting materials also will be posted on our website: www.baltimorewashingtonscmaglevproject.com

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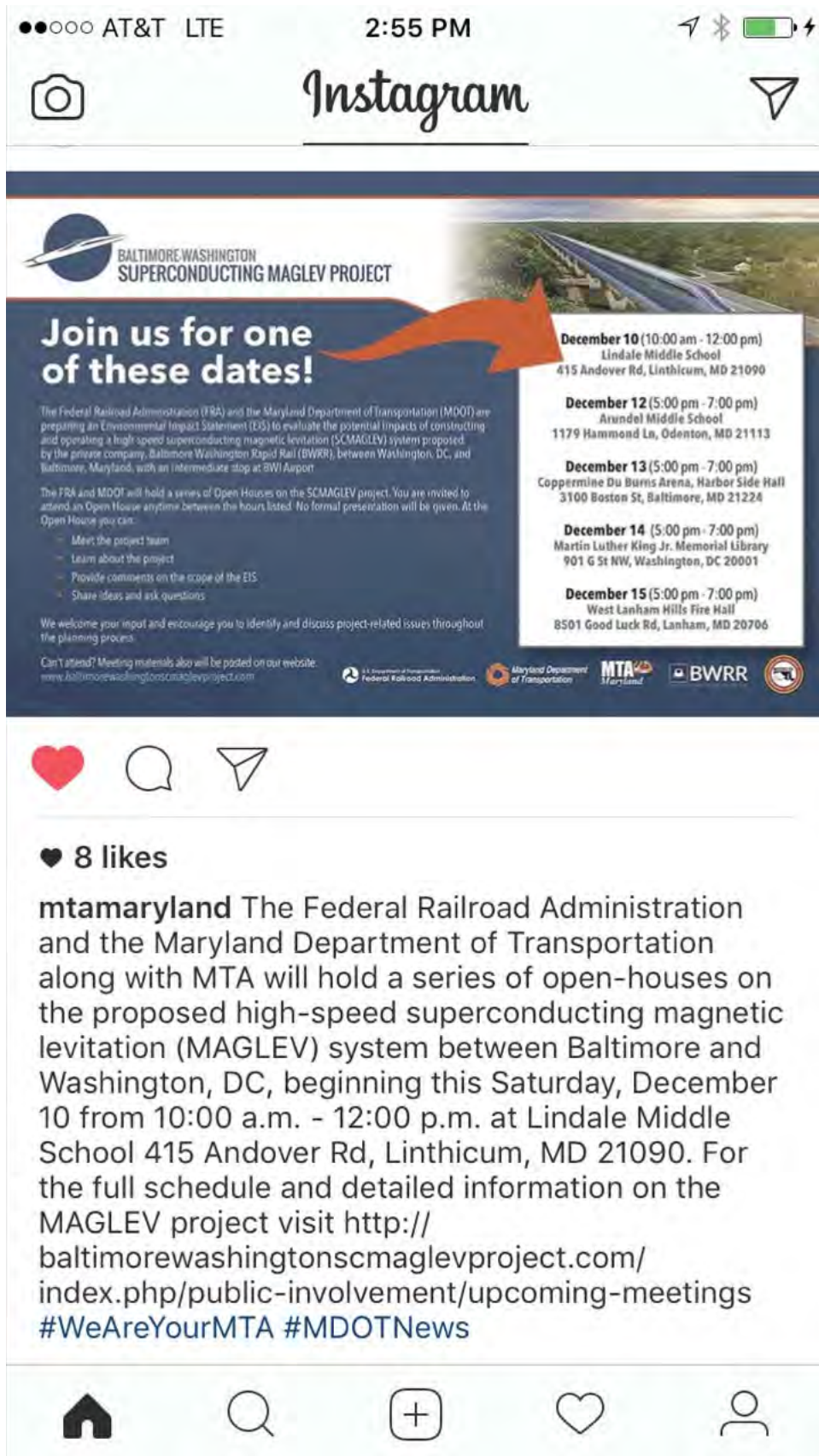
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West Lanham Hills Fire Hall
8501 Good Luck Rd, Lanham, MD 20706

U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration Maryland Department of Transportation MTA Maryland BWRR

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Open House Display Boards (On-Line)



BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON SUPERCONDUCTING MAGLEV PROJECT

Welcome



Purpose of Today's Meeting

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared to evaluate the potential impacts of constructing and operating a high-speed superconducting magnetic levitation (SCMAGLEV) train system between Washington, DC and Baltimore, Maryland with an intermediate stop at BWI Marshall Airport.

At today's meeting, we need your input on the:


- Purpose and need for the project
- Key environmental considerations
- Public involvement and agency coordination process

Please provide us with your comments!




What is NEPA?

- The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) created the process that federal agencies follow to analyze the potential consequences of proposed projects on the human environment, engage the public, and document the analysis to ensure informed decision making
- NEPA is an "umbrella" law that encourages integrated compliance with other environmental laws
- Compliance with NEPA will include preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will be made available for public review/comment



NEPA

- Clean Air Act
- Clean Water Act
- Environmental Justice Executive Order
- Noise ordinances
- U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966, Section 4(f) (Parks and Historic Properties)
- Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act
- Contaminated materials and substances (CERCLA, RCRA, etc.)
- Endangered Species Act
- Rivers and Harbors Act
- Coastal Zone Management Act
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- State Environmental Laws
- Local Environmental Laws



NEPA Process and Timeline

Throughout the NEPA process, the public will have many opportunities to provide comments and input.



We Are Here all 2016

- Scoping**
Gather information for inclusion in the EIS
- Winter 2017**
Preliminary Alternatives
Develop preliminary project alternatives and screening criteria
- Spring 2017**
Alternatives report
Develop details on alternatives remaining for further study
- Winter 2018**
Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)
Evaluate and document the natural, cultural, and socio-economic impacts of the alternatives
- Spring 2018**
Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD)
Document final impacts and mitigation commitments and respond to comments received on the DEIS.

FRA intends to issue a combined FEIS/ROD under the FAST Act, unless it determines the statutory criteria or practicability considerations preclude issuing a combined document. Complete NEPA process.



What is Scoping?

Scoping takes place at the start of the EIS process to:

- Notify agencies, organizations, and the public that an EIS is being prepared for the project
- Solicit input from agencies and the public on potential environmental considerations
- Guide the scope of the EIS and the NEPA decision-making process
- Ensure the public understands the EIS process and how to get involved



Who is Involved?



What is SCMAGLEV?

SCMAGLEV History

The Next Generation
Maglev research in Japan began in 1962 with the goal of developing the next generation of the famous Shinkansen "bullet train" system capable of connecting Tokyo and Osaka in an hour

Proven & Capable
1,000,000 miles traveled | 375MPH current world speed record | 200,000 passengers carried
at JR Central's SCMAGLEV facility in Yamatashi, Japan.

Ready for Service
Today, construction is underway on the revenue service line between Tokyo and Nagoya

How SCMAGLEV Works

Instead of running on standard railroad tracks, SCMAGLEV trains levitate between the walls of a U-shaped guideway containing coils.

Superconducting Magnets
Levitation & Guidance Coils
Propulsion Coils
Guideway Stations

The SCMAGLEV system utilizes strong magnetic forces between the coils in the guideway and superconducting magnets on the train for all aspects of operation, including acceleration, deceleration, guidance and levitation

Background Information

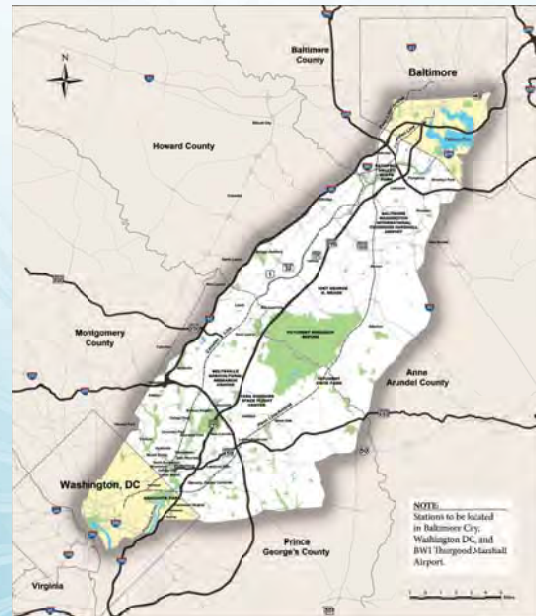
- **Maglev Deployment Program (MDP)**
 - The MDP was established in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) with the purpose of demonstrating the feasibility of maglev technology
 - FRA published a Programmatic EIS (PEIS) for the MDP in 2001
 - Through a nation-wide competition, FRA selected seven states, from a pool of eleven, to receive grants for pre-construction planning
 - The Baltimore to Washington (Maryland) and Pittsburgh (Pennsylvania) projects were selected for continued evaluation and initial project development
- **Baltimore-Washington Maglev Project**
 - In 2003, FRA in cooperation with the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) prepared a site-specific Draft EIS on a proposal to build a Maglev project linking downtown Baltimore to BWI Marshall Airport and Union Station in Washington, DC
 - German Technology was selected for the Build Alternative
 - A Draft EIS was published in 2003, but the project was suspended and a final EIS never issued
- **Differences between 2003 DEIS and current project:**
 - The current project proposes to utilize the Japanese SCMAGLEV system, whereas the 2003 DEIS proposed the German Transrapid system
 - The Project Sponsor is a private entity

What is the Proposed Project?

- Superconducting Maglev (SCMAGLEV) train between Baltimore and Washington
- Three stations in Washington DC, Baltimore City, and at BWI Marshall Airport
- 15-minute travel time between Washington DC and Baltimore City
- Speeds up to 311 mph



Project Study Area



Draft Purpose and Need

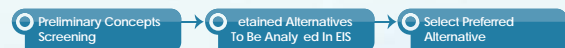
The primary purpose of the Project is to:

- Increase capacity
- Reduce travel time
- Improve reliability and mobility options between Baltimore and Washington, DC

The project is needed because:

- Projected growth, development, and continued demands on the transportation infrastructure
- Demand on transportation infrastructure will continue to increase along major roadways thereby decreasing level of service, reliability, and mobility

Alternative Screening & Evaluation Process



- Preliminary concepts will first be screened by FRA and MDOT to determine those most reasonable based on criteria from the Purpose and Need and considering comments received during scoping
- EIS will consider a range of alternatives, including a No Action Alternative, to be used as a baseline against which the impacts of the proposed project can be measured
- FRA and MDOT plan to identify a Preferred Alternative in the Draft EIS

Environmental Considerations

- Transportation
- Land use
- Communities and socioeconomic conditions
- Parks and recreational resources
- Cultural, historic & archaeological resources
- Visual & aesthetic resources
- Water quality
- Floodplains
- Waters of the US (wetlands)
- Natural resources & ecosystems
- Soils & geology
- Hazardous materials
- Noise & vibration
- Electromagnetic fields (EMF)
- Air quality
- Greenhouse gas (GHG)/ climate change
- Safety & security
- Utilities
- Construction
- Environmental justice
- Energy



Public Outreach

- 4 rounds of public meetings
 - Scoping
 - Preliminary alts & screening
 - Alternatives
 - Public hearing
- 5 meeting sites per round
- Public scoping meetings:
 - December 10 – Lindale Middle School
 - December 12 – Arundel Middle School
 - December 13 – Coppermine DuBurns Arena
 - December 14 – MLK Jr. Library (DC)
 - December 15 – West Lanham Hills Fire Hall



Next Steps

1. Continue receiving scoping comments until January 9, 2017
2. Document results of the scoping process
3. Draft Purpose and Need
4. Determine alternatives to be considered in the EIS
5. Initiate EIS analysis and documentation
6. Continue public involvement and agency coordination

Your input is important!

You may share your ideas or concerns with us the following ways:

- Complete and submit a comment form at this meeting
- E-mail: info@BaltimoreWashingtonSCMaglevProject.com
- Mail comments to:

Comments will be accepted throughout the study process. Please note, however, that the deadline for submitting comments to be addressed in the Project Scoping Report is January 9, 2017.

SCMAGLEV Project
 c/o Bradley M. Smith, MDOT
 7201 Corporate Center Drive
 Hanover, Maryland, 21076
- Website: Visit BaltimoreWashingtonSCMaglevProject.com for meeting materials and online comment forms

Thank you for your time

Comments:

PLEASE PUT YOUR COMPLETED FORM IN ONE OF THE COMMENT BOXES. YOU ALSO MAY MAIL IT TO:

SCMAGLEV Project

c/o Mr. Bradley M. Smith
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, MD 21076

Comments also can be submitted via e-mail: info@BaltimoreWashingtonSCMaglevProject.com



Appendix E

Public Comments

- **Comment Matrix**
- **Mailed Comments**

Date	Forum	First Name	Last Name	Comment	Topic Area(s)
12/7/2016	Email	Cherie	King	<p>This train operates too fast to have it on a corridor that is such a short distance. It is roughly 40 miles from Baltimore to Washington, D.C. If there is no traffic, it can take about 45 minutes to drive. The people who are working in D.C. leaving Baltimore would put more money in transportation to ride such a train. Another solution may be to upgrade the MARC trains or add more in order to accommodate people who want to go to D.C. There is nothing at this point to have people commuting to Baltimore from D.C. and the economy and pay scales are dramatically different. So who could afford to ride the new train system? Probably not those who would need to get to D.C. or Baltimore for working purposes.</p> <p>If there is a need to have such a commuter train, then why does it have to travel so fast. This would be more dangerous and not deem to be the safest way for Marylanders or anyone in the District of Columbia. With so many derailments and other accidents, it would be a risk in having such a transit system. So it would not only costs money, but cost lives as well.</p> <p>Look at other alternatives. Of course, there is a lot of traffic from Baltimore to D.C., but there needs to be another safer way to travel. Even if you add the train, slow it down. It doesn't have to go 300 miles per hour. Add more MARC trains or add newer trains to the already built system.</p> <p>The inner city of Baltimore needs to be upgraded before you can have an upgraded transportation system.</p>	Safety, Improve Existing Infrastructure, Cost
12/7/2016	Email	Chiaki	Kawajiri	<p>I am very interested in helping you bring Maglev to the Northeast Corridor.</p> <p>I grew up in Japan where I have commuted to high school riding trains of the JR Tokai and realized the thrill and value of the rail transportation.</p> <p>After working at the Los Angeles Times, I moved to Baltimore to work at The Baltimore Sun.</p> <p>In addition to multiple nominations for the Pulitzer Prize in photography, my work has won awards from many organizations, including the Gerald Loeb Award for Distinguished Business and Financial Journalism and White House News Photographers Association.</p> <p>My skills include researching, planning, scheduling, and executing projects for countless news and feature stories.</p> <p>During the past five years, I have served as an advisor and liaison for Japanese journalists, business executives, teachers and students visiting the United States.</p> <p>My cross-cultural experience enabled me to facilitate communication and understanding between these Japanese and the American they met.</p> <p>As a journalist, I am practiced in presenting concepts and information in ways that are compelling and culturally sensitive.</p> <p>Self-motivated and organized with congenial personality, I believe in getting the job done fast and well. I can be an asset to your organization.</p> <p>Please find attached my resume and portfolio for your consideration.</p>	Job Opportunity, Support Project

Date	Forum	First Name	Last Name	Comment	Topic Area(s)
12/7/2016	Email	Lindsey	Baker	I would just like to say I think this is a great idea, my only concern being where the train will be routed (will it be along current tracks)?	Support Project, Alignments
12/7/2016	Email	Ian	Flickert	<p>During the last few years, I have been following the progress of TNEM Company in anticipation of seeing a Magnetic Levitation Train in the United States. I was excited to read about the federal government's involvement and recent awarding of funds to help in the maglev development.</p> <p>The career I chose began twelve years ago in education. I have been the middle school Technology Education teacher for the Spring-Ford Area School District in Montgomery County, PA for all thirteen years. This position has allowed me to educate my students on the newest technologies that are out in the real world. Several years ago, I began teaching my students about Magnetic Levitation Trains, as well as the technologies associated with them. As the years have progressed, I have been given the opportunity to create a new curriculum, which was implemented during the 2015 – 2016 school year. The students begin learning about magnetic levitation trains and the technology that operates them. Next, the students are placed into groups/companies and work together as a team to research, design, budget, prototype, test, calculate and fabricate a Magnetic Levitation Train. The students have really enjoyed this project over the years and now really enjoy our new curriculum.</p> <p>As an educator, I am always looking for new opportunities to experience new technologies that I can pass on to my students. When I read about the new funding and the hopes of seeing a Magnetic Levitation Train in the United States, I began to think of ways that I could learn more about this great project. Would there be any opportunities for educators to be part of this project and the future of the Magnetic Levitation Train so that we can educate others and get them ready for their future? I would love to be part of this project and to learn more about The Northeast Maglev Train. If you have any opportunities available, I would like to be considered. This cutting edge technology would be great for my students and our school. Feel free to e-mail me with any questions or concerns. Thank you for your consideration.</p>	Job Opportunity
12/7/2016	Email	Thomas	Paxton	<p>Hi, this is great news. I am hoping there will be a stop in/near Columbia. I have been looking at rail possibilities for Howard County and see additional opportunities for rail. If you had a station where the house of corrections currently is (I'm assuming that is empty) that could also be used for adding commuter service to Columbia along a CSX owned track.</p> <p>There is a little known advantage of rail Maryland can use to compete for business development. Federal Government and other major users require a LEED Gold rating on their buildings. LEED is an environmental building rating system that has different levels. To achieve a LEED building it is more expensive, typically Gold costs about 5% more to build. By having access to a rail service can help provide up to 12 "LEED Points". This means that just by selecting an existing site like the house of corrections and having commuter rail access the cost to develop that site will drop about 3% or more to comparable sites.</p>	Station Location
12/9/2016	Email	Jonathan	Powell	<p>I am writing to ask about the career opportunities that are likely to be available in the NE maglev project (or the JR Central/BWRR teams) in the short- and medium-term? I would be most interested in technical roles related to system design and operation.</p> <p>I recently completed a PhD on the use of linear motor technologies in rail transportation, which involved the design of a traction system and analysis of the operational benefits for timetabling and capacity. Prior to this, I spent a number of years in the rail industry in the UK/Europe working on vehicle design, maintenance and overhaul. In my current rail engineering research post I am working on the application of new technology to improve rail and other guided transportation systems. As such, I am very interested in the NE maglev project, and look forward to hearing about potential job opportunities on offer.</p>	Job Opportunity

Date	Forum	First Name	Last Name	Comment	Topic Area(s)
12/10/2016	Open House Comment Form			<p>Linthicum already deals with the airport, the MARC train, and the light rail. Adding another transportation system to our community is OVERLOAD!! We have a sparse amount of woods and open space for wildlife. Please do not take that away!</p> <p>Suggestion: Run the MAGLEV train down the median of 295. Leave our community in tact.</p> <p>Question: Now do you plan to study the impact on wildlife (deer, foxes, beavers, birds) that live in the surrounding woodlands?</p>	Alignment, Wildlife
12/10/2016	Open House Comment Form			<p>Maglev will be for the rich while the poor will continue to suffer from an inferior "transportation" system. The Amtrak train system is deplorable and needs a serious upgrade. The Acela train, which is ridden by the rich is much faster than the regular Amtrak. It takes about 20 minutes to get from D.C. to Balt. on it. How much faster do you really need to go? How come other cities don't have this. The area of Los Angeles to Las Vegas through the desert would be perfect model to run the trains to see how effective it is for travelers. Worries about disintegrating the "communities" in Balt. I-70 dead ends when it goes to the city. Why disintegrate Linthicum, a middle class working community?</p>	Cost, Improve Existing Infrastructure
12/10/2016	Open House Comment Form	Justin	Szech	<p>What is the potential of running this line along existing infrastructure such as 295?</p> <p>This seems to be an interesting yet incredibly expensive project with the possibility of becoming a boondoggle. It may be time to invest in our current rail infrastructure (Amtrak/MARC).</p>	Alignment, Cost, Improve Existing Infrastructure, Oppose Project
12/10/2016	Open House Comment Form	Mike	Wooden	<p>Biggest concern: Where will track be from DC to Baltimore? Where will BWI station be? If you want commuters, how will they travel to BWI station? Why would this work and not the current Amtrak which has been a failure?</p> <p>It simply does not make sense to save 15 or 20 minutes on a trip from DC to BWI.</p>	Alignment, Station Location, Oppose Project
12/10/2016	Open House Comment Form	Glen	Haller	<p>Looks like a boondoggle</p> <p>Energy needs will be exorbitant</p> <p>Will cost much more than advertised</p> <p>Keep it OUT OF LINTHICUM</p>	Cost, Technology, Oppose Project
12/10/2016	Open House Comment Form	Len	Beidle	<p>Again, this is not realistic! The cost of construction was too high in 2003 and it is only worse.</p> <p>We have been given no route or expense to ride.</p> <p>With a stop at BWI, with curves in rail your time from Balt to DC is not real.</p> <p>Speeds will never reach 300+ mph.</p> <p>I am opposed to this project!</p>	Cost, Technology, Oppose Project
12/10/2016	Open House Comment Form	Pamela	Beidle	<p>As a State Delegate that chairs the Motor Vehicle and Transportation Subcommittee, I am disappointed that I have not been briefed.</p> <p>I am opposed to the Maglev in this area. First the distance between Baltimore and BWI is too short to be considered.</p> <p>This community (Linthicum) is surrounded by impacts. The Light Rail, 295, BWI, and all the jobs and traffic on West Nursery Road. We are designated as an Historic Community -- we should not have additional impact.</p> <p>Do not destroy what is left of our community. Invest in improving the MARC & Amtrak.</p> <p>If this scoping meeting had been scheduled at a different time - not a Saturday in December - there would have been a much larger turn out of people. It was poorly advertised and scheduled at an inconvenient time.</p>	Oppose Project, Alignment, Station Location, Improve Existing Infrastructure, Outreach
12/10/2016	Open House Comment Form	Jim	Frutson	NFW!	Oppose Project
12/10/2016	Open House Comment Form	Robert	Newcomer	<p>Small % of population will use it. \$20 trillion in debt. Where is the money then?</p> <p>Local roads need repair.</p>	Improve existing infrastructure, Cost, Oppose Project

Date	Forum	First Name	Last Name	Comment	Topic Area(s)
12/10/2016	Open House Comment Form	Roy	Birk	I question the limited scope of the project. The problem in this area is that people live in West Virginia and Pennsylvania but commute to Washington D.C. for work. This project does not solve that problem. It would be wonderful to offer maglev service in this country but first that money needs to go where it is really needed, providing good public commuter service from Washington out about 100 miles in every direction. This project is not money well spent. These concerns aside, it's difficult to foresee negative environmental impacts as long as loss of existing open space is kept to a minimum.	Cost, Improve Existing Infrastructure, Oppose Project
12/10/2016	Open House Comment Form	Christina	Steinebach	The project seems to have the potential to be very helpful to reduce traffic and travel times. My concern would be regarding the path of the train and the cost. If BWI station is the only stop between Baltimore City and Washington, where would the stop be. Linthicum is a very small community and does not currently have the infrastructure to handle the volume of commuters to make this a financially beneficial system. Where would all these people park, what roads would they be driving on. I drive to NY frequently. It takes me 3 hours without traffic. The cost between gas and tolls is about \$120. So my family of 5 can go to NY for \$120. How much would it cost to go on this train system. Thank you.	Alignment, Cost, Station Location, Traffic, Parking
12/10/2016	Open House Comment Form	Darren	Borman	1. Location of the maglev line proposed 2. How will this affect Linthicum as a small town.	Alignments
12/10/2016	Open House Comment Form	Bob	Gallagher	My concerns include parking facilities to accommodate the passengers that leave to BWI to take the MAGLEV and the congestion of the traffic trying to get to and from the BWI station. Same concern applies to Balt. and Washington stations. I also have concern for the infrastructure to generate and deliver the electrical power to operate the passenger right of way.	Parking, Technology
12/10/2016	Open House Comment Form	Michael	Daniel	At this time, it is difficult to provide meaningful comments due to lack of specificity in the project plan. The only things that appear to be decided are stations at BWI, Baltimore, and DC, and that the intent is that this is the first leg between Washington and New York. The study area is huge; there is no specificity as to what neighborhoods/communities will be affected. There is no clear case made on the cost/benefit analysis. The only benefits claimed are Washington to BWI in 10 minutes and Washington to Baltimore in 15 minutes. At what total taxpayer cost to construct? At what per rider cost? My real concern is that this will be so expensive, only the wealthy will be able to afford to ride, and any potential NE corridor viability will be squashed.	Cost, Financing
12/10/2016	Open House Comment Form			I've expressed my opinion about the amount of traffic and parking in the Linthicum area.	Parking, Traffic
12/10/2016	Open House Comment Form	Paul	Weisman	Will they offer a commuter pass for the daily riders.	Operations
12/10/2016	Open House Comment Form	David L.	Castle	My two biggest concerns are the environment and what it means to our taxes in Maryland. We pay high taxes already in MD and my concern is they will go even higher. Will this system pay for itself? My third concern is security while on the train. Will it be safe to ride this system. I would also like to see the system stop at NSA and NASA if the 295 route is used.	Financing, Safety, Station Location
12/10/2016	Open House Comment Form	Lloyd W.	Nosbaum Jr.	I need a lot more info. for me to make a comment. Construction cost. Cost to ride Balt./Wash. Effect of mag field on pace makers, etc.	Cost, Safety

Date	Forum	First Name	Last Name	Comment	Topic Area(s)
12/10/2016	Open House Comment Form	Jane	Jarzynski	Still need to look at the studies and attend additional meetings. Currently I am not against this project. Would cut down on traffic which I find to be an issue on 295 & 695. Also, it will cut down on air pollution emissions. Concern on location since I live directly behind the exit loop from 295 & 695. Concern how it will impact our neighborhood. Concerned with noise level, how it will impact wildlife.	Traffic, Air Quality, Station Location, Wildlife, Noise
12/10/2016	Open House Comment Form	Tony	Jarzynski	Not for or against. Just interested on how it will affect me for good or bad. Need more information on route and stations, and noise level.	Alignment, Station Location, Noise
12/10/2016	Open House Comment Form	Michael	Maryon	It would be nice to know who's paying for this initiative. It isn't obvious how it's being funded. I heard that there are independent investors supporting this project. Who are they, and how much are they prepared to contribute? How much state and federal funds are going into this project? How much current and future funds from each entity?	Financing
12/10/2016	Open House Comment Form	Robert	Newcomer	Explain 74,000 jobs. Explain 5,400 jobs. Big question "what is the route"?	Alignment
12/10/2016	Open House Comment Form	Peter G.	Lorch	There was some talk about 2 years ago. That one of the routes would tunnel under part of Linthicum. Would rather see path parallel 295.	Alignment
12/10/2016	Open House Comment Form	Kathleen M.	Notari	Familiar with the concept from when it was proposed in 2001. Overall in favor of the project but want to see where the lines will run esp. between Balt. and BWI. The last time the project was proposed it ran too close to homes and areas where children play. I'll look forward to the spring/summer meetings where that will be presented.	Support Project, Alignment
12/10/2016	Open House Comment Form	Tim	O'Connor	Build it! ASAP Amtrak (sic) travel times are hours slower than car; at a time when gas is \$2.00 a gallon let's get rail into the 20th (Europe, Japan) century, folks.	Support Project
12/10/2016	Open House Comment Form	Gerald	Belsky	This is the cutting edge of global new technology and should absolutely be supported. It will raise the platform of infrastructure around the nation, as the original B&O RR did. It should be financed by first passing Glass-Steagall to restructure banks, and then establishing a National Bank as Hamilton did, to channel credit to such projects.	Support Project, Financing
12/10/2016	Open House Comment Form	Britney	Castle	I am very interested in seeing this transportation system run. I think that this will increase and provide a lot of jobs for both cities. I am concerned, however, about how it will raise taxes in the state and how much it would cost to ride. If this maglev proves to work well I would love to see it expand further than Baltimore to Washington.	Support Project, Financing, Cost
12/10/2016	Open House Comment Form	Joey	Carter	Very excited about this project/study. Looking forward to MAGLEV route development. Like that considerations are being made concerning the environment and impact on communities. Statistics are very convincing (well done!) Agree with study taking place (more efficient transportation between Baltimore/ Washington DC) Have inspiration for STEM Project for the next semester (currently freshman at North County High School)	Outreach, Support Project
12/10/2016	Open House Comment Form	Greg	Coogan	I am very supportive of this project. However, I am concerned about the lack of comprehensive mass transportation system in Baltimore City. Getting to Baltimore from DC in 15 minutes is great, but once arriving in Baltimore City, you run into a hodgepodge of transportation options that are broken up. Arriving in DC, you'll be able to take the Metro pretty much anywhere. When will we have a comprehensive mass public transportation system in Baltimore City? Why is there so much resistance to it?	Support Project

Date	Forum	First Name	Last Name	Comment	Topic Area(s)
12/10/2016	Open House Comment Form	Martin	Glasser	Support 100%. We need SCMAGLEV for whole country - it could be vehicle for developing the whole country - rebuild steel industry, cement production and energy production -- We need nuclear power plants! I work with La Rouche PAC, which has been promoting MAGLEV for over a decade!	Support Project, Technology
12/10/2016	Open House Comment Form	Lyndon H.	LaRouche, Jr.	See PDF entitled "The Four New Laws to Save the U.S.A. Now! Not an Option: An Immediate Necessity"	Financing
12/10/2016	Open House Survey Card			By sending mailers to families living in the affected areas. Facebook, Twitter feeds.	Outreach
12/12/2016	Open House Comment Form	David	Owen	This is a pipe dream. Why do we need to spend money we do not have to go between the cities to replace what we have that needs updates at a cheaper cost. To save 15-20 mins? The state fed govt. cannot even afford to fix Amtrak or MARC train. Unless you use the track area between the 2 cities you would need to work in the two fed. land areas, water areas, and wildlife areas. Fix, build the roads and transport rails you have now. Is there that much demand to save 15-20 mins for the cost of this? Will it be cheaper to ride Metro up B/W Parkway to BWI and Baltimore at less price? My vote would say no. This is a pipe dream.	Oppose Project, Cost, Improve Existing Infrastructure, Wildlife
12/12/2016	Open House Comment Form	Greg	Stewart	WBA R/W seems perfect option, subject to a few new homes	Alignment
12/12/2016	Open House Comment Form	Marvin J.	Robinson	We are concerned about noise, how our local environment will be impacted as in trees, roads, parks, etc. We worry that the BWI station will draw even more traffic when people exit I-695 and drive through Linthicum to get to the station. We fear a decrease in home values. We already have BWI, we have light rail. More congestion and development we do not need or want. We worry about the construction phase. How long will it take? Where will the line go? In locations where this technology is used have there been any health studies on train crew, passengers or local residents? Personally, I'd like to see Amtrak upgraded from the sad state it is in today. We appreciate work done by MARC train service. Thank you for your consideration.	Noise, Traffic, Construction, Station Location, Alignment, Safety, Improve Existing Infrastructure
12/12/2016	Open House Comment Form	Raymond H.	Szyperski	Very impressed with the presentation and help received on questions. I live in Maryland City, adjacent to Rt 295 (Balt-Wash Pkwy) and am concerned of noise to my community. Understand that some tunnels will be built to accommodate train in certain areas. We need improvement in transportation. Am looking forward to future studies on where routes will be established, specific stations, and times/dates of construction.	Noise, Station Locations
12/12/2016	Open House Comment Form	Ikechi	Anyanwu	More information on the economic impact as well as the environmental impact on those with lower socio-economic states and wildlife.	EJ, Wildlife
12/12/2016	Open House Comment Form	Karin	Book	1. Where is the electricity coming from to turn the magnets on and off? Which electrical grid will you be tapping into? Since there are only 3 stations planned, you probably won't have as many riders as you want. I realize that with only 3 stations, the time is much faster between the three stations, and possibly NYC, but most riders will not be going from the BWI airport to Union Station. They will be going home. The only way this project would make money is to put freight cars on the train. And that is not proposed at this time. As the previous Maglev meetings (about 10 years ago) they found out that they couldn't put the Maglev in certain areas and the tracks would have to go over other roads and not go straight up. This applies especially to 295 by Ferndale and other populated areas.	Technology, Station Location, Financing,

Date	Forum	First Name	Last Name	Comment	Topic Area(s)
12/12/2016	Open House Comment Form	Harry	Sinclair Jr.	Keep me in the loop. Thanks!	Outreach
12/12/2016	Open House Comment Form	Ann	Greenawalt	The technology sounds exciting. I would like to learn more about the potential environmental impact, especially as it relates to groundwater. Much of the area of study is federal wildlife property and military/sensitive (NSA), so security concerns need to be addressed as well. As the process moves forward, I encourage the project EIS team to be sure to notify local government officials (state legislators and county council members), local newspapers and online forums, and local homeowners associations to ensure that people are informed. Many of these officials/organizations can send blast emails.	Wildlife, Safety, Outreach, Groundwater
12/12/2016	Open House Comment Form	E. Chike	Anyanwu	This project sounds good so far. However, we need to learn more as time goes on. The cost of the project, the environmental impacts are the issues that people will like to know.	Support Project, Cost
12/12/2016	Open House Comment Form	Mike	Shylanski	This project should be built, but I think operating subsidies will be required. Nobody will pay \$50 to travel from DC to Baltimore. The old WB&A right of way through Prince George's and Anne Arundel County would be an excellent route for this line. There would be little to no disruption to Amtrak if this route were selected. Also the ROW goes straight to BWI airport, unlike the NEC line.	Support Project, Financing, Alignment
12/12/2016	Open House Survey Card			Do our concerns really make a difference? We remember when Light Rail was initially planned and our neighborhood expressed concerns and resistance but it did no good! We ended up with it coming right through our neighborhood! And has not improved our neighborhood!	Outreach
12/13/2016	Open House Comment Form	Zach	Baho	Now does this affect "the last mile" issues that throttle all transit projects? Great to get to Bmore in 10 minutes, but then I'm waiting on a bad bus system? How is \$12 billion for this more worthwhile than \$2.6 billion for the Red Line of other projects? How will you lobby for more last mile transit? Now will you afford billions in property acquisitions? If property values go up 30%, how does that affect affordable housing shortage? Why were no elected officials here tonight? Look I am a huge transit supporter, and I have been a big maglev fan for a while, I even used it in middle school science project, but we have so many transit needs before this that I can't get behind this before we address local rail, bus, biking, etc. We just killed the Red Line for \$2 billion in highway spending. This state doesn't have its priorities in order, and DC to Bmore rail line continues to fund fancy projects over essential ones.	Cost, Oppose Project, Improve Existing Infrastructure
12/13/2016	Open House Comment Form	Patrick	Felming	Want to make sure that a stop is placed in Baltimore City and consideration is given to the associated access by transit. The "first/last" mile coordination will be important for its success.	Station Location
12/13/2016	Open House Comment Form	Joseph J.	Daniels	At the request of Maryland State Senator Shirley Nathan-Puliam, I attend this very informative event. Several suggestions 1. Examine location of Baltimore station for maglev as part of TOD for its Upton community at the Upton Metro stop. 2. Develop program to interest youth in area in order to build excitement for the program. 3. Provide interested parties with information I/C/W employee skills required for employment beyond the construction period. 4. Information regarding employment opportunities.	Station Location, Outreach

Date	Forum	First Name	Last Name	Comment	Topic Area(s)
12/13/2016	Open House Comment Form	Chris	Madaio	Although I am still very disappointed by the cancellation of the Red Line, Mr. Fuguan Siddiqi gave some great information. I think the greatest effort should be made to keep tickets reasonably priced. But I understand that this competes with plane and not MARC train. Assuming that it is privately funded with no state or city money, then I would support this project. Thanks for all of your work.	Cost, Financing, Support Project
12/13/2016	Open House Comment Form	David	Daniel	Thank you for a very informative session. I am truly excited to see a futuristic (even though it exists elsewhere) technology have a potential of being implemented here in Maryland. I fully approve that this be implemented as it would provide jobs, increase quality of life and make a huge positive impact here in Maryland.	Support Project
12/13/2016	Open House Survey Card			Newspaper article (yes -- old fashioned but effective for complex ideas)	Outreach
12/13/2016	Open House Survey Card			TV News. Radio, blog, etc. I read about project in Baltimore Sun. Strong supporter, sooner the better. Try to utilize as much land already designated for transportation as possible.	Outreach, Support Project
12/14/2016	Open House Comment Form	David	Rosenberg	Why is DC Department of Transportation not a cooperating agency? It should be (or some other arm of the DC government). The scope area should expand northwest to Rt. 29 in Maryland, unless this has already been studied. While not the most direct, there is an open median that could be used to route the line.	Outreach, Alignment
12/14/2016	Open House Comment Form	Karen A.	Szulgit	1. What happens when it snows? When it rains?2. Will people be able to climb up and get on the tracks?3. How many people have died in other countries that use this system? Will you use fences?4. What other countries use this system?5. Will there be amenities on the train? What kind?6. Are big magnets harmful to human health? 7. Are big magnets beneficial to human health?8. How much will it cost to ride this train?9. Does the train produce a lot of noise when in use?10. Will tracks eventually go to New York, too?11. Why does the private entity want to fund this project? (Will they get rich?)12. Do you have support from Trump/Pence?13. Who/what groups are against this project? Why?14. Could a representative of this project come on a radio talk show?	Operations, Safety, Cost, Noise, Financing, Outreach
12/14/2016	Open House Comment Form	April	King	Very exciting! Time for DMV to have transportation options similar to European & Asian destinations.	Support Project
12/14/2016	Open House Survey Card			Keep a permanent display at the MLK Library.	Outreach
12/14/2016	Open House Survey Card			I appreciate that a public meeting on MAGLEV scoping was provided in Washington, DC.	Outreach

Date	Forum	First Name	Last Name	Comment	Topic Area(s)
12/15/2016	Open House Comment Form	Laila	Rhazi	<p>Incredibly important to approach the "scoping" with a longer period of genuine outreach to potentially affected municipalities and communities. The current deadline for impact in the Scoping Report does not allow enough time for town councils to even meet -- especially given that many councils are in recess until after the deadline. Starting this process in this manner is unproductive and begins the process in a way that does not honor and respect affected local govts and communities.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please provide detailed information on existing MAGLEV in operation through single-family residential communities. 2. Specific to the Town of Cheverly it is crucial to note that a MAGLEV route following Rt 295 would further bifurcate our community -- a community already stressed and impacted by multiple environmental, noise, and air quality concerns. 3. The studies I have seen have been following MAGLEV community concerns that the study design does not incorporate "real world" conditions and scenarios. I request a clear detailing of post construction/current operation concerns with existing MAGLEV operations as well as the actual impact of construction on environment and community. 4. Show us the downside and criticism and concerns within existing MAGLEV communities around the world. 5. Please provide reports on any accidents relating to MAGLEV- also interruptions of service and delay information. 6. Operation information -- please provide information on the plan for training and operation plans for ensuring the quality, reliability of service, maintenance and life span of MAGLEV. See Metro. <p>The time of day for the scoping meeting did not support the working hours of many potentially affected community members. 7 pm - 7:30 pm meetings are necessary for genuinely connecting with the potentially affected communities.</p>	Outreach, Operations, Construction, Safety
12/15/2016	Open House Comment Form	Sheila	Salo	<p>Hold further meetings when alternative routes have been selected. Consider communities (engage citizen) through which routes go but which will receive no benefit. Citizens will be particularly interested in noise mitigation, health issues, and aesthetic matters. As to the latter, questions like how the structures will add to the division of a community are important. Protect woodlands, streams, and wetlands, no matter how seemingly insignificant. Consult with local environmental groups. It is deficient to provide significant impact with no comparative material. Routes: The Amtrak parallel is already congested, having passenger train, freight, Metro, route 50, Lower Beaverdam Creek, residential and industrial all in a narrow corridor. All those uses already bisect Cheverly. Moreover, the tracks are on CSX right of way. In addition, that corridor includes floodplains. Please remember that we need to preserve what little woodland, streams, and wetland we have left. Do we really need this? The project seems to duplicate existing rail services. The existing services, moreover, truly serve the communities they run through. A typical trip between Cheverly and Baltimore, for example, takes 30 minutes by car. MagLev promises 15 minutes, hardly much of a time saving.</p>	Outreach, Alignment, Noise, Aesthetics, Wetlands and Floodplains
12/15/2016	Email	Patricia	Macquire	<p>I strongly vote NO for the mag lev train because: The current transportation systems in Maryland provide many different kinds of train, light rail, bus, etc. These systems need substantial financial support in order to provide safe and efficient service. The Metro serving many areas of Maryland is woefully neglected and is in need of serious upgrades and financial assistance. Let's improve what we have before building another system.</p>	Improve Existing Infrastructure, Oppose Project
12/15/2016	Email	Louis T.	Cerny	<p>The attached document contains my comments in response to the November 25, 2016 notice in the Federal Register containing the Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Baltimore-Washington Superconducting Maglev (SCMAGLEV) Project. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. My phone is [REDACTED]. [See attached document - BW Japanese Maglev.docx]</p>	Technology, Safety, Noise, Operations, Wildlife

Date	Forum	First Name	Last Name	Comment	Topic Area(s)
12/15/2016	Email	Oleg	Bulshteyn	Greetings, I am wondering who all the players are for this project, specifically, what the role of the Northeast Maglev is?	Outreach
12/16/2016	Email	Gene & Mary Anne	Perdue	<p>Prior to 2005, the initial proposal for the Baltimore Maglev station was the then vacant parcel at Howard and Pratt Streets, because it was within walking distance of the the downtown business district, the Baltimore Convention Center, the Inner Harbor and the Camden Yards sports stadiums. In addition, the site provided direct connections to Light Rail and MTA bus services, and was one block from the Camden MARC Station.</p> <p>With the approval of the Baltimore City financed Hilton hotel on the same parcel location in 2005, the Urban Design and Architectural Review Panel required the architects designing the Hilton hotel, RTKL, to provide accommodations for the proposed Baltimore Maglev station. The construction plans for the Hilton Baltimore allocate a specific amount of space underground for a Maglev station. See Wikipedia, Baltimore - Washington DC Maglev.</p> <p>In addition to having specific space designed to accommodate the Maglev station in the Hilton Baltimore, the same reasons still exist for the Hilton Baltimore to be the location of the Baltimore Maglev station. The location is within walking distance of the downtown business district, Inner Harbor, Camden Yards, M&T Bank Stadium, University of Maryland Graduate Schools, Horseshoe Casino, and many city neighborhoods with apartment complexes. Plus, it would provide direct connections to the immediate adjacent Light Rail and Camden MARC Station.</p> <p>Based on the foregoing, it would be hard to come up with a better location for the Baltimore Maglev station.</p>	Station Location
12/26/2016	Hard Copy Mail	Wylie L.	Donaldson	See PDF attachment.	Alignment, Oppose Project, Parking
12/26/2016	Email	Warren	Leister	<p>Greetings,</p> <p>I'm Warren Leister and I grew up in Odenton. After traveling and working all over the US, I am again active in Odenton, living nearby, including currently writing an updated history book with the Odenton Heritage Society (Nuclear Shipbuilding of submarines and aircraft carriers including creating and directing a 100 billion plus dollar supply chain, large aircraft production at Boeing, aviation equipment at Honeywell, FAA/DoT with Lockheed as well as currently with Lockheed at Pentagon with the Office of the Secretary of Defense in a technical discipline).</p> <p>I learned too late of the open house at a school I once attended in Odenton, but would like to be kept in the loop. I also have a number of ideas that you would probably find of value like good reasons you should consider a station in Odenton.</p> <p>Cheers, Warren Leister</p>	Station Location
12/28/2016	Email	Alexander	Laska	<p>Hello,</p> <p>Attached are my comments in support of the proposal for a SCMagLev line connecting Washington, DC and Baltimore.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Alexander Laska Founder & Editor-in-Chief TransportUS [PDF Attached]</p>	Safety, Cost, Support Project, Traffic, Air Quality

Date	Forum	First Name	Last Name	Comment	Topic Area(s)
1/3/2017	Email	Suzzie	Schuyler	<p>To Who It May Concern,</p> <p>As the President of the Linthicum Shipley Improvement Association (LSIA), representing 2,700 residents in the 2109 zip code, I am sending you the concerns and objections we have pertaining to the Maglev train system. I also am expressing the concerns from residents in the 21060 and 21061 zip codes that are educated on the Maglev system as well. I appreciate your time in reviewing these legitimate comments and take serious time in reconsidering pursuing the project.</p> <p>Here are our preliminary concerns:</p> <p>The LSIA and surrounding residents are against the Maglev project. The initial meeting raised more questions because none of our questions could be answered at that time. The open meeting became more frustrating as I and others, some of our state delegates, proceeded through the stations. No one could answer any questions and as we progressed we found more questions and also found that the statics for real estate increases inflated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - You did not how the project was going to be funded at this point, 17.5 billion dollars, private funding (the Japanese company?) for one half of the project and hopefully federal funding for the rest. No finances are set in place at this point is concerning going forward. -The National Environmental Protection Agency still has to evaluate the consequences of the proposed project, are the tracks to be underground, at ground level, or above ground, no one knows. - Where the actual tracks will go is still in question, possibilities but nothing definite. - We already have 3 train systems in place, MARC train, AMTRAK train, and the ACELA high speed train, and we do not need a 4th. Update the Amtrak System at a much lower cost <p>[Continued on next page...]</p>	<p>Outreach, Financing, Alignment, Improve Existing Infrastructure, Station Location, Wildlife, Noise</p>
1/3/2017 (Cont.)	Email (Cont.)	Suzzie (Cont.)	Schuyler (Cont.)	<p>[Continued from previous page...]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It would only save 15 minutes to get from BWI to D.C.: the Amtrak takes about 25 minutes and the Maglev would take about 10 minutes. We cannot justify 17.5 billion dollars for 10-15 minute savings. - The existing trains are mandated by law to cover around 80% of operating costs from the fare collection (the exact figure would need to be verified) and none of the capital costs are covered by fares. In these times of fiscal responsibility, it does not make any sense to introduce new capital costs for redundant infrastructure in order to save minutes from Baltimore to D.C. Costs to park your vehicle and take the Maglev could easily cost more than the existing trains system costs. - The community of Linthicum has existed since the early 1800's and has large parts designated as an Historical District. We have a strong community with "Blue Ribbon" schools and exceptional private schools. We have worked together to keep our neighborhoods safe and reduce crime with diligence and working closely with the police even with the unpopular Light Rail System which brought petty crimes into our community. We do not want a 4th train coming to our back yards. - We understand the engineers of the Maglev system are necessary to lead the project, should it go forward, but there is no reason why American workers cannot perform the construction of the train and the system. - Another question: how high are the rail walls on the system, can animals jump the walls and be injured/killed? - What is the noise factor of this train and the impact it will have on our neighbors, what will you do to curtail this? <p>These are the initial concerns for the Maglev train system.</p> <p>Respectfully, Suzzie Schuyler</p>	<p>[Continued from previous page...]</p> <p>Outreach, Financing, Alignment, Improve Existing Infrastructure, Station Location, Wildlife, Noise</p>

Date	Forum	First Name	Last Name	Comment	Topic Area(s)
1/3/2017	Email	Aimee/ Danielle	Olivo/Glaros	Mr. Smith, Attached please find comments from Prince George's County Council Vice Chair Dannielle Glaros regarding the SCMAGLEV project. Thank you,Aimee Olivo [PDF Attached]	Outreach, Floodplains and Wetlands, Station Location
1/9/17	Email	Amber		<p>Hello,</p> <p>As someone who lives in DC, I think the maglev is a terrible idea, because it will be WAY to expensive. The \$10B price tag is dishonestly optimistic. Recent tunneling in NYC for their subway extension was about \$0.5B per mile, and the tunneling for the Silver Line in Tyson's corner was also about \$0.5B per mile. With those tunneling costs as a guide, the ~30mile tunnel between DC and Bmore will be about \$15B. Any attempt to go above ground will require just as costly eminent domain problems. And on top of the \$15B tunnels, we would still need real estate for a station in DC (\$1B) and in Bmore (\$15), maglev vehicles (\$0.5B), and other utility infrastructure (\$0.5B). The \$10B estimate for this project is so wrong that it's dishonest, and way too much for the benefit it would deliver.</p> <p>Japan claims that they'd give us a \$5B credit for the maglev train. If they really wanted to improve DC-Baltimore travel, they could help us upgrade the Amtrak route to be 90% as fast as the maglev for 10% of the cost. I suspect that they prefer maglev because they can create vendor lock-in in a way that they can't with existing rail technology. They'll get their \$5B back by holding the maglev hostage from the free market.</p> <p>Maglev is a bad idea.</p> <p>Amber</p>	Financing, Oppose Project, Improve Existing Infrastructure, Cost
1/10/17	Email	Yitzy	Halon	<p>How can I help get this off the ground?</p> <p>I believe this project transforms the Baltimore real estate landscape as essentially Baltimore "becomes" a D.C. suburb with this train.</p> <p>That's good for EVERYONE. I'd love to get involved in any way I can. Please let me know.</p>	Support Project
1/12/17	Hard Copy Mail	Kathy	Strauss	See PDF attachment.	Oppose Project, Improve Existing Infrastructure, Financing, Alignment, Station Location, Safety

Mailed/Emailed Comments

Alexander Laska
Founder & Editor-in-Chief
[TransportUS](#)
3636 16th St. NW, #A731
Washington, DC 20010
(203) 803-0566

SCMaglev Project
c/o Bradley M. Smith
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, MD 21076

Comments on the proposed MagLev project between Washington, DC and Baltimore

December 28, 2016

As a transportation policy writer, as an advocate for safe and sustainable transportation options, and as a frequent rider of regional rail in the Northeast Corridor, I am writing in support of the proposed SCMagLev project connecting Washington, DC to Baltimore. This new high-speed rail project will help commuters travel faster and more safely between the two cities, and as we have seen around the world, high-speed rail will have a net positive economic impact for the Northeast US.

Japan, which is developing the MagLev technology and is helping to fund the SCMaglev Project, is no stranger to high-speed rail. The first high-speed rail line in the world, Japan's *shinkansen* system connects Japan's major cities, such as Tokyo and Osaka. In the 50 years that the *shinkansen* has been operating, it has carried 10 billion people and yet has seen zero accident-related passenger deaths or injuries. That is an amazing safety record. What's more, the average delay on the *shinkansen* is a mere 36 seconds, even in bad weather – which makes for an impressive on-time performance record, as well. Of course, the *shinkansen* does not operate on MagLev, but it is this legacy of safety and punctuality that gives me confidence in the newer technology.

High-speed rail also generates economic benefits, and we can see examples of these benefits in the countries that have adopted high-speed rail ahead of the United States. In the UK, 8,000 people were employed in the construction of a high-speed link between London and the Channel Tunnel. In Germany, towns that got a station on the Frankfurt-Cologne high-speed rail line experienced a 2.7 percent increase in overall economic activity compared with the rest of the region. In Japan, property values near *shinkansen* stations are 67 percent higher than property values further away.

The United States – and the DC-Baltimore area more specifically – could become a similar success story, but only if we make the investments necessary now to put us on that path. There

is no question that MagLev, one of the very newest technologies in the high-speed rail landscape, will be of great upfront cost. But these costs will be shared between state funds, federal assistance, private investment, and Japanese business interests.

And the benefits are many. Shortening the trip between DC and Baltimore to a mere 15 minutes will connect two major cities like never before, making it easier for commuters to live in one city and work in the other. And with an intermediate station at BWI International Airport, people in our region could easily take the high-speed train to the airport – far faster than the current Amtrak line – and fly anywhere in the country or the world. This intermodality increases the benefit of MagLev to travelers manifold, allowing people to spend more time at their destination and less time in transit.

In one of the most heavily congested corridors in our country, MagLev will help take cars off the road as riding the train to work becomes a more feasible and comfortable option. This will help mitigate congestion on our roads, thereby reducing commute times even for those who choose to continue driving. This will also reduce air emissions from our transportation sector, which is the highest source of carbon emissions in our country – benefiting our region and beyond.

The DC-Baltimore link would only be the beginning: I understand that the ultimate vision is to have a MagLev line connecting DC all the way to Boston, through Philadelphia and New York City. This would be revolutionary. In the time it currently takes someone to take the train into New York City from Northern New Jersey or Southwest Connecticut – a trip millions of commuters make every day – someone could ride MagLev from Boston or Philadelphia all the way to NYC in the same amount of time. Minimizing travel times and maximizing commuter safety in this way by building such a MagLev line will revolutionize work and travel patterns along the Northeast Corridor.

And in our part of the country, the stakes could not be higher. The age of our infrastructure along the Northeast Corridor is showing: whether it's derailments near Philadelphia, speed restrictions outside of Baltimore, or electricity outages in Connecticut, our current rail system is not adequately serving the needs of our population. We need to make our railways safe again, and we need to make them faster – and MagLev is the technology that will help us do that.

As Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan said after experiencing MagLev for himself in Japan, "There's no question that this is the future of transportation." MagLev can be our future in the United States as well, reducing travel times and emissions and improving safety. There will be upfront costs, and there will doubtlessly be opposition as there is for any large-scale infrastructure project, but our investment in this new, fast technology will be well worth it.

Comments on Baltimore-Washington Maglev Proposal (SCMAGLEV)

by Louis T. Cerny

In response to notice in Federal Register November 25, 2016

To:

Bradley M. Smith
Director of the Office of Freight and Multimodalism
SCMAGLEV Project
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, Maryland 21076
bsmith9@mdot.state.md.us

David Henley
Project Director
Baltimore Washington Rapid Rail
6 south Gay Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
dhenley@bwrapid.com

Brandon Bratcher
Environmental Protection Specialist
Office of Program Delivery
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 North Jersey Avenue SE MS-20
Washington DC 20590
brandon.bratcher@dot.gov

info@BaltimoreWashingtonSCMaglevProject.com

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project, and for the displays and material provided at the December 10, 2016 scoping meeting in Linthicum.

As background, I have been involved with maglev proposals since the late 1980's when I was Executive Director of the American Railway Engineering Association (AREA). The main purpose of written comments at that time was to reply to allegations of deficiencies of wheel-rail in relation to maglev and unwarranted safety claims for maglev which overlooked its own safety deficiencies. These comments were emphatically validated later by French TGV wheel-rail train runs up to 357 mph (April 3, 2007) and by the high-speed Maglev crash September 22, 2006 in Lathen, Germany which left 23 people dead. I had ridden the maglev at the Lathen (sometimes called Emsland) test track in Germany prior to the crash and have also been in the driver's cab of the Shanghai maglev (which uses the same German design) during a complete run over the line. After I ceased to be an officer in the AREA at the end of 1994, I continued to study maglev technology as a private consultant and comment on maglev proposals. I also was a voting member of FRA committees developing standards for high-speed rail. I believe the most important value of maglev is that it would allow for ultra-high speeds (say over 600mph) in air-evacuated tubes or tunnels.

The comments made in the late 1980's were about the German maglev, which is not the technology now proposed for the Washington - Baltimore line. The Japanese-developed SCMAGLEV does away with several of the safety drawbacks of the German design, since it does not have any vehicle parts underrunning the guideway, and this also simplifies turnout configuration.

Comments specifically addressing this Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV project.

In general, it needs to be realized that this is a new technology. Operation on the present 26 mile test track in rural Japan, mostly in tunnels, does not fully validate its ability to safely and reliably function in day-to-day high-frequency revenue service in the urban and suburban environment of the Washington – Baltimore area.

There should be FRA-approved safety standards for this project, including those that give design tolerances for guideways, including speeds allowed in curves and through turnouts (based in part on the lateral forces able to be resisted), as well as safety parameters for the turnout components, including the alignment tolerances of the moving parts. Standards regarding the fixation of hardware on the inner vertical surfaces of the guideway will be needed, because if such fixtures would become loose they could jam between the vehicle and the side of the guideway, with consequences that might compromise the integrity of the passenger compartment at high speed, or bring the train to a high G-force stop, with heat or even fire generated by the friction involved between the contacting components. The fixation standard issue would of course also involve the components of the vehicle that interact with the guideway.

The cross-section of the guideway brings up several issues. Probably the most obvious is snow accumulation, since snow cannot simply be shoved to the sides. The sides may trap objects in the guideway such as wind-blown debris, and such debris might be larger than the space between the vehicle and the guideway. What size object can be tolerated in the guideway? What if a fence-jumping deer were to get trapped in the guideway just ahead of a train, with the angle of impact causing the deer to wedge between the side of the vehicle and the guideway? Or a suicidal person? Another category of hazard is debris thrown onto the guideway, either from an overhead bridge or just thrown in from the side of the guideway. What would a shopping cart do? Or a bowling ball or an old lawn mower? Experience in the Baltimore-Washington region has shown that these are not just theoretical possibilities.

The design of the front of the vehicle needs to be modified. The lower part of the front-end shape shown in the material provided at the scoping meeting is not designed to deflect material and its tapered, rounded design would make it more likely that debris would become wedged under or on the sides of the vehicle. I can meet with appropriate personnel to make specific suggestions for a modified design.

The risk of the train becoming airborne needs to be evaluated. According to the material provided at the scoping meeting, there is no physical barrier in the guideway design to keep the magnetically-levitated vehicle from rising out of the guideway. With the guideway side walls restricting air flow, hitting an object that would wedge under the front end at high speed and lift it slightly could subject the underside of the vehicle to tremendous air pressure that could lift the vehicle out of the guideway, especially if the vehicle is designed with much less weight than a wheel-rail vehicle (see next paragraph). Redesign of the front end (see previous paragraph) could help reduce this risk. Has the risk of the front

end accidentally being raised slightly and catching air due to malfunctions in the maglev suspension hardware been evaluated?

The longitudinal strength of the vehicles is an important safety consideration. No reduction should be allowed compared to what would be required for a wheel-rail vehicle, and perhaps such strength for this maglev should be even higher for the following reason: The maglev vehicle will be confined within the side walls of the guideway. In any collision with another train, objects in the guideway (including maintenance or inspection vehicles), devices at the end of the line, or a damaged guideway, it has no alternative to absorb energy by jack-knifing sideways as a wheel-rail train does. The entire impact of the incident would either have to be absorbed by crushing of the maglev train and/or buckling in a vertical direction. Buckling in a vertical direction has implications of the vehicle going airborne as discussed in the previous paragraph. Accidents involving trailing moves through the straight side of turnouts in case of a turnout or turnout signaling malfunction need to be evaluated, and are another reason vehicle strength should not be lowered from those of wheel-rail vehicles.

Another issue is the special nature of the electromagnetic radiation generated by a maglev train. Its intensity varies in complicated patterns not previously tested on humans, so this needs to be considered. My understanding is that this Japanese form of maglev uses a higher level of radiation than the German maglev, but even that level caused protests in China when it was proposed to extend the existing line in Shanghai.

Routine Maintenance Issues. Guideway maintenance activities will need to take place during operating periods. Say a piece of debris is reported and someone goes out to remove it. That person will need to be inside of the guideway with no ability to quickly step to the side.

Lower speed wheel issues. The proposed maglev, I understand, will need to ride on wheels at speeds below 60mph, which of course could occur at any location along the track, and that the wheels will be retracted at higher speeds. What is the ability of the steering (sidewall) components of the maglev to keep the vehicle from contacting the sidewall if the wheels on one side accidentally came down at high speed, causing a turning moment in the vehicle?

Forward visibility issues. Another issue is the lack of any way (based on the pictures at the scoping meeting) for an employee to see forward from the train. Handling the train in yards or in special situations (such as slow orders) where maintenance workers are along the guideway would seem to be hampered without a forward view. When coming into or leaving stations, a forward view could also be useful.

Ability to perform at publicized schedule. The information in press releases mentions a 15 minute schedule from Washington to Baltimore, which is half the fastest present 30 minute non-stop Acela schedules on Amtrak. But the time needed for acceleration out of Washington, deceleration into BWI, passenger unloading at BWI (many with air travel luggage), passenger loading at BWI, acceleration out of BWI, and deceleration into Baltimore may make such a schedule unrealistic. Alignment costs could also dictate the need for speed-reducing curvature so that the actual time advantage over the fastest present Amtrak trains would be less than 10 minutes. This needs to be realistically evaluated in ridership projections, as do the low-fare MARC trains presently serving the Washington-Baltimore market.

The noise generated by the maglev may become an issue, although by virtue of its guideway configuration the SCMAGLEV guideway would seem more likely have reduced sound levels in comparison to the German design where the vehicle is wrapped around the guideway.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment, and it is hoped you find these comments useful and constructive. I would be glad to make my experience available to the project, and could make further suggestions for improving safety as details of the project are developed.

Louis T. Cerny PE
Railroad Consultant
310 Summit Hall Road
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877
301-947-0208
LTCerny@gmail.com



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

301-952-3060

Dannielle M. Glaros

Vice Chairwoman

Council Member, District 3

January 3, 2017

SCMAGLEV Project
c/o Bradley M. Smith, MDOT
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, MD 21076

Dear Mr. Smith,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my comments and concerns on the SCMAGLEV Project for the Project Scoping Report.

As the elected representative of Prince George's County Councilmanic District 3, which is entirely encompassed by the Project Study Area, I have a significant interest in the project and am especially concerned that my constituents are properly informed and engaged.

The study area contains critical watersheds for the Anacostia River and Chesapeake Bay. I strongly urge the Environmental Impact Statement to thoroughly review the project's potential impact on these waterways.

Right now, municipalities and neighborhood nodes within Councilmanic District 3 and all of Prince George's County are experiencing economic revitalization and redevelopment, which I work hard to promote. I am extremely concerned that this SCMAGLEV Project will take people speeding through Prince George's County, literally and figuratively bypassing our communities, parks & recreational resources, economic development and more. This project scoping process must assess the impact SCMAGLEV would have on the areas between BWI Airport and Washington, DC.

I look forward to the next three rounds of public meetings and thank you in advance for incorporating these comments into the scoping process results.

Together Strengthening Our Community,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dannielle M. Glaros".

Dannielle M. Glaros
Vice Chair, Prince George's County Council
District 3

cc: Maryland General Assembly 21st Delegation
Maryland General Assembly 22nd Delegation
Maryland General Assembly 47th Delegation

Odenton Heritage Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 282 • Odenton, Maryland 21113

December 26, 2016

Bradley M. Smith
Maryland Department of Transportation
Superconducting Maglev Project
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, MD 21076

Dear Mr. Smith,

We attended the Open House on December 12, 2016, at Arundel Middle School on the SCMAGLEV Project.

As you probably know a "MAGLEV" project study was conducted in 2003-2004. The proposed alignment was to be through the Odenton historic district. At that time the Odenton Heritage Society (OHS) strongly opposed this project as it would have a significant impact to many of our historic buildings, one of which is located beside the MARC train station. It is important to note that we have a vested interest in the railroad corridor as well as the Historic District as a whole. While, as I understand it, there has been no proposed route for the system at this time, we are very concerned as to where the designated route might be. We are again opposed to the construction of MAGLEV through Odenton.

Much progress has been made toward a vibrant, healthy historic district. This area has been declared eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The OHS owns several restored buildings in the district, property values and tax revenues are rising and the popularity of our museum has grown.

The population in the entire Odenton and West County area has exploded. There are a number of very large condominiums and apartment complexes already in place and many more are in the planning stages. The town of Odenton's populations has increased at an alarming rate.

The Maryland Department of Transportation is planning one or maybe two more parking structures near the present MARC train station.

Our town does not appear to us to be a place where an elevated MAGLEV train traveling at over 300 MPH should be constructed. Again, we oppose such a project for Odenton.

We would really appreciate being apprised of all planning and any information concerning this very important project. You may reach me by phone on 443.324.9901 or email wnd281@verizon.net.

Sincerely,



WYLE L. DONALDSON
President

SCMAGLEV Project
c/o Bradley M. Smith
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover MD 21076

Dear Mr. Smith

I am writing about the possibility of the construction of a Superconducting MagLev (SCMV) system. There are many reasons that the SCMV project is not a good idea or investment. The first thing that should concern all residents of Maryland, indeed all in the United States, is the cost:

We currently have several methods of travel through the North East Corridor (NEC) including MARC trains, Amtrak trains, and the Acela high speed train. Depending on necessity of travel speed and budget of the traveler, these offer a pretty wide range of choices. Though these trains are mandated by law to cover around 80% of operating costs from fare collection (the exact figure needs to be verified), none of the capital costs are covered by fares. In these times that require fiscal responsibility, it strikes us as preposterous to introduce new capital costs for redundant infrastructure, all to save a small portion of an hours' time in a train traveling between Washington DC and Baltimore.

Though these monies will come from different pots, so to speak, it is difficult to justify an expenditure of this magnitude, particularly as these costs will most likely go up from initial estimates, if history is any indication.

Second, the SCMV route has not been determined yet, though from literature presented at the Linthicum Information Meeting 10 December 2016, it looks as if it will be near our town of Linthicum, Maryland. Indeed, designating Baltimore Washington International Airport (BWI) as one of the stops pretty much assures this. There are many reasons why this is an idea that must be dismissed immediately.

Linthicum is a town rich in well-documented history and is charming to see as well. Even the more modest neighborhoods have remained safe, well-maintained and pleasant to see, making this an ideal place to raise families and grow old. In fact, we in Linthicum stay not only for years or decades, but for generations. It isn't unusual for generations of a family to be raised in the same house, or for people raised here to return to raise their own families.

The town of Linthicum has existed as such since the early 1800s, and now has large parts designated as an Historic District. The town features a strong community with a Blue Ribbon elementary school (Linthicum Elementary) as well as an outstanding private school (St. Philip Neri). Additionally, we as a town have managed to keep crime low by being aware of people walking and driving the streets and working closely with county police. We have done this in spite of the addition of the wildly unpopular walk-up Light Rail Station in Linthicum, which initially brought with its opening a wave of largely petty crime. This has since been mostly eliminated, but crime in and around the station area has ticked up periodically since its opening. Only by working hard as a community have we managed to keep this contained and under control.

The Great Recession hit middle class neighborhoods such as Linthicum very hard. Individuals in neighborhoods got together to make sure that foreclosed housing was maintained on the outside to discourage vagrancy or squatting, and to ensure that these neighborhoods would not further suffer because of unkempt property. As a result, the property values didn't appreciably decline and have now rebounded.

If, after all budgetary concerns have been addressed, it is decided to go ahead with this project, we urge all in charge of the SCMagLev to consider these things and at all costs avoid placing your rail near our town. We have worked hard to earn our neighborhood and deserve the best.

Sincerely,

Kathy Strauss (436 W. Greenwood Rd
Linthicum MD 21090)

Kathy Strauss

Here are links describing Linthicum:

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/07/09/AR2009070903163_2.html

<https://www.amazon.com/Train-Passes-Through-Collective-Linthicum/dp/0557076102>

Appendix F

Agency Scoping

- **Sample Cooperating Agency Invitation**
- **Sample Participating Agency Invitation**
- **Agency Scoping Presentation**
- **Agency Scoping Comments**



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

November 23, 2016

Mr. Marcus Brundage
Environmental Protection Specialist
Federal Aviation Administration
23723 Air Freight Lane
Suite 210
Dulles, VA 20166

Re: Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV Scoping and Cooperating Agency Invitation

Dear Mr. Brundage:

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), in coordination with the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Baltimore-Washington Superconducting Magnetic Levitation (SCMAGLEV) project. Baltimore Washington Rapid Rail, LLC, a private company, proposes the construction and operation of a high-speed SCMAGLEV train system between Washington, DC and Baltimore, Maryland with an intermediate stop at Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI Marshall). The Project Team will prepare the EIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et. seq.*) (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality NEPA regulations (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), FRA NEPA Procedures (64 FR 28545 dated May 26, 1999 and 78 FR 2713 dated January 14, 2013), Section 139 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act of 2015 (23 U.S.C. 139), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106), Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act, as well as other related statutes and regulations.

The purpose of this letter is to:

- 1) Invite the Federal Aviation Administration to be a cooperating agency for the Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV EIS; and to
- 2) Announce a 45-day EIS scoping comment period beginning November 25, 2016 and ending January 9, 2017.

Project Background

Over the past 25 years, the FRA and others have been studying maglev service along the Baltimore-Washington corridor. In 1998, Congress authorized the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), which established the Maglev Deployment Program and appropriated \$13 million to fund an earlier Baltimore-Washington maglev initiative. In 2003, FRA in cooperation with the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA), prepared a site-specific Draft EIS on a proposal to build a Maglev project linking downtown Baltimore to BWI Marshall Airport

and Union Station in Washington, DC. In 2016, FRA awarded MDOT a \$27.8 million grant to complete environmental and engineering studies for the current project. This latest effort will utilize SCMAGLEV technology, and build upon the previous efforts to provide maglev service between Baltimore and Washington, DC with an intermediate stop at BWI Marshall Airport (see attached study area map).

The purpose of the project is to increase capacity; reduce travel time; and improve reliability and mobility options between Baltimore and Washington with a high-speed SCMAGLEV system. Projected growth and development necessitates continued improvements to the transportation infrastructure. Similarly, demand on transportation infrastructure will continue to increase along major roadways, thereby decreasing level of service, reliability, and mobility. Regional rail services continue to compete for service as demand continues to increase.

Agency Involvement

FRA is the lead Federal agency for the Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV project under NEPA, and MDOT is the joint lead agency as the grantee. As part of the environmental review process, lead agencies must identify, as early as practicable, any other Federal and non-Federal agencies that may have an interest in the project, and invite such agencies to become participating and/or cooperating agencies in the environmental review process. A participating agency is any Federal or non-Federal agency, or Native American Tribe, that may have an interest in the project. A cooperating agency is any such agency or Tribe that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposed project or project alternative. As a cooperating agency, you will have a higher degree of authority, responsibility, and involvement in the environmental review process than a participating agency. Neither designation implies that an agency either supports the Proposed Action.

Your agency has been identified as having a potential interest in the Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV project. With this letter, the Project Team invites the FAA to be a participating agency in accordance Section 139 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act of 2015 (23 U.S.C. 139) and a cooperating agency pursuant to 40 CFR 1501.6.

FRA suggests that your agency's role as a participating agency and cooperating agency could include the following:

1. Providing comments, responses, studies, or methodologies on those areas within the special expertise or jurisdiction of the agency;
2. Addressing environmental issues of concern to the agency;
3. Identifying, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the Proposed Action's potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts (cooperating agency only);
4. Providing early input in defining the purpose and need, determining the range of alternatives to be considered, and identifying the methodologies and level of detail needed in the assessment of impacts (cooperating agency only);
5. Participating in coordination meetings, study team meetings, and joint field reviews as appropriate and to the extent agency resources allow (cooperating agency only); and/or
6. Reviewing and commenting on environmental documentation (cooperating agency only).

FRA requests that you respond to this invitation to by completing the attached form and sending it back to FRA no later than December 23, 2016. If your agency declines, the response should state your reason for declining the invitation. Please see attached form for further guidance.

EIS Scoping

The goal of the EIS is to provide FRA with information to assess alternatives that will meet the Proposed Action's purpose and need; evaluate potential environmental impacts that could result from the alternatives; identify avoidance/mitigation measures associated with potential environmental impacts; and select a Preferred Alternative.

A Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare the EIS appeared in the Federal Register on November 25, 2016. Following the NOI publication, a 45-day public scoping period will commence on November 25, 2016. Five public scoping meeting dates are scheduled for the following dates/locations:

- Saturday, December 10, 2016 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm – Lindale Middle School located at 415 Andover Road in Linthicum Heights, Maryland
- Monday, December 12, 2016 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm – Arundel Middle School located at 1179 Hammond Lane in Odenton, Maryland
- Tuesday, December 13, 2016 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm – Du Burns Coppermine Fieldhouse located at 3100 Boston Street in Baltimore, Maryland
- Wednesday, December 14, 2016 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm – Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library located at 901 G Street Northwest in Washington, DC
- Thursday, December 15, 2016 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm – West Lanham Hills Fire Hall located at 8501 Good Luck Road in Lanham, Maryland

Interested parties may submit comments via e-mail to info@BaltimoreWashingtonSCMaglevProject.com or via mail to SCMaglev Project c/o Bradley M. Smith, Maryland Department of Transportation, 7201 Corporate Center Drive, Hanover, Maryland, 21076. The Project Team will accept written EIS scoping comments through January 9, 2017.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. We look forward to receiving your response to the participating and/or cooperating agency request and working cooperatively with you on this project. If you are not the point of contact for your agency, please provide FRA with the appropriate contact information.

Submit questions and any other requests for additional information to Brandon Bratcher, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDOT Federal Railroad Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, MS-20, Washington, DC 20590 or brandon.bratcher@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

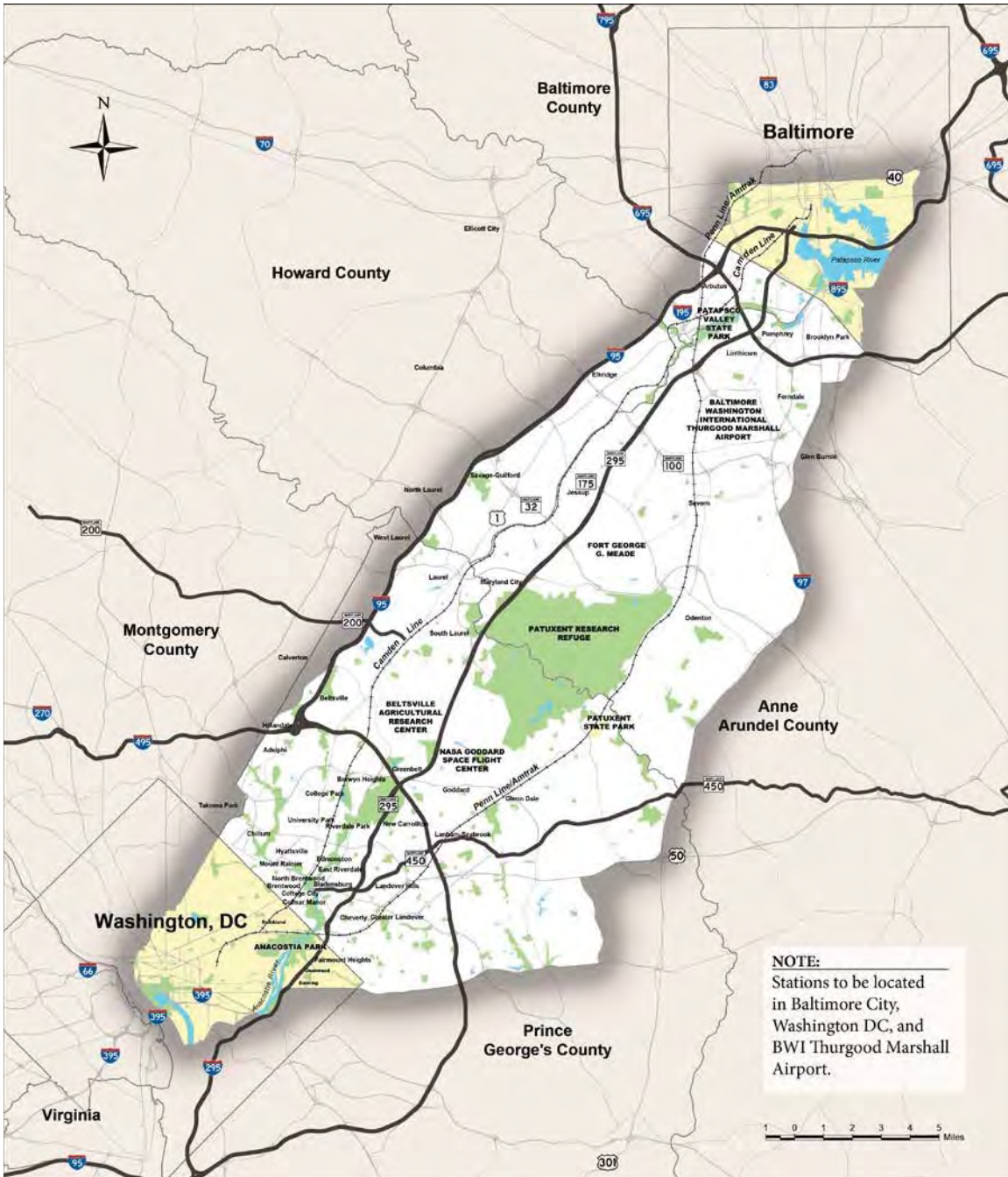


Brandon Bratcher
FRA, Environmental Protection Specialist

Attachment: Study Area Map

cc: Mr. Bradley M. Smith, MDOT
Ms. Danyell Diggs, MTA
Ms. Kelly Lyles, MTA

Attachment: Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV Project Study Area Map



**PARTICIPATING AND/OR COOPERATING AGENCY DESIGNATION
RESPONSE FORM**

Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV Project

- No, our agency does not wish to be designated a Participating or Cooperating agency for the Proposed Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV project because our agency has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the Proposed Action; no expertise or information relevant to the Proposed Action; and/or does not intend to submit comments on the Proposed Action. *, OR

- No, our agency does not wish to be designated a Cooperating agency for the Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV project. However, we do wish to be designated a Participating agency. OR

- Yes, our agency wishes to be designated a Cooperating and Participating agency for the Proposed Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV project.

_____ (Sign/Date – Authorized Representative)

_____ (Name/Title of Signatory)

_____ (Name/Title of POC, if different than signatory)

_____ (Agency)

_____ (Mailing Address)

_____ (Email)

_____ (Phone)

Please email or mail a response by **December 23, 2016** to:

Brandon Bratcher, Environmental Protection Specialist
USDOT Federal Railroad Administration
Office of Program Delivery
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, MS-20
Washington, DC 20590
brandon.bratcher@dot.gov

* Please note that if Federal agencies do not state their position in these terms, then the Federal agency should be treated as a participating agency.



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

November 23, 2016

Mr. Elder Ghigiarelli
Deputy Program Manager, Wetlands and Waterways Program
Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Boulevard
Suite 430
Baltimore, MD 21230

Re: Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV Scoping and Participating Agency Invitation

Dear Mr. Ghigiarelli:

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), in coordination with the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Baltimore-Washington Superconducting Magnetic Levitation (SCMAGLEV) project. Baltimore Washington Rapid Rail, LLC, a private company, proposes the construction and operation of a high-speed SCMAGLEV train system between Washington, DC and Baltimore, Maryland with an intermediate stop at Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI Marshall). The Project Team will prepare the EIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et. seq.*) (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality NEPA regulations (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), FRA NEPA Procedures (64 FR 28545 dated May 26, 1999 and 78 FR 2713 dated January 14, 2013), Section 139 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act of 2015 (23 U.S.C. 139), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106), Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act, as well as other related statutes and regulations.

The purpose of this letter is to:

- 1) Invite the Maryland Department of the Environment to be a participating agency for the Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV EIS; and to
- 2) Announce a 45-day EIS scoping comment period beginning November 25, 2016 and ending January 9, 2017.

Project Background

Over the past 25 years, the FRA and others have been studying maglev service along the Baltimore-Washington corridor. In 1998, Congress authorized the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), which established the Maglev Deployment Program and appropriated \$13 million to fund an earlier Baltimore-Washington maglev initiative. In 2003, FRA in cooperation with the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA), prepared a site-specific Draft EIS on a proposal to build a Maglev project linking downtown Baltimore to BWI Marshall Airport

and Union Station in Washington, DC. In 2016, FRA awarded MDOT a \$27.8 million grant to complete environmental and engineering studies for the current project. This latest effort will utilize SCMAGLEV technology, and build upon the previous efforts to provide maglev service between Baltimore and Washington, DC with an intermediate stop at BWI Marshall Airport (see attached study area map).

The purpose of the project is to increase capacity; reduce travel time; and improve reliability and mobility options between Baltimore and Washington with a high-speed SCMAGLEV system. Projected growth and development necessitates continued improvements to the transportation infrastructure. Similarly, demand on transportation infrastructure will continue to increase along major roadways, thereby decreasing level of service, reliability, and mobility. Regional rail services continue to compete for service as demand continues to increase.

Participating Agency Involvement

FRA is the lead Federal agency for the Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV project under NEPA, and MDOT is the joint lead agency as the grantee. As part of the environmental review process, lead agencies must identify, as early as practicable, any other Federal and non-Federal agencies that may have an interest in the project, and invite such agencies to become participating agencies in the environmental review process. A participating agency is any Federal and non-Federal agency that may have an interest in the project. This designation does not imply that an agency either supports the Proposed Action or has any jurisdiction over or any special expertise with respect to evaluation of the project.

Your agency has been identified as having a potential interest in the Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV project. With this letter, your agency is invited to be a participating agency in accordance 23 U.S.C. 139. As a participating agency, you will be given the opportunity, together with the public, to be involved in defining the purpose of and need for the Proposed Project, as well as determining the range of alternatives to be considered. FRA suggests that your agency's role as a participating agency could include the following:

1. Providing comments, responses, studies, or methodologies on those areas within the special expertise or jurisdiction of the agency; and
2. Using the process to address any environmental issues of concern to the agency.

FRA requests that you respond to this invitation to serve as a participating agency by completing the attached form and sending it back to FRA no later than December 23, 2016. If your agency declines, the response should state your reason for declining the invitation. Please see attached form for further guidance.

EIS Scoping

The goal of the EIS is to provide FRA with information to assess alternatives that will meet the Proposed Action's purpose and need; evaluate potential environmental impacts that could result from the alternatives; identify avoidance/mitigation measures associated with potential environmental impacts; and select a Preferred Alternative.

A Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare the EIS appeared in the Federal Register on November 25, 2016. Following the NOI publication, a 45-day public scoping period will commence on November 25, 2016. Five public scoping meeting dates are scheduled for the following dates/locations:

- Saturday, December 10, 2016 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm – Lindale Middle School located at 415 Andover Road in in Linthicum Heights, Maryland
- Monday, December 12, 2016 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm – Arundel Middle School located at 1179 Hammond Lane in Odenton, Maryland
- Tuesday, December 13, 2016 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm – Du Burns Coppermine Fieldhouse located at 3100 Boston Street in Baltimore, Maryland
- Wednesday, December 14, 2016 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm – Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library located at 901 G Street Northwest in Washington, DC
- Thursday, December 15, 2016 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm – West Lanham Hills Fire Hall located at 8501 Good Luck Road in Lanham, Maryland

Interested parties may submit comments via e-mail to info@BaltimoreWashingtonSCMaglevProject.com or via mail to SCMaglev Project c/o Bradley M. Smith, Maryland Department of Transportation, 7201 Corporate Center Drive, Hanover, Maryland, 21076. The Project Team will accept written EIS scoping comments through January 9, 2017.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. We look forward to receiving your response to the participating agency request and working cooperatively with you on this project. If you are not the point of contact for your agency, please provide FRA with the appropriate contact information.

Submit questions and any other requests for additional information to Brandon Bratcher, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDOT Federal Railroad Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, MS-20, Washington, DC 20590 or brandon.bratcher@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

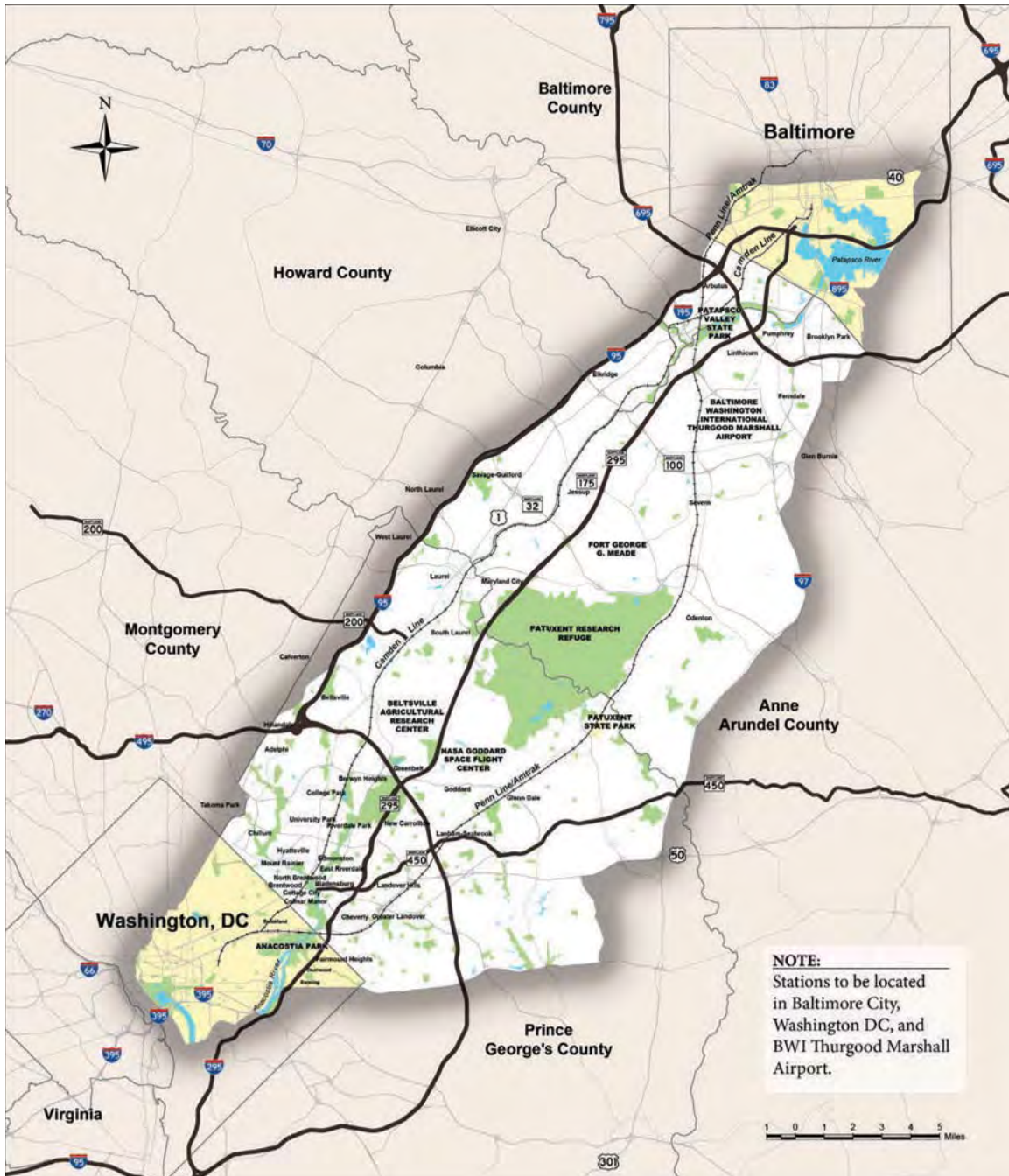


Brandon Bratcher
FRA, Environmental Protection Specialist

Attachment: Study Area Map

cc: Mr. Bradley M. Smith, MDOT
Ms. Danyell Diggs, MTA
Ms. Kelly Lyles, MTA

Attachment: Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV Project Study Area Map



**PARTICIPATING AGENCY DESIGNATION
RESPONSE FORM**

Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV Project

- No, our agency does not wish to be designated a Participating agency for the Proposed Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV project because our agency has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the Proposed Action; no expertise or information relevant to the Proposed Action; and does not intend to submit comments on the Proposed Action.* , OR

- Yes, our agency wishes to be designated as a Participating agency for the Proposed Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV project.

_____ (Sign/Date – Authorized Representative)

_____ (Name/Title of Signatory)

_____ (Name/Title of POC, if different than signatory)

_____ (Agency)

_____ (Mailing Address)

_____ (Email)

_____ (Phone)

Please email or mail a response by **December 23, 2016** to:

Brandon Bratcher, Environmental Protection Specialist
USDOT Federal Railroad Administration
Office of Program Delivery
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, MS-20
Washington, DC 20590
brandon.bratcher@dot.gov

* Please note that if Federal agencies do not state their position in these terms, then the Federal agency should be treated as a participating agency.

AGENCY SCOPING MEETING

January 18, 2017



PURPOSE OF TODAY'S MEETING



An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared to evaluate the potential impacts of constructing and operating a high-speed superconducting magnetic levitation (SCMAGLEV) train system between Washington, DC and Baltimore, Maryland with an intermediate stop at BWI Marshall Airport.

At today's meeting, we need your input on the:

- ▶ Purpose and need for the project
- ▶ Key environmental considerations
- ▶ Public involvement and agency coordination process

Please provide us with your comments!

BACKGROUND INFORMATION



- ▶ **Maglev Deployment Program (MDP)**
 - ▶ The MDP was established in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) with the purpose of demonstrating the feasibility of maglev technology
- ▶ **Baltimore-Washington Maglev Project**
 - ▶ In 2003, FRA in cooperation with the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) prepared a site-specific Draft EIS (DEIS) on a proposal to build a Maglev project linking downtown Baltimore to BWI Marshall Airport and Union Station in Washington, DC
 - ▶ A Draft EIS was published in 2003, but the project was suspended and a Final EIS never issued
- ▶ **Differences between 2003 DEIS and current project:**
 - ▶ The current project proposes to utilize the Japanese SCMAGLEV system, whereas the 2003 DEIS proposed the German Transrapid system
 - ▶ The Project Sponsor is a private entity



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PROJECT FUNDING

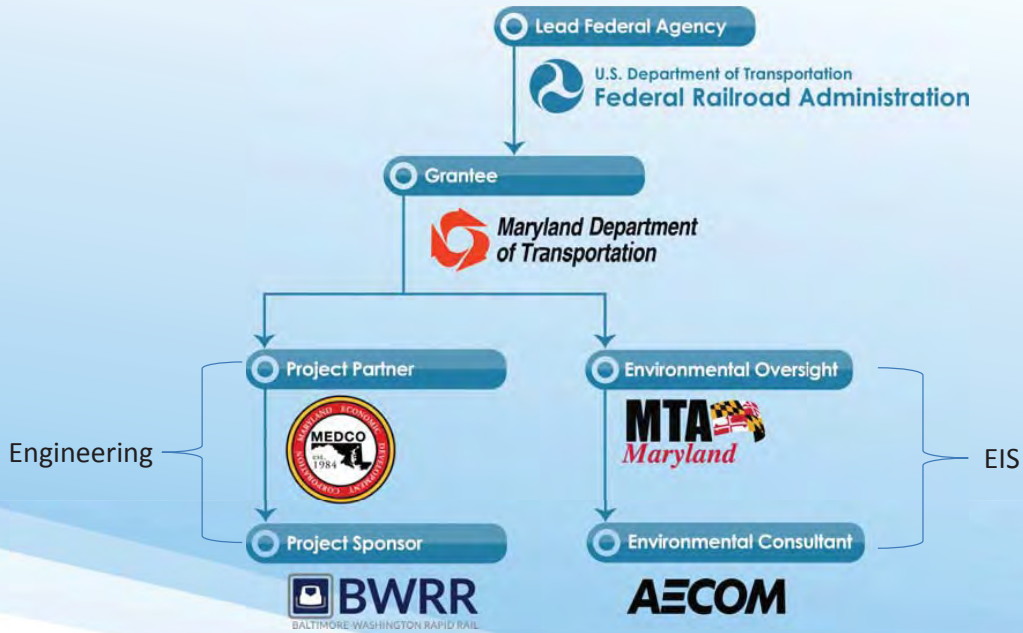


- ▶ MDOT was awarded a \$27.8M grant under the FRA Notice of Funding Availability and Solicitation of Applications for Magnetic Levitation Projects ("NOFA")
- ▶ Grant covers the NEPA study process and preliminary engineering efforts
- ▶ FRA grant funds 80% and the remaining 20% is provided by Baltimore Washington Rapid Rail (BWRR)

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WHO IS INVOLVED?



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WHAT IS THE PROPOSED PROJECT?



- ▶ Superconducting Maglev (SCMAGLEV) train between Baltimore and Washington
- ▶ Three proposed stations:
 - ▶ Washington, DC
 - ▶ Baltimore City
 - ▶ BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport
- ▶ 15-minute travel time
- ▶ Speeds up to 311 mph



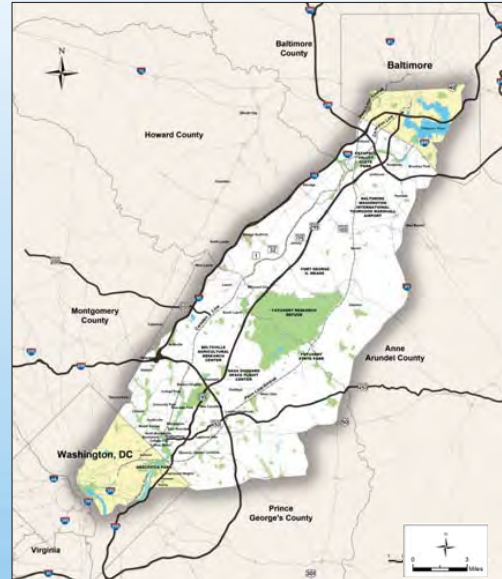
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PROJECT STUDY AREA



- ▶ Approximately 40 miles long by 10 miles wide
- ▶ Two major cities, 4 counties
- ▶ Numerous natural and historic resources
- ▶ Majority of land ownership is private
- ▶ Major government facilities
 - ▶ BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport
 - ▶ Fort George G. Meade
 - ▶ Beltsville Agricultural Research Center
 - ▶ NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
 - ▶ NSA
 - ▶ Patuxent Research Refuge
 - ▶ US National Arboretum
- ▶ Parks
 - ▶ Patapsco Valley State Park
 - ▶ Anacostia Park



NEPA PROCESS AND TIMELINE



Throughout the NEPA process, the public will have many opportunities to provide comments and input.



STUDY AREA CHARACTERISTICS



- ▶ The study area includes portions of the City of Baltimore, Baltimore County, Howard County, Anne Arundel County, and Prince George's County in Maryland, and Washington, DC.
- ▶ The jurisdictions in the study area expected to grow by 15% in population between 2015 and 2040.
- ▶ 47% of this growth will occur in Washington DC and 18% in Baltimore City and Baltimore County.
- ▶ Study area jurisdictions' work force is expected to increase by 21% within 2015 and 2040.
- ▶ 41% of the employment growth is expected to occur in Washington DC, 21% in Baltimore County and Baltimore City, and almost 16% in Anne Arundel County.
- ▶ More than 34% of jurisdictions' population is within the study area.

Source: BMC Round 8A Forecast and MWCOG Round 9.0 Cooperative Forecasts

DRAFT PURPOSE AND NEED



The primary purpose of the Project is to:

- ▶ Increase capacity;
- ▶ Reduce travel time; and
- ▶ Improve reliability and mobility options between Baltimore and Washington, DC

The project is needed because:

- ▶ Growth, development, and continued demands on the transportation infrastructure.
- ▶ Demand on infrastructure will continue to increase along major roadways thereby decreasing level of service, reliability, and mobility

DRAFT PURPOSE AND NEED



- ▶ Participating and Cooperating Agencies will have the opportunity to review and provide comments on the Purpose and Need.
 - ▶ Purpose and Need Package projected by 2/1/17
 - ▶ Seeking comments/concurrence by 2/15/17

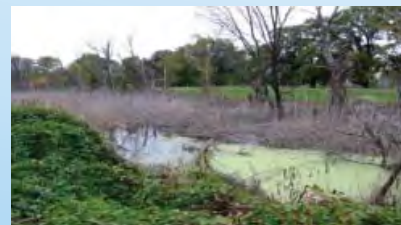
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KEY ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS



- Transportation
- Land use
- Communities and socioeconomic conditions
- Parks and recreational resources
- Cultural, historic and archaeological resources
- Visual and aesthetic resources
- Water quality
- Floodplains
- Waters of the US (wetlands)
- Natural resources and ecosystems
- Soils and geology
- Hazardous materials
- Noise & vibration
- Electromagnetic fields (EMF)
- Air quality
- Greenhouse gas (GHG)/ climate change
- Safety and security
- Utilities
- Construction
- Environmental justice
- Energy



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KEY ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

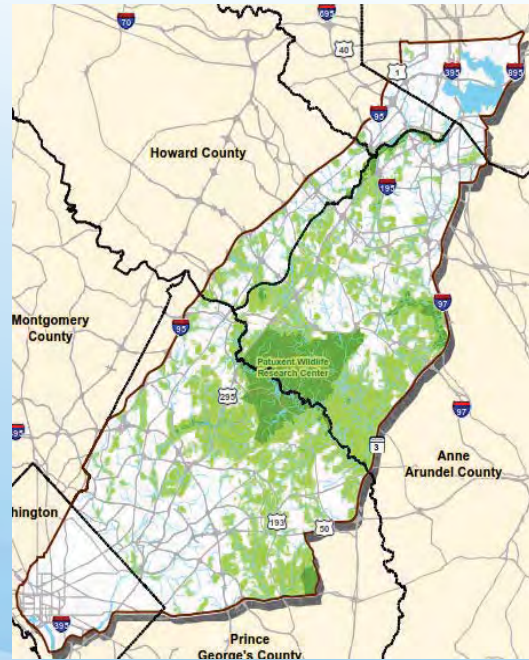


Key Natural Resource and Section 4(f) Considerations

- ▶ Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and Refuge
- ▶ State Parks
- ▶ Wetlands of Special State Concern

Additional Natural Resource Concerns

- ▶ Sensitive Species Project Review Areas
- ▶ Targeted Ecological Areas
- ▶ Potential Forest Interior Dwelling Species
- ▶ Critical Area



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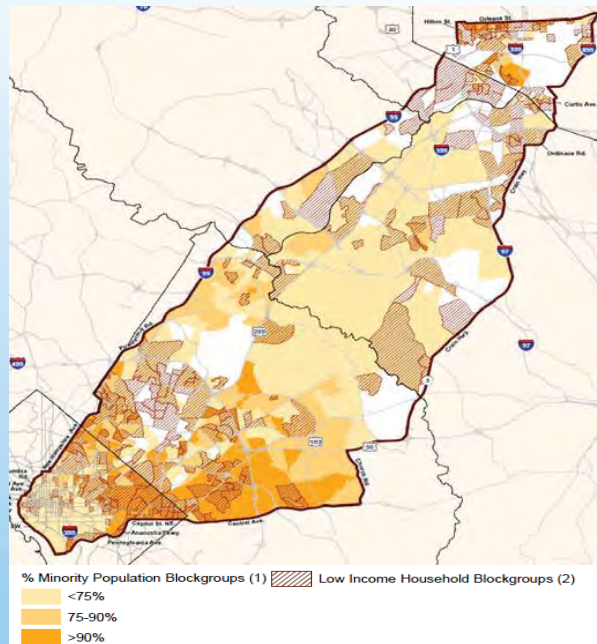
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EJ COMMUNITIES



- ▶ Low income households: clustered mostly in Baltimore City, DC urbanized area.
- ▶ Minority population: largely concentrated in Baltimore City, DC, Prince Georges County.

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates 2010-2014



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SECTION 106



FRA and MDOT are also evaluating the Project in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

- ▶ It requires consultation with interested parties and the public.
- ▶ Any information on potential historic properties and cultural resources or issues to be considered are welcome.
- ▶ Parties with a specific interest in historic issues can request status as a Project Consulting Party under Section 106.



B&O Railroad Thomas Viaduct



Baltimore-Washington Parkway 1/18/2017

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PUBLIC OUTREACH



- ▶ 4 Rounds of Public Meetings
 - ▶ Scoping ✓
 - ▶ Preliminary Alts & Screening
 - ▶ Alternatives
 - ▶ Public Hearing
- ▶ 5 Meeting Sites Per Round
- ▶ Public Scoping Meetings were held:
 - ▶ December 10 – Lindale Middle School
 - ▶ December 12 – Arundel Middle School
 - ▶ December 13 – Coppermine Du Burns Arena
 - ▶ December 14 – MLK Jr. Library (DC)
 - ▶ December 15 – West Lanham Hills Fire Hall



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PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING SUMMARY



Meeting	Location	Jurisdiction	Total Attendance	# of Comments Received	Elected Officials	Media Present
12/10/16	Lindale Middle School	Anne Arundel County (Linthicum)	53	32	4	Yes
12/12/16	Arundel Middle School	Anne Arundel County (Odenton)	33	11	1	Yes
12/13/16	Coppermine Du Burns Arena	Baltimore City (Canton)	38	7	-	Yes
12/14/16	MLK Memorial Library	Washington DC (Downtown)	24	5	4	Yes
12/15/16	West Lanham Hills Fire Hall	Prince George's County (Lanham)	18	2	2	Yes
			166	57	11	

- Scoping period began November 25, 2016
- Comment period ended January 9, 2017

AGENCY COORDINATION



- ▶ Developing Agency Coordination Plan
- ▶ So far, 28 agencies have responded "yes"
 - ▶ **Cooperating (6):** EPA, NPS, FAA, FTA, NCPC, USACE
 - ▶ **Participating (22):** FHWA, FEMA, Fort George G. Meade (US Army), DDOT, NASA, M-NCPPC, MD DNR, MDE, MDP, MHT, AMTRAK, Balt. City DOT, AA Co. Transportation, BMC, DC DOEE, DC DPW, DC SHPO, DC OP, Howard Co. Transportation, WMATA, Balt. City Planning, MD SHA

AGENCY COORDINATION



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

- Agency and Public Coordination Plan (February 2017)
- Purpose and Need (February 2017)
- Alternatives Report (late May 2017)
- Environmental Analysis Methodology (mid May 2017)
- DEIS (October 2017)

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NEXT STEPS



1. Document results of the scoping process
2. Draft Purpose and Need
3. Determine alternatives to be considered in the EIS
4. Initiate EIS analysis and documentation
5. Continue public involvement and agency coordination

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CONTACT INFORMATION



Brandon Bratcher - Environmental Protection Specialist, FRA
e: brandon.bratcher@dot.gov; p: 202-493-0844

Bradley M. Smith - Director of Office of Freight and Multimodalism, MDOT
e: bsmith9@mdot.state.md.us; p: 410-865-1097

John Trueschler - Manager, Environmental Planning Division, MTA
e: jtrueschler1@mta.maryland.gov; p: 410-767-3776

Danyell Diggs - Deputy Director, MTA
e: DDiggs2@mta.maryland.gov; p: 410-767-7771

Kelly Lyles - Environmental Manager, MTA
e: klyles1@mta.maryland.gov; p: 410-767-3780

www.BaltimoreWashingtonSCMaglevProject.com

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Thank You For Your Participation!

www.BaltimoreWashingtonSCMaglevProject.com



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January 18th Agency Scoping Meeting Attendees

Project Team Attendees

Name	Organization	E-mail
Brandon Bratcher	FRA	brandon.bratcher@dot.gov
Steve Cassard	MEDCO	s_cassard@medco-corp.com
Mark Cheskey	AECOM	mark.cheskey@aecom.com
Megan Cogburn	AECOM	megan.cogburn@aecom.com
Danyell Diggs	MTA	DDiggs2@mta.maryland.gov
Angela Jones	AECOM	Angela.Jones@aecom.com
Kelly Lyles	MTA	KLyles1@mta.maryland.gov
Bradley Smith	MDOT	bsmith9@mdot.state.md.us
John Trueschler	MTA	JTrueschler1@mta.maryland.gov

Agency Attendees

Name	Organization	E-mail
Amanda Ciampolillo	FEMA	Amanda.Ciampolillo@fema.dhs.gov
Regina Aris	BMC	rarys@baltometro.org
Kristy Beard	NOAA	kristy.beard@noaa.gov
Donald Bole	USACE	Donald.R.Bole@usace.army.mil
Robin Bowie	MAA	rbowie@bwairport.com
Andrew Brooks	FAA	Andrew.Brooks@faa.gov
Marcus Brundage	FAA	Marcus.Brundage@faa.gov
Janet Campbell-Lorenc	Amtrak	Janet.Campbell-Lorenc@amtrak.com
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David Cookson	Howard Co.	dcookson@howardcountymd.gov
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Todd Lang	BMC	tlang@baltometro.org
Kyle Leggs	Balt. City	Kyle.Leggs@baltimorecity.gov
Joy Liang	FHWA	joy.liang@dot.gov
Heather Lowe	SHA	hlowe@sha.state.md.us
Ryan Long	FTA	ryan.long@dot.gov
Kevin Magger	EPA	Magerr.Kevin@epa.gov
L'Kiesha Markley	SHA	LMarkley@sha.state.md.us
Michelle Martin	MDOT	mmartin@mdot.state.md.us
Veronica McBeth	BCDOT	Veronica.McBeth@baltimorecity.gov
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Patricia Miller	Fort Meade	patricia.a.miller446.civ@mail.mil

Name	Organization	E-mail
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Tom Priscilla	FAA	Tom.Priscilla@faa.gov
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Richard Roisman	MWCOG	rroisman@mwkog.org
Paul Shank	MAA	PShank@bwiairport.com
Barbara Solberg	SHA	bsolberg@sha.state.md.us
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Tim Tamburrino	MHT	tim.tamburrino@maryland.gov
Sara Tomlinson	BMC	stomlinson@baltometro.org
Bihui Xu	MDP	bihui.xu@maryland.gov



BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON
SUPERCONDUCTING MAGLEV PROJECT

Agency Scoping Meeting | January 31, 2017

1100 Ohio Drive, SW, Washington DC 20024

Name	Agency	Telephone Number	E-mail Address
Megan Coakburn	AECOM	703-465-4295	megan.coakburn@aecom.com
John Trueschler	MTA	410-767-3776	jtrueschler1@mta.maryland.gov
Sara Redd	AECOM	916-995-3223	sara.redd@aecom.com
Greg Golden	MD DNR	410-260-8331	greg.golden@maryland.gov
Danyell Diggs	MTA	410-767-7771	ddiggs2@mta.maryland.gov
David Henley	BWRP	347-203-6121	dhenley@bwr-rapidrail.com
Erinjom Siddiqui	BWRP	443-759-8360	esiddiqui@BWR-rapidrail.com
Kelly Lykes	MTA	410-767-3780	KLykes1@MTA.Maryland.gov
Tanya Sheres	Amtrak	202 304 7865	tanya.sheres@amtrak.com
Mark Cheskey	AECOM	410-599-8572	mark.cheskey@aecom.com
Karen Gelman	Amtrak	215-349-3145	gelmank@amtrak.com
David Cookson	Howard ^{Co}	410-313-3842	dcookson@howardcountymd.gov
ANDREW LEWIS	DC SHPO	202-442-8841	ANDREW.LEWIS@DC.GOV
Robert Mucko	NPS	202 690-5180	robert_mucko@nps.gov
CHRISTOPHER SHORTER	DC DPW	202 412-3460	Christopher.shorter@dc.gov
Don Bobe	USACE	410-962-6079	Donald.R.Bobe@usace.army.mil
Jeremiah Spiga	USACE	410-962-4522	jeremiah.p.spiga@usace.army.mil
SAMANTHA BIDDLE	MDOT SHA	4105455560	SBIDDLE@SHA.STATE.MD.US
Eric Beckett	MDOT SHA	410 545-5666	ebeckett@sha.state.md.us
Jeanette Mar	FHWA	410-774-7152	jeanette.mar@dot.gov



BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON
SUPERCONDUCTING MAGLEV PROJECT

Agency Scoping Meeting | January 31, 2017
1100 Ohio Drive, SW, Washington DC 20024

Name	Agency	Telephone Number	E-mail Address
Tom Masog	MNCPPC Pr Geo Plng	301 952-5216	tom.masog@ ppd.mncppc.org
STEVE CASSARD	MED CO	410-665- 0092	SCASSARD@MEDCO-WED. COM
Tammy Stidham	NPS	202-619-7474	tammy-stidham@nps.gov
Ramona Robinson	Anne Arundel County	(410)-222-3294	rrrob15@accounty.org
Angela Jones	AECOM	410 637 1928	angela.jones@aecom.com
Kate Birmingham	NPS		
Phone participants:			
Jean Wolfers-Lawrence	FAA		
Daivamani Sivasailam	MWCOG		
Matt Caroll	BW Parkway		
Apurva Patil	DDOE		

Government of the District of Columbia
Department of Transportation



January 9, 2017

Bradley M. Smith
Director of the Office of Freight and Multimodalism
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, Maryland 21076. Brandon Bratcher

Re: Environmental Impact Statement for the Baltimore-Washington Superconducting Maglev (SCMAGLEV) Project Scoping Comments

via email to: bsmith9@mdot.state.md.us

Dear Mr. Smith,

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) appreciates the opportunity to participate in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process for the SCMAGLEV Project. With this letter, DDOT is formally requesting the status of Participating Agency during the review process, and would like to share the following comments to be considered as the EIS advances:

- **The Project Study Area**

The study area identified in the Scoping Meeting presentation includes the center of the District of Columbia, approximately. An additional and more defined study and impact assessment area is anticipated to identify specific environmental resources in addition to those with potentially wider direct and/or indirect and cumulative effects such as land use, social and economic, EJ communities, and transportation and traffic that are likely at the broader study area as currently shown at this early point in the study. DDOT would like to be consulted when identifying the specific study area boundaries for individual resources.

- **The Purpose and Need for the Project**

The purpose of the project as presented is to “increase capacity, reduce travel time, and improve both reliability and mobility options between Baltimore and Washington.” The project is timely particularly in light of other ongoing projects and studies that may affect mobility along this corridor such as the Washington Union Station Expansion Project EIS,

Mr. Bradley Smith

Re: SCMAGLEV Project Scoping Comments, Page 2

Long Bridge EIS, Southeast High Speed Rail EIS, and the NEC FUTURE Tier 1 EIS. As such, DDOT believes as alternatives are developed and potential ridership assessed, that assumptions and inputs be carefully considered to take these and other related projects into account in developing the No Build and any Build alternatives.

- **Project Elements to be Considered in the Alternatives**


DDOT would like to be involved in developing, reviewing and screening alternatives for this project. Specifically, DDOT would work with MDOT and FRA to ensure that considerations of project terminus, multimodal access, visual effects, environmental justice, safety, security and other elements receive the full and due diligence of the project team. With Washington envisioned as a terminus of the project, DDOT will be interested in a careful analysis of benefits and impacts to the region versus impacts and benefits to the District during alternative development and later project phases. The location and potential impacts of terminal facilities, including the surrounding multi-modal transportation network, as well as the impacts of any right-of-way needed for connection to the terminal are of particular interest to the District.

- **Public Outreach and Engagement**

As the alternatives are developed and refined, DDOT encourages MDOT and FRA to conduct extensive public outreach in the potentially affected parts of the District. Public outreach should be conducted in locations, languages, and in formats accessible to District residents.

Thank you again for the opportunity to review and comment on the Scoping process and information presented for the Baltimore-Washington Superconducting Maglev (SCMAGLEV) Project. We look forward to participating during upcoming phases. Please contact Stephen Plano at 202.671.2227 or stephen.plano@dc.gov with any questions.

Sincerely,



Sam Zimbabwe

Acting Chief Project Delivery Officer

Lange, Brian (Maryland)

From: Greg Golden -DNR- <greg.golden@maryland.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 6:30 PM
To: brandon.bratcher@dot.gov; bsmith9@mdot.state.md.us; SCMAGLEV Project Team
Subject: post meeting agency scoping follow-up Re: SCMAGLEV Interagency Coordination and Scoping

Thank you for hosting the excellent agency scoping meeting earlier today in Washington, D.C. for this important transportation initiative and study. We look forward to continued participation and cooperation on the transportation planning efforts, to include study of natural resources and impact avoidance and minimization efforts. I was able to provide at the meeting additional preliminary scoping details for MD Department on Natural Resources, to add to the initial information provided in my January 9, 2017 email (copied below). In a post meeting discussion today, it was mentioned that I had provided some written comments previously, and I realized later in the day that my January 9 email actually did contain several specific natural resource points already. The purpose of this email is to document in writing a few of the additional scoping points I provided at the meeting today, and to offer our coordination availability when the study team begins the more specific gathering of natural resource information on a site by site and resource by resource basis. We will continue to participate in interagency meetings and commenting opportunities for the project as they develop.

The scoping being conducted now will help inform the gathering of natural resource information that can be used in NEPA studies to prepare written documentation on alternatives evaluation, including "affected environment" and "impact evaluation". The list of natural resource categories presented by the project team today was quite comprehensive, and included parks and recreational resources, water quality, floodplains, waters and wetlands, ecosystems, soils and geology, and related items. Verbally today, I added these further details and elements: State designated Scenic and Wild Rivers, Environmental and Conservation Easements placed on certain land parcels, the State Forest Conservation Act, and various specific stream designations (Stream Use Classifications, Tier II waters and catchments, Stronghold Watersheds). Additionally, the ecosystems category can break down further into sub-categories such as fisheries resources; wildlife habitats; forest interior habitat; and habitat for rare, threatened, and endangered species (State and/or Federally listed).

In advanced levels of scoping or further resource documentation, we can help provide, discuss, and/or review more specifically identified resource elements and geographical features, such as specific State Parks (Patapsco for example), watersheds (Anacostia, Patuxent, Patapsco for example), rare species habitats (individual Sensitive Species Project Review Areas mapped in GIS polygons, Ecologically Significant Areas, etc.), and other mapped and delineated natural resource areas. Our Foresters can provide guidance on the Forest Conservation Act, and our conservation easement experts can provide information on such easements. Additionally, our staff experts on Chesapeake Bay Critical Areas and Coastal Zone Management can provide guidance on those categories in relation to identified alignment and design alternatives.

We will be ready for additional coordination on natural resources in specific locations within the study area as soon as that level of detailed study is reached. Please continue to use me as the review contact for Maryland Department of Natural Resources. I have coordination underway with our various Units and Divisions which may have information or review actions that will related to this study. Please contact me at your convenience if you have questions or discussion points on any of the information provided so far.

 <p>CHANGING Maryland <i>for the Better</i></p> <p>dnr.maryland.gov</p>	<p>Greg Golden Environmental Review Program Department of Natural Resources Tawes State Office Bldg, B-3 Annapolis, MD 21401 410-260-8331 (office) greg.golden@maryland.gov</p>
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[Click here](#) to complete a three question customer experience survey.

On Mon, Jan 9, 2017 at 9:42 PM, Greg Golden -DNR- <greg.golden@maryland.gov> wrote:

Brandon:

It was great to be able to discuss the project with you today by phone. As you mentioned, written agency scoping response is not mandatory at this time, since interagency coordination for the NEPA Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is currently starting and will continue in detail during the coming months. We look forward to the coordination efforts, and as you know, MD Department of Natural Resources has already committed to being a participating agency and coordinating and providing additional information on a variety of State natural resource categories. We look forward to providing additional information and assistance on resource topics such as forestry resources and forest conservation (the State Forest Conservation Act); State listed rare, threatened, and endangered species; sensitive terrestrial habitats; fisheries and aquatic resources; stream resources, assessments and designations; geology; DNR managed public lands; State Scenic and Wild Rivers, and more. We look forward to partnering on methods to study and provide important transportation infrastructure while optimizing protection of local natural resources through application of good planning, design, construction, and maintenance approaches.

We will attend one or both of the January kickoff interagency meetings, and will continue to review the project study area so that we are prepared to provide additional natural resources information as needed by the project study.

Thank you for your efforts in managing the agency coordination opportunities for this important project study.

greg

 <p>CHANGING Maryland <i>for the Better</i></p> <p>dnr.maryland.gov</p>	<p>Greg Golden Environmental Review Program Department of Natural Resources Tawes State Office Bldg, B-3 Annapolis, MD 21401 410-260-8331 (office) greg.golden@maryland.gov</p>
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IN REPLY REFER TO:
NCPC File No. 7850

December 23, 2016

SCMAGLEV Project
c/o Mr. Bradley M. Smith
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, Maryland, 21076

Re: Baltimore-Washington Superconducting Maglev (SCMAGLEV) Project Scoping Comments

Dear Mr. Smith:

Thank you for inviting the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) to participate as a cooperating agency for the Baltimore-Washington Superconducting Maglev (SCMAGLEV) Project (Project). I am writing to provide comments on the Federal Railroad Administration's notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for this Project, jointly with the Maryland Department of Transportation. The Project consists of the construction and operation of a high-speed magnetic levitation train system between Washington, DC and Baltimore, MD with an intermediate stop at Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall (BWI) Airport.

The comments provided below are based on the NCPC's role as the central planning agency for the federal government in the National Capital Region (NCR). In general, NCPC authority includes approval of site development and building plans on federal lands (40 U.S.C. Section 8722(b)(1) and (d)), and approvals of certain sales or transfers of jurisdiction within the District of Columbia (DC). Thus, any section crossing federal lands requires NCPC review.

NCPC reviews certain zoning decisions and developments in DC, including those within the Washington Union Station North (USN) zone. NCPC is a cooperating agency on infrastructure projects, including the DC Streetcar and the Washington Union Station Expansion. NCPC reviews proposed changes to existing park plans within the study area; the Capper-Cramton Act (46 Stat. 482) specifically addresses stream valley parks. The Federal Highway Administration Section 4(f) de minimis provisions do not supersede other federal laws over parkland such as the Capper-Cramton Act. Additionally, NCPC retains advisory review over projects that impact federal property within Prince George's County.

In general, staff supports the Project purpose, which appears to be consistent with the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital: Federal Elements* (Comprehensive Plan). Prepared by NCPC, the Comprehensive Plan provides a policy framework for the federal government in managing its operations and activity in the National Capital Region. Environmental documentation for the Project should adequately and appropriately identify and address the Comprehensive Plan; particularly the topics enumerated below.

Mr. Bradley M. Smith
Page 2

Transportation

Federal government operations rely on a robust transportation network and solutions to ensure region-wide mobility. The Project study area encompasses many important federal employment facilities. We particularly encourage you to coordinate with the Architect of the Capitol and General Services Administration, the latter of whom administers many of the federal facilities within the study area.

NCPC has developed several rail transportation initiatives that could inform the Project and which may be referenced through our website at: www.ncpc.gov. Our *Freight Railroad Realignment Feasibility Study* explored several alternatives to efficiently and securely transport rail and cargo to and through the NCR. Additionally, our *Southwest Ecodistrict Plan* envisions a second regional intermodal hub approximately one mile south of Union Station at L'Enfant Plaza Station.

We also encourage close coordination with other transit initiatives linked to rail corridors along the East Coast. NCPC's comments on these initiatives can be referenced through our website.

- The *NEC FUTURE Project* is determining a long-term vision and investment program for the Northeast Corridor, specifically evaluating steel-wheel technologies.
- The *Washington Union Station Expansion Project* is a major effort to expand and modernize DC's primary train station.
- The *Long Bridge Study* is an important District Department of Transportation (DDOT) project exploring how to replace and potentially expand the Potomac River rail crossing.
- The *DC2RVA Project* is studying how to provide a competitive transportation choice between the Long Bridge and Richmond, VA by increasing intercity passenger rail capacity and improving travel times, as part of the *Southeast High Speed Rail Corridor* program extending to Atlanta, GA.
- Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority (WMATA), which operates the nation's second largest heavy rail system recently developed *Momentum*, a long term vision for the future of regional bus and rail transit in the NCR. Passenger volume at Union Station, WMATA's busiest station, is expected to significantly grow.
- DDOT's *DC Streetcar Project* will provide a new surface rail transit connection to Union Station.

The Project is in a rapidly growing area of the region and crosses many important roadways. Union Station, the central hub for rail transportation in Washington DC, supports substantial vehicular, rail, bicycle and pedestrian traffic. The proposed project may have an impact on these systems, both during construction, as well as after completion. As such, NCPC requests that the environmental document analyze short and long term impacts to pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular circulation, including access and safety.

Historic and Cultural Resources

NCPC staff is interested in the impact of the proposed project on Union Station and the Plan for the City of Washington (including both the L'Enfant Plan and McMillan Plan).

The Project proposes Washington Union Station as a terminal station. Completed in 1908, Union Station was designed by Daniel Burnham, one of America's most noted architects. The station is described in the U.S. Senate Commission's McMillan Plan as "the grand gateway to the capital;" the style of which "should be equally as dignified as that of the public buildings themselves." It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1969. In 1979, the National Register designation was expanded to include the Columbus Fountain and Plaza located in front of the station.

The Union Station area, located at the geographic core of the 1792 L'Enfant Plan, is a very sensitive historic setting. The L'Enfant Plan, which was Commissioned by George Washington, provided the capital city's arrangement of streets and public spaces. Building on the L'Enfant Plan, the 1901 McMillan Plan located Washington's Union Station at a site just north of the US Capitol Building, supporting Senate office buildings, the National Mall, and DC's historic post office building—which now hosts the Smithsonian Postal Museum.

The physical and visual connection between Union Station and the U.S. Capitol is a key aspect of the Plan for the City of Washington and are part of the defining character of this area of the city. The Union Station site is at the confluence of historic streets, including Massachusetts, Louisiana and Delaware Avenues, NE. A primary vista to the U.S. Capitol, North Capitol Street, extends a block west of the station site.

The Project study area encompasses additional L'Enfant corridors, including Florida Avenue and East and South Capitol Streets. Other resources in the study area include historic districts, cultural landscapes, and commemorative works.

Recognizing that the proposed project has the potential to affect historic properties and the character of this area, staff specifically requests that following resource topics be analyzed in the EIS:

- Impacts to contributing viewsheds in the vicinity of Union Station, such as Louisiana, Delaware, and Florida Avenues.
- Impacts to historic properties in the vicinity of Union Station, including but not limited to, the US Capitol and Capitol Grounds, Union Station, the Russell Senate Office Building, and Federal Home Loan Bank Board Building.

Mr. Bradley M. Smith
Page 4

Parks and Open Space

The Project study area encompasses several large park and open spaces, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Patuxent Wildlife Refuge and the National Park Service's Brentwood Maintenance Facility, Anacostia Park, Fort Lincoln and Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens. Stream Valleys subject to Capper-Cramton Act authorities include the Northeast Branch, Northwest Branch, and Paint Branch. Coordinate with the respective land steward agencies to examine federal interests, including the preservation and enhancement of the NCR's natural and historic areas. The EIS should evaluate potential impacts from station and infrastructure design on both the historic, natural and cultural resources, and the visitor's experience to them. We particularly encourage you to coordinate with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service.

Environment

The study area crosses several major watersheds: Anacostia River, Patuxent River, and Western Branch. The Comprehensive Plan's environmental element provides development guidelines, including water-quality, tree replacement, and wildlife preservation policies that should be used to help guide the project's future planning and design. Every effort should be made to avoid construction in the floodplain (100 and 500-year); to remove trees in excess of the number of new trees planted as mitigation; and to avoid sensitive ecological and wildlife areas along the corridor. We request that several environmental topics be analyzed in the EIS. These include:

- Changes in air, light and noise pollution
- Changes in vegetation and tree canopy
- Stormwater runoff and management, including both federal and local requirements
- Impervious surfaces
- Energy use
- Short term impacts from construction

We look forward to working on this Project with federal and state partners to improve access to the National Capital Region. If you have any questions regarding our comments, plans/policies, or our project submission requirements, please refer to our Agency website. Also, please use Mr. Kael Anderson as the point of contact for the project at 202-482-7273 or kael.anderson@ncpc.gov.

Sincerely,



Michael Sherman
Director, Policy and Research Division

cc: Peter May, National Park Service
Mina Wright, General Services Administration
Stephen Ayers, Architect of the Capitol
Beverly Swain-Staley, Union Station Redevelopment Corporation



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
BALTIMORE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
ATTN: REGULATORY BRANCH
10 S. HOWARD STREET
BALTIMORE, MD 21201

DEC 21 2016

Operations Division

Mr. Brandon Bratcher
USDOT Federal Railroad Administration
Office of Program Delivery
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, MS-20
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Bratcher:

This is in response to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) November 23, 2016, letter inviting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District (Corps) to be a participating agency in accordance with Section 139 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act of 2015 (23 U.S.C. 139) and a cooperating agency pursuant to 40 CFR 1501.6 in preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Baltimore-Washington Superconducting Magnetic Levitation (SCMAGLEV) project. Baltimore Washington Rapid Rail, LLC proposes the construction and operation of the SCMAGLEV train system between Washington D.C. and Baltimore Maryland with an intermediate stop at Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI Marshall). FRA is requesting scoping comments and agency status in the preparation of a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document for the proposed project. We appreciate the opportunity to be involved in the project review process.

The Corps wishes to be designated a Cooperating and Participating agency in the preparation of the EIS for the SCMAGLEV project. In this regard, we look forward to working with your agency as the NEPA document is developed to ensure that the information presented is adequate to fulfill Corps requirements. In general, the EIS should thoroughly evaluate project alternatives, permanent and temporary impacts to waters of the U.S., including jurisdictional streams and wetlands, and the Corps public interest factors described below. This includes an analysis of impacts resulting from all project elements such as: railroad crossings and/or filling of streams and wetlands, grading, permanent and temporary roads, construction matting, staging areas, building pads, storm water management, stream diversions, disposal of any excess fill material, mitigation proposals, and all other construction/operation related impacts, etc.

We understand that the project will likely result in discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S., including jurisdictional wetlands; therefore, the project will require Department of the Army authorization under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The alternatives analysis and methods to avoid/minimize impacts to waters of the U.S. are the centerpieces of the Corps-permit review process. Accordingly, to ensure that the information presented in the EIS is adequate to fulfill the requirements of the Corps regulations, the Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines, and the Corps public interest review process, we request that the following topics be scoped and comprehensively evaluated in the EIS:

1. Purpose and need for the project: The EIS should clearly and comprehensively describe the purpose and need for the project.

2. Alternatives Analysis/Avoidance and minimization: A fundamental precept of the Clean Water Act Section 404 Regulatory Program is that impacts to wetlands and other waters of the United States will be avoided and minimized, where it is practicable to do so. Under Section 404, only the Least Damaging Practicable Alternative (LEDPA) can receive DA authorization. Note that an alternative is practicable if it is available and capable of being done after taking into consideration cost, logistics, and existing technology in light of overall project purposes. At a minimum, the NEPA document must evaluate the practicability of the following alternatives and avoidance and minimization techniques:

- a) The EIS must evaluate the practicability of alternative alignments within the study corridor and alignment shifts to avoid impacts to waters of the U.S., including jurisdictional wetlands.
- b) Bridges
- c) Retaining walls
- d) Steep side slopes
- e) Stormwater management alternatives
- f) Stream relocation as opposed to filling/culverting
- g) Implementation of best management practices
- h) Use timber mats in wetland/stream areas for temporary equipment access.
- i) Consider using temporary construction road access bridges to span streams and wetlands. For any permanent roads, use of bridges to span streams and wetlands is preferred.
- j) Construction material/equipment staging areas should be located outside of stream and wetland boundaries.
- k) Shorten and/or narrow construction widths through waters of the U.S., including jurisdictional wetlands.

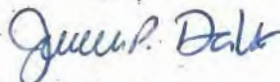
3. Corps public interest review factors: The decision to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity and its intended effect on the public. Among the factors that must be evaluated as part of the Corps public interest review include: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands and streams, historic and cultural resources, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, water quality, considerations of property ownership, air and noise impacts, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. These Corps public interest factors must be comprehensively evaluated in the EIS

4. Delineation: All waters of the U.S., including jurisdictional wetlands, must be delineated within the project area in accordance with the 1987 CORPS Wetland Delineation Manual and appropriate Regional Supplement.

5. Impacts: Quantify temporary and permanent impacts to all waters of the U.S, including jurisdictional wetlands for each project alternative. For streams and rivers (both temporary and permanent), include the stream classification (e.g., perennial, intermittent, ephemeral streams; rivers, lakes, ponds, etc.) and both the linear feet of the stream/river impacts (as measured along the centerline of the stream/river channel) and square feet of impact. For jurisdictional wetland impacts (both temporary and permanent), identify the wetland classification (e.g., palustrine or lacustrine system; forested, scrub-shrub, or emergent wetlands) to be impacted, quantify each classification of wetlands to be impacted in square feet, differentiate between temporary or permanent impacts, and quantify any change in wetland classification in square feet (e.g., palustrine forested to palustrine emergent; etc.).
6. Cumulative Impacts: Cumulative, secondary, and indirect impacts resulting from the project along with historical impacts and existing land use must be analyzed with the watershed that contains the project.
7. Disposal Sites: Describe the disposal options and proposed locations for any excess fill material resulting from project construction
8. Compensatory Mitigation: Provide wetlands and stream mitigation plans for unavoidable permanent impacts to these aquatic resources in accordance with the 2008 Final Mitigation Rule.
9. Compliance with Existing Acts: Analysis of the project's compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996 (Public Law 04-267) [essential fish habitat]. Air quality impacts (i.e., Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act General Conformity Rule Review).
10. Executive Orders: Evaluation of compliance with Executive Orders on floodplains and environmental justice.
13. Project review schedule, and NEPA document preparation schedule. Other important milestones (e. g., public hearings, etc.) should also be listed in the NEPA document.

Again, thank you for inviting the Corps participation as a Participating and Cooperating agency in the NEPA process and the opportunity to provide scoping comments on the project. We look forward to working with your agency as the EIS is prepared and the review of the project proceeds. Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Mr. Donald Bole of my staff at (410) 962-6079.

Sincerely,



Joseph P. DaVia
Chief, Maryland Section Northern

**PARTICIPATING AND/OR COOPERATING AGENCY DESIGNATION
RESPONSE FORM**

Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV Project

- No, our agency does not wish to be designated a Participating or Cooperating agency for the Proposed Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV project because our agency has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the Proposed Action; no expertise or information relevant to the Proposed Action; and/or does not intend to submit comments on the Proposed Action. *, OR
- No, our agency does not wish to be designated a Cooperating agency for the Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV project. However, we do wish to be designated a Participating agency. OR
- Yes, our agency wishes to be designated a Cooperating and Participating agency for the Proposed Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV project.

Joseph P. Davia 12/21/16 (Sign/Date – Authorized Representative)

Joseph P. Davia
Chief, Maryland Section Northern _____ (Name/Title of Signatory)

Donald R. Bole _____ (Name/Title of POC, if different than signatory)

US Army Corps of Engineers _____ (Agency)

Baltimore District (Attn: CENAB-OP-RMN)

10 South Howard Street _____ (Mailing Address)

Baltimore, Maryland 21201 _____

joseph.davia@usace.army.mil

Donald.R.Bole@usace.army.mil (Email)

(410) 962-6079 (Phone)

Please email or mail a response by **December 23, 2016** to:

Brandon Bratcher, Environmental Protection Specialist
USDOT Federal Railroad Administration
Office of Program Delivery
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, MS-20
Washington, DC 20590
brandon.bratcher@dot.gov

* Please note that if Federal agencies do not state their position in these terms, then the Federal agency should be treated as a participating agency.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

January 9, 2017

Bradley M. Smith, Director
Office of Freight and Multimodalism
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, Maryland 21076

Re: Scoping comments for the Proposed Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Baltimore-Washington Superconducting Magnetic Levitation Project

Dear Mr. Smith:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the scoping information provided for the proposed EIS.

The purpose of the proposed Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is to evaluate the potential impacts of constructing and operating a high-speed superconducting magnetic levitation (SCMAGLEV) system between Washington, DC and Baltimore, Maryland with an intermediate stop at BWI Airport.

EPA has prepared information for your consideration and inclusion in the EIS which is provided in the Technical Comments document (enclosed). Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. EPA looks forward to the continued work in the development of the Draft EIS. If you have questions regarding these comments, the staff contact for this project is Kevin Magerr; he can be reached at 215-814-5724.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Barbara Rudnick".

Barbara Rudnick
NEPA Team Leader
Office of Environmental Programs

Enclosure



Technical Comments

Scoping for the Proposed Environmental Impact Statement for the Baltimore-Washington Superconducting Magnetic Levitation Project

Purpose and Need

Since the range of alternatives evaluated is defined by the purpose and need for the project, it is imperative that the purpose and need be clearly identified in the Environmental Impact Statement. The purpose or objective of the proposal should be defined in relationship to the need for the action. Therefore, the need for the action should identify and describe the underlying problem or deficiency; facts and analyses supporting the problem or deficiency in the particular location at the particular time should be specified; and the context or perspective of the agency mission in relation to the need for action should be stated.

Alternatives Analysis

The alternatives analysis is central to the Environmental Impact Statement and it is important to provide it in the public document. The alternatives analysis should include other alternative sites considered and eliminated and alternative site designs of the Preferred Alternative to determine the least environmentally intrusive alternative. As described in the regulations for the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) (40 CFR §1502.14), the examination and comparison of the alternatives under consideration is the heart of the environmental document. It is through this comparison that the lead agency is able to incorporate agency and public input to make informed decisions with regard to the merits of the project and the advantages and disadvantages of each of the alternatives being studied. Consequently, the CEQ regulations require that the details of each alternative, including the “no action” alternative be clearly presented in a comparative form for easy analysis by the reader. The rationale for the selection of the preferred alternative should be clearly stated in the analysis. For those alternatives that are eliminated from consideration, the reasons for their elimination should be given.

The EIS should also consider climate adaptation measures based on how future climate scenarios may impact the project. The U.S. Global Change Resource Program released the Third National Climate Assessment, a comprehensive report on climate change and its impacts in the United States.

Land Use, General Information

The project area should be described in detail and quantified, specifying the type and acreage of land impacted as well as a description of the existing buildings on the site including their current and past use. Discuss any permits required before commencement of the project. This may include a Section 404/Section 10 permit from the Corps of Engineers, state water quality certification, and local construction and zoning permits.

In addition to NEPA, other laws, regulations, permits, licenses and Executive Orders may be applicable to the Proposed Action. A summary of applicable regulatory requirements and approvals with which the Proposed Action must demonstrate compliance should be discussed in the EIS.



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The EIS should examine the potential direct and indirect impacts of the project on the environment. In addition, mitigation measures for any adverse environmental impacts should be described. Areas that mandate individual attention are described below.

Environmental information may be available from the following resource:

NEPAssist: <https://www.epa.gov/nepa/nepassist>

NEPAssist is a tool that facilitates the environmental review process and project planning in relation to environmental considerations. The web-based application draws environmental data dynamically from EPA Geographic Information System databases and web services and provides immediate screening of environmental assessment indicators for a user-defined area of interest. These features contribute to a streamlined review process that potentially raises important environmental issues at the earlier stages of project development

Air Resources

Attainment/Non-attainment: EPA, under the requirements of the 1970 Clean Air Act (CAA) as amended in 1977 and 1990, has established National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for six contaminants, referred to as criteria pollutants (40 CFR 50); These are: ozone (O₃), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), particulate matter (PM), lead (Pb), and sulfur dioxide (SO₂). Particulate matter is divided into two classes, coarse particulate matter (PM₁₀), i.e., particulates between 2.5 and 10 microns in diameter, and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), i.e., particles less than 2.5 microns in diameter. The EIS should identify areas that meet the NAAQS standard for a criteria pollutant as well as those areas where a criteria pollutant level exceeds the NAAQS.

Conformity Analysis: A general conformity rule analysis should be conducted according to the guidance provided by the EPA in Determining Conformity of General Federal Actions to State or Federal Implementations Plans. Under the general conformity rule, reasonable foreseeable emissions associated with all operation and construction activities, both direct and indirect, must be quantified and compared to the annual de minimis levels for those pollutants in nonattainment for that area.

Construction Permit Requirements/Temporary Impacts: In an effort to eliminate the NAAQS violation, GSA/DOS should control or minimize construction emissions through use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) in association with each proposed project involving on-site construction.

Water Resources

All water quality issues including surface water, groundwater, drinking water, stormwater management, wastewater management, wetlands, oceans and watersheds should be addressed.

Source Water and Drinking Water: EPA recommends the Draft EIS address proposed action-related activities in or near wellhead (drinking water) protection areas, upstream of drinking-water supply intakes, springs – including karst areas, and karst terrain. For areas characterized by springs and



karst, address the potential for contaminants to be introduced into existing or future sources of public water supplies, including aquifers, down-gradient springs, wells, and surface waterbodies.

It would be beneficial to identify and map the location of known public drinking water supplies and their sources, surface and ground waters, aquifers, recharge zones, natural springs, etc. within the project area. It is recommended to identify construction and/or operational activities that could potentially impact known source water areas, as well as identify potential contaminants that may impact these areas through infiltration or seepage. Identification of mitigation measures and monitoring activities to protect known source water areas is important.

The following resources may be of assistance:

EnviroMapper¹: <https://www.epa.gov/waterdata/waters-watershed-assessment-tracking-environmental-results-system>

Envirofacts²: <https://www3.epa.gov/enviro>

¹ The Watershed Assessment, Tracking & Environmental Results System (WATERS) unites water quality information previously available only from several independent and unconnected databases

² Includes enforcement and compliance information

Groundwater: The principal aquifers in the region should be identified and described. All wells, both public and private, that could potentially be affected by the project must be identified. Areas of groundwater recharge in the vicinity should also be identified and any potential impacts from the proposed action examined.

Surface Water Resources: The EIS should outline measures to protect surface waters, the aquatic ecosystem including but not limited to assessment submerged aquatic vegetation, the fisheries as well as waterfowl habitat must be evaluated carefully and include a detailed discussion.

Wetlands: Wetlands present on, or immediately surrounding the site should be delineated according to the 1987 Federal Manual for Identifying and Delineating Jurisdictional Wetlands. Impacts to wetlands should be avoided or minimized whenever possible. The total size of the wetlands should be provided, in addition to the size of the wetland in the study area and size of the direct impact. The EIS must analyze the size and functional values of all impacted wetlands and develop a mitigation plan for their replacement.

Floodplains: Floodplain encroachments must be evaluated and coordinated with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Federal Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management) was amended by EO 13690 (in 2015), *Establishing a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard and a Process for Further Soliciting and Considering Stakeholder Input*. EO 11988 states, "If an agency has determined to, or proposes to, conduct, support, or allow an action to be located in a floodplain, the agency shall consider alternatives to avoid adverse effects and incompatible development in the floodplains." The amendments of EO 13690 require federal agencies to use natural systems, ecosystem processes, and nature-based approaches to identify alternatives and require federal agency regulations or procedures to be consistent with the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS).



Impaired Waters, CWA Section 401 Certification, TMDLs

For the alternatives considered, water resources impact analysis should identify designated waterbody use, compliance of the waterbody with applicable water quality standards, and any CWA § 401 Certification issues. Additionally, the Draft EIS should identify if any affected water resources are listed on the CWA § 303(d) impaired waters list. If listed, then any potential impacts on the affected water resource's Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) status should be assessed and disclosed. Identify mitigation measures to minimize further degradation of impaired waters in the project area as well as monitoring efforts to ensure that mitigation measures are effective in achieving water quality standards. Information from the following site may be of assistance for 303(d) Listed Impaired Waters: <https://www.epa.gov/exposure-assessment-models/303d-listed-impaired-waters>

Waterbody Crossings

We recommend characterizing the type of waterbody, including information on width, depth, stream flow, aquatic species, etc. It may be appropriate to develop a waterbody crossing plan and include it in the Draft EIS, which could include possible mitigation measures, such as maintaining no disturbance buffers, in water timing restrictions, etc. and monitoring provisions to ensure effectiveness of mitigation measures. It is recommended that relation of water resources to species of concern be discussed.

Physiography

The physical and natural resources of the project area should be described including physiographic provinces, topography, climate and geologic setting. Soils at the project should be mapped and outlined. Distribution and classification of soils within the study area, and the major soil types found at the project site should be described.

Terrestrial Resources

The EIS should provide a complete description of the terrestrial habitat resources in the study area. Complete species lists for mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, and plants present in the study area should be provided. The composition and characteristics of each community type should be summarized and the functions and total acreage indicated.

Threatened and Endangered Species

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) provides for the listing of endangered and threatened species of plants and animals as well as the designation of critical habitat for listed species. The ESA prohibits the taking of any listed species without (for federal agencies) an "Incidental Take Statement." The EIS should provide a description of terrestrial, wildlife and aquatic species in the study area. Any threatened or endangered species must be listed. Critical habitat for threatened or endangered species should be properly identified. The EIS should describe the potential project impacts to these species. The most recent state and federal threatened and endangered species coordination letters should be included in the EIS. In addition, we recommend that the appropriate state and federal agencies be contacted annually at a minimum regarding these issues.



Invasive Species

Executive Order 13112, Invasive Species (February 3, 1999), mandates that federal agencies take actions to prevent the introduction of invasive species, provide for their control, and minimize the economic, ecological, and human health impacts that invasive species cause. Executive Order 13112 also calls for the restoration of native plants and tree species. Please describe within the EIS how the project will meet the requirements of Executive Order 13112 and include an invasive plant management plan to monitor and control noxious weeds.

Waste Management

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) passed in 1976, continued earlier provisions relating to solid waste and resource recovery, including hazardous waste. The act sets standards for hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities. The management of hazardous waste at the facility should be conducted in compliance with RCRA. The EIS should also state if a Hazardous Waste Management Plan and a Hazardous Waste Minimization Plan are in place.

Identify known hazardous materials, including asbestos-containing materials (AM), lead-based paint (LBP), and oil and other hazardous materials (OHMs), located within the study area. The status of the materials should be discussed as well as remedial methods described (if applicable) in addition to providing a detailed plan for proper disposal.

Community Impacts

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

The state Historic Trust and other interested parties should be consulted to identify historic properties that may potentially be affected by the implementation of the proposed action and to seek ways to resolve potential adverse effects. Please include within the EIS detailed descriptions of the affected sites and potential impacts, as well as agency correspondence and any Memorandum of Agreement, if applicable.

Noise

EPA retains authority to investigate and study noise and its effect, disseminate information to the public regarding noise pollution and its adverse health effects, respond to inquiries on matters related to noise, and evaluate the effectiveness of existing regulations for protecting the public health and welfare, pursuant to the Noise Control Act of 1972 and the Quiet Communities Act of 1978. Noise pollution adversely affects the lives of millions of people. Studies have shown that there are direct links between noise and health. Problems related to noise include stress related illnesses, high blood pressure, speech interference, hearing loss, sleep disruption, and lost productivity. Noise Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL) is the most common and often discussed health effect, but research has shown that exposure to constant or high levels of noise can cause countless adverse health effects. Please discuss potential noise impacts that may result from the Proposed Action.



Socioeconomics and Health Impacts

Discuss the socioeconomic and cultural status of the area, including the number of people, employees and/or jobs impacted as a result of the proposed project. The EIS should address the decrease or increase of people/employees/jobs in relation to its effect on tax base, local housing, job markets, schools, utilities, businesses, etc.

Traffic and Transportation: The EIS should address traffic and transportation as it relates to the Proposed Action. It may be necessary to provide an evaluation of existing roads specifying existing levels of service at major intersections near the project area as well as accident data. If appropriate, an evaluation of the impacts associated with an increased number of employees should be provided. The EIS should discuss existing and proposed public transportation to the area under consideration and provide estimates of expected usage. Traffic projections should then be made to show expected conditions for a completed project.

Environmental Justice: Executive Order 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*, directs each federal agency to incorporate environmental justice into its mission and activities by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations....” The Executive Order also explicitly called for the application of equal consideration for Native American programs. The EIS should identify Environmental Justice (EJ) communities in the study area and discuss potential impacts that the Proposed Action may have on these communities. To assist in this effort, EPA has developed a new EJ mapping and screening tool called EJSCREEN. It is based on nationally consistent data and an approach that combines environmental and demographic indicators in maps and reports. It can be accessed at: <https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen>. Additionally, please consider referring to “Promising Practices for EJ Methodologies in NEPA Reviews”: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/ej-iwg-promising-practices-ej-methodologies-nepa-reviews>

Children’s Health: Executive Order 13045, *Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks*, requires each federal agency to identify and assess environmental health and safety risks to children. “Environmental health and safety risks” are defined as “risks to health or to safety that are attributable to products or substances that the child is likely to come in contact with or ingest.” When conducting assessments of environmental risks, the lead agency should consistently and explicitly take into account health risks to children and infants from environmental hazards. Please identify/discuss children in the study area any potential impacts that may result from the proposed action.

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

The LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System is a voluntary, consensus-based national standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings. Members of the U.S. Green Building Council representing all segments of the building industry developed LEED and continue to contribute to its evolution. LEED standards are currently available for:

- New construction and major renovation projects (LEED-NC)



- Existing building operations (LEED-EB, Pilot version)
- Commercial interiors projects (LEED-CI, Pilot version)
- Core and shell projects (LEED-CS, Pilot version)

LEED was created in order to define “green building” by establishing a common standard of measurement; promote integrated, whole-building design practices; recognize environmental leadership in the building industry; stimulate green competition; raise consumer awareness of green building benefits; and transform the building market. Please address and incorporate LEED within the project design, where appropriate.

LEED provides a complete framework for assessing building performance and meeting sustainability goals. Based on well-founded scientific standards, LEED emphasizes state of the art strategies for sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality. LEED recognizes achievements and promotes expertise in green building through a comprehensive system offering project certification, professional accreditation, training and practical resources. For more information, contact the U.S. Green Building Council at the following web address: <http://www.usgbc.org/leed>.

Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor, but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time. The Council on Environmental Quality in 40 CFR 1508.7 defines cumulative impacts as “impacts on the environment which result from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions.” Therefore, a cumulative impacts assessment should be an integral part of the EIS.

Cumulative and indirect impacts section should identify how resources, ecosystems, and communities in the vicinity of the project have already been impacted by past or present activities in the project area. Please characterize these resources in terms of their response to change and capacity to withstand stresses. Use trends data to establish a baseline for the resources, to evaluate the significance of historical degradation, and to predict the environmental of the project components. For the cumulative impacts assessment, we recommend focusing on resources of concern or resources that are "at risk" and/or are significantly impacted by the proposed project, before mitigation. For this project, please ensure that a thorough assessment of the cumulative impacts to bat species is included, especially in the context of loss of habitat and disease.

- In the introduction to the Cumulative Impacts Section, identify which resources are analyzed, which ones are not, and why.
- For each resource analyzed:
 - Identify the current condition of the resource as a measure of past impacts. For example, the percentage of species habitat lost to date.
 - Identify the trend in the condition of the resource as a measure of present impacts. For example, the health of the resource is improving, declining, or in stasis.



- Identify all on-going, planned, and reasonably foreseeable projects in the study area that may contribute to cumulative impacts.
- Identify the future condition of the resource based on an analysis of impacts from reasonably foreseeable projects or actions added to existing conditions and current trends.
- Assess the cumulative impacts contribution of the proposed alternatives to the long-term health of the resource, and provide a specific measure for the projected impact from the proposed alternatives.
- When cumulative impacts are identified for a resource, mitigation should be proposed.
- Disclose the parties that would be responsible for avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating those adverse impacts. Identify opportunities to avoid and minimize impacts, including working with other entities

Distribution List

An EIS should include a Distribution List of agencies, organizations, and persons to whom copies of the document were sent as indicated in 40 CFR §1502.10 under “Recommended format” and §1502.19. A Distribution List identifies those parties who have been given the opportunity to comment and reveals that those not included on the list may need to be given the EIS for review. This information is critical to ensuring all necessary parties are given the opportunity to review and provide input to the impacts of the proposed action.





United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Greenbelt Park and Baltimore-Washington Parkway
6565 Greenbelt Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770

IN REPLY REFER TO:

1.A.1. (NCR-GREE)

Brandon Bratcher
Environmental Protection Specialist, FRA
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, MD 21076
brandon.bratcher@dot.gov;
202-493-0844

Subject: Proposed Baltimore-Washington Superconducting Magnetic Levitation (SCMAGLEV) Project:
Initial Scoping Comments, National Park Service

Dear Mr. Bratcher,

The National Park Service (NPS) understands that the Federal Railroad Administration, in coordination with the Maryland Department of Transportation, is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Baltimore-Washington Superconducting Magnetic Levitation (SCMAGLEV) Project, and provides the following general comments.

Two large federal parks are located within your project area, the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and Greenbelt Park. Both are units of the national park system that are administered by the NPS, National Capital Parks - East.

The Baltimore-Washington Parkway is a 29-mile scenic artery within the park and parkway system of the nation's capital that extends from Baltimore to the eastern boundary of the District of Columbia. The NPS manages a 19-mile section of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway with boundaries extending from the District of Columbia line in the south to MD 175 in the north. The remaining 10 miles of the Parkway north of MD 175 is managed by the State of Maryland. The Baltimore-Washington Parkway is listed as a historic district on the National Register of Historic Places as a grand entrance to Washington, D.C. The Baltimore-Washington Parkway is a Section 4f property that is both a significant park and historic property.

Greenbelt Park is located in Prince George's County, Maryland approximately 13 miles from the District of Columbia. Before its establishment as a park, this wooded 1,106 acre site was to be developed into a "new town" as one of several planned urban communities within a green belt around Washington D.C. The plans to develop the site were eventually dropped. During the late 1940s, the NPS National Capital Region became involved in the planning for this tract of mature woodlands, which ultimately grew into Greenbelt Park. The land of Greenbelt Park was acquired by the NPS in 1950 under Public Law 643 along with lands intended for the Parkway. The ties with the Parkway stemmed from the planners' concept of using the Park as a stopover for through-travelers in addition to providing recreation opportunities for Washington area residents.

The Baltimore-Washington Parkway and Greenbelt Park contain significant cultural, historical and natural resource elements that the NPS is charged with protecting, unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations. Any SCMAGLEV alignment impacting the Baltimore-Washington Parkway corridor will require analysis to determine the feasibility and identify associated mitigation measures. As a cooperating agency, we look forward to continuing coordination of this project with your staff.

For further coordination please contact Tammy Stidham at (202) 619-7474 or via email at tammy_stidham@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Carroll", written over a horizontal line.

Matthew Carroll
Superintendent

From: Bratcher, Brandon (FRA)
To: [Kelly Lyles](#); [Jones, Angela](#); [Cogburn, Megan](#); [Bradley Smith](#)
Subject: FW: FW: Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV Scoping and Cooperating Agency Invitation
Date: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 9:21:26 PM
Attachments: [DOI letter to Tipton Airfield MX-4501N 20150123 215119.pdf](#)
[NEC FUTURE MD.doc](#)
[DOI letter regarding Tier 1 DEIS for the Northeast Corridor Rail Investment Plan.pdf](#)

FYI.

Brandon L. Bratcher

Environmental Protection Specialist
Office: (202) 493-0844
Cell: (202) 868-2626

From: Guy, Chris [mailto:chris_guy@fws.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 4:53 PM
To: Bratcher, Brandon (FRA)
Cc: Knudsen, Brad; Stephanie Nash; LaRouche, Genevieve; Ray Li; Kahn, Noah
Subject: Re: FW: Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV Scoping and Cooperating Agency Invitation

Although we do not have much to add in the scoping process for alignment I am attaching our letter to the NEC regarding putting lines through Patuxent Research Refuge as well as a letter to FAA regarding expanding Tipton Airport onto the Patuxent Research Refuge. It might be usefull to know that trying to run throught the Patuxent Refuge is propably a non-starter.

Christopher P. Guy
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Chesapeake Bay Field Office
177 Admiral Cochrane Drive
Annapolis MD 21401
410-573-4529 Office
443-758-8628 Cell
chris_guy@fws.gov

Chesapeake Bay Field Office e-newsletter at <http://chesapeakebay.fws.gov>

On Tue, Jan 24, 2017 at 2:28 PM, Bratcher, Brandon (FRA) <brandon.bratcher@dot.gov> wrote:
Thanks for the quick reply, Chris.

Brandon L. Bratcher

Environmental Protection Specialist
(202) 493-0844

From: Guy, Chris [mailto:chris_guy@fws.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 2:24 PM
To: Bratcher, Brandon (FRA)
Cc: Julie Thompson; LaRouche, Genevieve; Ray Li
Subject: Re: FW: Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV Scoping and Cooperating Agency Invitation

The Fish and Wildlife Service will not have specific information to add to the scoping, but would like the opportunity to review the proposed alignments as they move into the EIS process.

Thank you for reaching out to us, and I look forward to seeing the proposed alignments.

Christopher P. Guy
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Chesapeake Bay Field Office
177 Admiral Cochrane Drive
Annapolis MD 21401
410-573-4529 Office
443-758-8628 Cell
chris_guy@fws.gov

Chesapeake Bay Field Office e-newsletter at <http://chesapeakebay.fws.gov>

On Tue, Jan 24, 2017 at 2:10 PM, Bratcher, Brandon (FRA) <brandon.bratcher@dot.gov> wrote:
Chris:

Thank you for your quick conversation today. Please let us know your preference regarding our level of coordination – I completely understand if you want to hold off until corridors are nailed down, but I wanted to extend this back to you as a courtesy.

Brandon L. Bratcher

Environmental Protection Specialist
(202) 493-0844

From: SCMAGLEV Project Team [mailto:info@baltimorewashingtontscmaglevproject.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2016 4:19 PM
To: chris_guy@fws.gov
Cc: Bratcher, Brandon (FRA); bsmith9@mdot.state.md.us; 'Danyell Diggs'; 'Kelly Lyles'
Subject: Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV Scoping and Cooperating Agency Invitation

Dear Mr. Guy:

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), in coordination with the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Baltimore-Washington Superconducting Magnetic Levitation (SCMAGLEV) project. Your agency has been identified as having a potential interest in the Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV project. Please find the attached cooperating agency invitation letter for more information.

FRA requests that you respond to this invitation to serve as a cooperating agency by completing the attached form and sending it back to FRA no later than December 23, 2016. If your agency declines, the response should state your reason for declining the invitation. Please see attached form for further guidance.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. We look forward to receiving your response to

the cooperating agency request and working cooperatively with you on this project. If you are not the point of contact for your agency, please provide FRA with the appropriate contact information.

Submit questions and any other requests for additional information to Brandon Bratcher, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDOT Federal Railroad Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, MS-20, Washington, DC 20590 or brandon.bratcher@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

Brandon Bratcher
FRA, Environmental Protection Specialist



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01035-9589



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/R5/ES-ERR/062195

JAN 22 2016

Ms. Rebecca Reyes
NEC Future Program Manager
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration
One Bowling Green, Suite 429
New York, New York 10004

RE: Tier 1 DEIS for the Northeast Corridor Rail Investment Plan

Dear Ms. Reyes:

This is in response to your letter of November 10, 2015, requesting comments on the Federal Railway Administration (FRA), Northeast Corridor Future, A Rail Investment Plan (NEC Future Plan) for the Northeast Corridor (NEC). We understand that the FRA is seeking comments on the Tier 1 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and Section 4(f) Assessment dated November 2015. We understand from the DEIS that the FRA is considering the no action alternative and three action alternatives. The preferred alternative will be identified in the Tier II EIS, scheduled to be released in April 2016.

The purpose of the NEC Future Plan is to upgrade aging infrastructure and improve the reliability, capacity, connectivity, performance, and resiliency of passenger rail service on the NEC for both intercity and regional trips, while promoting environmental sustainability and economic growth. The 457-mile corridor will connect major metropolitan areas including Washington, DC, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, New York, New York, and Boston, Massachusetts.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), is providing the following comments on the Tier 1 DEIS, pursuant to our authorities under the Section 7(a)(1) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 *et seq.*), the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) (16 U.S.C. 668-668d), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) (16 U.S.C. 703-712; Ch. 128; July 13, 1918; 40 Stat. 755), and the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. §4321 *et seq.*, 1969).

General CommentsNational Wildlife Refuge System

The following comments are in regard to lands in the National Wildlife Refuge System that are managed by the Service in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut and would be negatively affected by rail development in their vicinity. National wildlife refuges provide important habitat for wildlife and provide recreational opportunities for the public. New, expanded, or improved rail infrastructure near or through a national wildlife refuge would have significant adverse impacts on the Service's ability to meet wildlife refuge purposes, and the Service's mission to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. Therefore, the Service respectfully requests that all units of the National Wildlife Refuge System be avoided in the NEC Future Plan for future rail investments. Specific comments regarding refuge lands in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut are provided below.

Endangered Species Act

Several of the Service's Ecological Services Field Offices participated in numerous meetings and webinars during 2015, and provided technical assistance to the FRA regarding known occurrences of federally listed threatened and endangered species along the proposed route(s). We understand that the FRA accessed the Service's website to obtain a list of species by county, and communicated with various field offices of the Service to confirm those lists and the Service replied. That species information is included in the DEIS.

As you are aware, the FRA is responsible for making the final effects determination pursuant to Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA. The Service understands from the teleconference on January 7, 2016, that the FRA will be working with the Service on a programmatic consultation and will address potential impacts to listed species in the spring of 2016.

When the preferred alternative is identified, the Service recommends that the FRA determine the project "action area" which is defined as "all areas to be affected directly or indirectly by the Federal action and not merely the immediate area involved in the action" (50 CFR §402.02).

Pursuant to Section 7(c) of the ESA, the FRA should "conduct a biological assessment for the purpose of identifying any endangered or threatened species which is likely to be affected" by the proposed action. The Service is available to provide technical assistance in conducting this assessment.

As a reminder, Section 9 of the ESA prohibits unauthorized taking¹ of listed species and applies to Federal and non-Federal activities. Additionally, Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA, requires Federal

¹ Take is defined in Section 3 of the ESA as harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.

agencies, in consultation with the Service, to ensure that any action they authorize, fund, or carry out is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat. Until the proposed project is complete, the Service recommends that FRA check the Service's website² every 90 days from the date of this letter to ensure that listed species presence/absence information for the proposed project is current.

Any additional information regarding the proposed project and its potential to impact listed species should be coordinated with the Service's Ecological Services Field Offices that have jurisdiction for New England, New Jersey, New York, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. The FRA should also coordinate with the appropriate state agency departments.

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act

Until the preferred alternative is identified, the Service offers general comments on the Tier I DEIS. The Service is concerned that the NEC Future Plan project may result in adverse effects to fish and wildlife resources, including threatened and endangered species, (on and off refuges) as a result of construction and operation of the rail system. These effects may include an increase in wildlife mortality and injury from being struck by trains, indirect impacts from noise, vibration and visual impacts, habitat fragmentation, and connectivity (both terrestrial and aquatic). In addition, the Service is also concerned with the potential impacts of railroad tunnels, crossings (culverts, bridges), rock rip-rap along stream and riverbanks, pollutants, and surface runoff into waterways.

The Service recommends that the FRA include in the Tier II EIS how it plans to address impacts to fish and wildlife. The Service also recommends that FRA design the NEC Future Plan project to avoid and minimize impacts during construction and operation and protect fish and wildlife resources by providing fish and wildlife passage, incorporating conservation measures, and mitigating for adverse impacts as appropriate.

Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act/Migratory Bird Treaty Act

As you are aware, bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) were federally delisted under the ESA in 2007, but remain protected under the MBTA, the BGEPA, and by certain states (such as New York) as a threatened species. Bald eagle nests and breeding and concentration areas exist within the NEC Future Plan corridor. For example, the highest concentration of bald eagles in the State of New York is along the Hudson River. Bald eagles, especially immature eagles, are attracted to carrion found on railroad tracks. The Service is concerned that additional rail lines and stations associated with the NEC Future Plan project are likely to increase eagle mortality.

The Service recommends that FRA identify all bald eagle nests, roost sites, breeding, migration (including golden eagles), and concentration areas within the project corridor and provide an

² <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/ecologicalservices/endangeredspecies.html>.

Eagle Conservation Plan that includes plans to minimize impacts to eagles. The Service also recommends that FRA refer to, and follow, the Service's National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines found on the Service's Northeast Region's website³, and contact the Service's appropriate Ecological Services Field Office and state agency to determine if permits are required for the proposed project. If FRA has any questions regarding Federal permits under the BGEPA, please contact Scott Frickey at the Service's Regional Office in Hadley, Massachusetts by telephone at 413-253-8952, or by electronic mail at scott_frickey@fws.gov.

The MBTA protects over 1,000 species of migratory birds. Most of those species are not state- or federally listed threatened or endangered species. The MBTA prohibits the taking⁴, of migratory birds, or their products, except when specifically authorized by the Service. The unauthorized taking of birds is considered a "take" under the MBTA and is a violation of the law. Neither the MBTA nor its implementing regulations at 50 CFR Part 21, provide for permitting of "incidental take" of migratory birds.

Executive Order (EO) 13186, signed by the President (66 FR 3853, January 17, 2001), establishes the responsibilities of Federal agencies to protect migratory birds. We recommend that FRA review the guidelines presented in EO 13186. If FRA has not already done so, the Service recommends that FRA work with the Service as part of the planning process to prepare a Memorandum of Agreement with the Service to implement those guidelines.

The Service recognizes that some birds may be killed, even if all reasonable measures to avoid it are implemented. To minimize impacts to migratory birds during the breeding season, the Service recommends that FRA identify important bird areas, hawk watch sites, and consult the breeding bird atlas along the proposed corridor. Specific avoidance, minimization, and conservation measures should be included in the Tier II DEIS; i.e., no clearing of vegetation should occur for the proposed project between March 31 to July 15.

Depending on the circumstances, the Service's Office of Law Enforcement may exercise enforcement discretion. The Service focuses on those individuals, companies, or agencies that take migratory birds with disregard for their actions and the law, including when conservation measures have been developed but are not properly implemented. The Service recommends that the applicant visit the Service's Migratory Bird website (2013b) for more information.

³ Additional information regarding bald eagles may be found on the Service's website at <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/ecologicalservices/eagle.html>

⁴ Take is defined under the MBTA as "to pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, attempt to take, capture, or kill, possess, offer for sale, sell, offer to barter, offer to purchase, purchase, deliver for shipment, ship, export, import, cause to be shipped, exported, or imported, deliver for transportation, transport or cause to be transported, carry or cause to be carried, or receive for shipment, transportation, carriage, or export, any migratory bird, any part, nest, or eggs of any such bird, or any product." (Service MBTA website).

Specific Comments

There will be both short-term and long-term effects on the refuge environment if the railway is expanded within the zone of influence of refuge lands. The following provides specific comments regarding refuge lands in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut.

Maryland. Alternative 3 will impact approximately 60 acres of the Patuxent Research Refuge (Patuxent) in Laurel, Maryland. Patuxent was established by Executive Order 7514, dated December 16, 1936, to serve "as a wildlife experiment and research refuge." An additional purpose for Patuxent was established by Executive Order 11724, dated June 27, 1973, "to effectuate further the purposes of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act." The Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1929, 16 U.S.C. 715, was passed to more effectively meet the U.S. migratory bird treaty obligations through the acquisition of land and water for perpetual reservation for birds.

A significant portion of the potentially affected area was established as refuge land by Public Law 101-519 (the Military Construction Appropriations Act, 1991). Public Law 101-519 transferred property from the Department of Defense to the Department of the Interior, adding 8,100 acres of land to Patuxent in 1991 and 1992. Section 126 of this law states that:

"...the Secretary of the Interior shall administer this property consistent with wildlife conservation purposes and shall provide for the continued use of the property by Federal agencies to the extent such agencies are using it on the date of the enactment of this act."

Public Law 101-519, Section 126(c) also states:

"The Secretary of the Interior may not convey, lease, transfer, declare excess or surplus, or otherwise dispose of any portion of the property transferred pursuant to subsection (a) unless approved by law."

In addition, the Susquehanna National Wildlife Refuge and Garrett Island occur near the NEC Future Plan corridor at the mouth of the Susquehanna River. Both are satellite refuges managed by the Chesapeake Marshlands National Wildlife Refuge Complex (Complex). If Susquehanna River rail-crossing locations or corridors change, FRA should coordinate with the Complex to ensure adverse effects to these refuges are avoided.

Pennsylvania. The John Heinz at Tinicum National Wildlife Refuge protects the largest remaining freshwater tidal marsh in Pennsylvania. The refuge was established in 1972 for the purpose of preserving, restoring, and developing the natural area known as Tinicum Marsh, to promote environmental education, and to afford visitors an opportunity to study wildlife in its natural habitat. This marsh is now a vital feeding and resting place for birds migrating along the Atlantic Flyway.

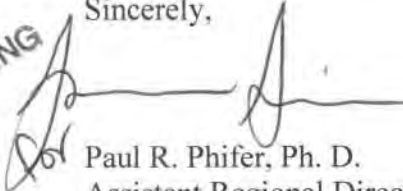
Alternative 2, Figure 4-15 indicates the possibility for several impacts to the refuge. The rail segment appears to overlay portions of the refuge, which could negatively affect approximately 300 species of birds and other wildlife, and the Service's ability to manage a 145 acre wetland.

Connecticut. The Salt Meadow unit of Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge was Connecticut's first national wildlife refuge when it was acquired by private donation in 1971 under authority of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act. The land was donated to protect the wetlands, perpetuate the property as a wildlife sanctuary, and provide opportunities for environmental awareness. The unit has since been designated as an *Important Bird Area* by the National Audubon Society.

The existing rail line bisects the Salt Meadow unit in the portion of the salt marsh on the west side of the Menunketesuck River. The rail line follows the refuge boundary to the south on the east side of the Menunketesuck River in Westbrook, Connecticut. The rail line runs through a large tidal wetland complex associated with the Menunketesuck and Patchogue River. This salt marsh provides a nursery area for many fish species of the Long Island Sound as well as passage for migratory fish. Additionally, the salt marsh provides a rich habitat for crustaceans, mollusks, amphibians, insects, reptiles, and fish. The abundance of prey species attracts a large number of migratory birds that use the salt marsh for resting, foraging, and breeding habitat. A number of these birds are listed as species of conservation concern by the State of Connecticut. In addition, the upland that borders the rail line on the east side of the Menunketesuck River is one of the last and oldest maritime hardwood forests in Connecticut. This habitat is one of the least represented habitats in the State.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Tier 1 DEIS for the NEC Future Plan. If you would like to have contact information for the Service's Ecological Services (ES) Field Offices and/or National Wildlife Refuges (Refuges) in the NEC Future Plan corridor, please refer to the Service website for the Northeast Region. You may contact Glenn Smith or Alex Hoar (ES) or Noah Kahn (Refuges) in the Service's Northeast Regional Office. Mr. Smith is available at 413-253-8627, or Glenn_S_Smith@fws.gov, Alex Hoar is available at 413-253-8631, or Alex_Hoar@fws.gov, and Noah Kahn is available at 413-253-8542, or Noah_Kahn@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

ACTING


Paul R. Phifer, Ph. D.
Assistant Regional Director
Ecological Services

- cc: USACE, Buffalo and NY Districts
- USACE, New England District
- USACE, Philadelphia District
- USFWS, New England Field Office

Ms. Rebecca Reyes

7

USFWS, New York Field Office
USFWS, Pennsylvania Field Office
USFWS, New Jersey Field Office
USFWS, Chesapeake Bay Field Office
USFWS, Refuges (Regional Office)
USFWS, Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge
USFWS, Patuxent Research Refuge
USFWS, Chesapeake Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex
USFWS, John Heinz at Tincum National Wildlife Refuge



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

JAN 23 2015

9043.1
PEP/NRM

ER14-0746

Marcus Brundage, REM, CHS-V
Environmental Protection Specialist
FAA Washington Airport District Office-AEA-WAS-ADO
23723 Air Freight Lane, Suite 210
Dulles, VA 20166

RE: Draft Environmental Assessment and Section 4(f) Evaluation, Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Tipton Airport (FME) Expansion, Fort Meade, Odenton, MD

Dear Mr. Brundage:

This letter is in response to your recent request for the Department of the Interior's (Department) comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Section 4(f) Evaluation for the Tipton Airport Expansion. Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act provides the Department with a significant tool for the protection and preservation of parklands, recreation areas, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and historical sites (United States Code at 49 U.S.C. § 303 and 23 U.S.C. § 138). The Department offers the following comments pursuant to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) and the Endangered Species Act (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) The Department does not concur with Section 4(f) approval of this project at this time and believes this project constitutes an action requiring an Environmental Impact Statement consistent with FAA regulations, Chapter 9, Section 903.

The Patuxent Research Refuge (Refuge) is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS), within the Department. Patuxent was established by Executive Order 7514, dated December 16, 1936, to serve "as a wildlife experiment and research refuge." An additional purpose for the Refuge was established by Executive Order 11724, dated June 27, 1973, "to effectuate further the purposes of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act". The Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1929, 16 U.S.C. 715, was passed to more effectively meet the U.S. migratory bird treaty obligations through the acquisition of land and water for perpetual reservation for birds.

Public Law 101-519 (the Military Construction Appropriations Act, 1991) added 8,100 acres of land to the Refuge in 1991 and 1992, transferring property from the Department of Defense (DOD) to the Department. Section 126 of this law states that:

“...the Secretary of the Interior shall administer this property consistent with wildlife conservation purposes and shall provide for the continued use of the property by Federal agencies to the extent such agencies are using it on the date of the enactment of this act.”

It is a portion of these 8,100 acres that is proposed for potential transfer to Tipton Airport under the Preferred Alternative in the draft EA.

Any alteration of the Refuge footprint or habitat structure has the potential to negatively impact the mission of the U.S. Geological Survey Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (Patuxent) which is located on the Refuge. In order to minimize impacts to our endangered species program, it is imperative that aircraft flight paths do not encroach further on the endangered species breeding area. Impact assessments conducted should explicitly evaluate possible effects to ongoing work by Patuxent. Of concern are potential impacts to our captive research bird flocks, especially to the Whooping Cranes which are a federally-listed endangered species. Patuxent has been a driving force for Whooping Crane conservation in North America for more than 40 years and houses the largest flock of Whooping Cranes on the continent, producing the majority of chicks used in population restoration efforts. Patuxent's crane breeding success relies in part on the natural environment and isolation from human disturbance that the Refuge provides.

Furthermore, Public Law 101-519, Section 126(c) states “The Secretary of the Interior may not convey, lease, transfer, declare excess or surplus, or otherwise dispose of any portion of the property transferred pursuant to subsection (a) unless approved by law.” We interpret this section of the law to preclude any consideration for transfer of these lands out of refuge ownership. Therefore, the only alternative in the draft EA that should be considered practicable or feasible is the “No Action” alternative, since all the others involve a transfer of some acreage of Refuge property to Tipton Airport.

The Department finds the draft EA has not adequately addressed the environmental impacts of the alternatives identified. To reiterate, for the reasons stated in this letter, the Department does not concur with Section 4(f) approval of this project at this time. We would be pleased to reconsider this position upon receipt of revised material that includes adequate information and full discussion of measures to minimize harm as mentioned in our Section 4(f) evaluation comments. Any alternatives that include expansion and vegetation removal from the Refuge should be considered a significant adverse impact and should be dismissed from further consideration for the reasons outlined in the enclosed comments. The Department recommends

that the FAA consider other Regional Airports for expansion to alleviate air traffic congestion around the Baltimore Washington Corridor. If there are any questions, please contact Brad Knudson at 301-497-5582 or at brad_knudson@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Joie Blanchard".

for Willie Taylor
Office of Environmental Policy
and Compliance

Enclosure

cc: Regional Chief, NWRS – Region 5
cc: CPA, Chesapeake Bay Field Office

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Technical Comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Section 4(f) Evaluation, Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Tipton Airport (FME) Expansion, Fort Meade, Odenton, MD (ER14-0746)

GENERAL COMMENTS

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has identified 4 alternatives in the Draft Tipton Airport Expansion Environmental Assessment (EA). Alternative 1 is the “No Action” alternative. Alternative 2, 3 and 4 are similar variations on runway extension and location with varying environmental impacts associated with each alignment alternative. Alternative 4 is the proposed alternative because it is the action alternative with the least acreage impact to sensitive resources including the Refuge. Although alternative 4 has the least environmental impact of the action alternatives, it will have a significant and permanent adverse impact to between 74 and 80 acres of Refuge habitat. The mitigation to offset the significant and permanent adverse impacts is discussed as part of the Department of Transportation Act Section 4(f) Evaluation and suggests “selective clearing, replanting of lower growing native vegetation, a/or the preservation of non-developable airport property as wooded successional forest” is adequate mitigation for this permanent impact. The mitigation identified in the EA as compensation for this 74-80 acre impact to the Refuge is to transfer 43 acres of Tipton property that are largely comprised of undevelopable Palustrine Frosted Wetlands (PFO) wetlands. The Department finds the draft EA has not adequately addressed the environmental impacts of the alternatives identified for the following reasons:

The 43 acre proposed habitat mitigation is inadequate to compensate for the habitat impacts. The 74-80 acre area under the proposed alternative is a dry oak-pine forest interspersed with pine stands. This forest has a diverse age structure and well-developed herbaceous, understory, and mid-story zones consisting of several species of fern, deer tongue, winterberry, blueberry, sassafras, paw paw, and mountain laurel which provide breeding, migration and wintering habitat for forest interior dwelling migratory birds.

The Refuge habitat management goal is to expand forest cover on the Refuge. A major objective is to maintain the biological integrity of mature native upland forest communities and expand forest acres to increase forest interior and reduce fragmentation (Patuxent Research Refuge, Comprehensive Conservation Plan, 2013). In order to mitigate for the loss of this 74-80 acres identified under the proposed alternative, the mitigation would have to obtain equal or greater contiguous “in kind” habitat. The acquisition of the 43 acres proposed as “adequate mitigation” is contrary to the Refuges habitat management goal. The 43 acres offers an “out of kind” lower acreage mitigation. In addition, PFO wetlands are already protected from development by the Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1977. The transfer of this property adds little to the conservation and management goals of the Refuge. The Service has not been able to identify any contiguous habitat that would be appropriate mitigation for this impact. There has been a substantial increase in development (wildlife habitat degradation) already evident throughout Maryland, including near the Refuge -- "Between 1973 and 2010, Maryland's total acreage of

developed land grew by 154 percent from 654,000 to 1.6 million acres”. Unless appropriate mitigation can be identified none of the alternatives, except the “No Action” alternative, should be considered feasible or prudent. This impact is not only to the direct 80 acres identified, but also through the increased air traffic as a result of the Tipton expansion. Greater air traffic will result in a greater risk to migratory birds and other wildlife that use the Refuge. The impacts of increased air traffic have been well documented by both FAA and U.S Department of Agriculture Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (FAA, 2014).

Increasing air traffic next to the Refuge will ultimately have a negative environmental impact on the wildlife particularly birds and bats that are attracted to the Refuge habitat. Because the Refuge actively attracts these wildlife species, the impact will likely be much greater to these resources than if the expansion were to happen at an airport that was not surrounded by a wildlife refuge.

The endangered species correspondence in Chapter 6 is from 2013. At that time no known threatened and endangered species were associated with the project. In 2014, long-eared bats were proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act. The forested area of impact identified in Alternative 2, 3, and 4 are suspected habitat for long-eared bat. Surveys are necessary in these areas to provide adequate analysis for the environmental review.

FAA should be aware of Unexploded Ordinance (UXO)’s throughout the North Tract property. Sweeping and clearance of UXO’s before ground disturbing activities is a significant expense that should factor into cost benefit analysis.

Throughout the document the EA states the North Tract was established as a Refuge in 1999. This should be corrected to indicate that the North Tract was established in the Military Construction Appropriations Act, 1991.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS

Page 6, 3.1 Project Purpose. To meet the purpose and need of this EA, we are forced to make a trade -off between the interests of the wildlife on the National Wildlife Refuge and air traffic. In discussions with Talbert and Bright, the Service was led to believe that the FAA was looking at many airports to alleviate the increased air traffic from Baltimore Washington International Airport. This EA provides no discussion of site selection or alternatives with other airports that may meet the purpose and need for FAA. We recommend that the EA revise the purpose and need to consider alternative airports.

Page 16, 3.4.6. Obstruction Removal. We do not understand why 74-80 acres of trees on Patuxent Refuge property have to be removed even if runways are not extended. The airport has been in operation since 1999 with the current management strategy. We recommend that the EA clarify the need to remove vegetation to remain consistent with current operations.

Page 18, 4.0 Alternatives to Proposed Action. The Service is concerned that FAA has not done due diligence, although Talbot and Bright has had a number of conversations with the Refuge about the expansion (See Refuge Time Line in Appendix A). In this evaluation the Refuge is presented with two options: Option 1) impact 74-80 acres of Refuge land, or Option 2) impact greater than 74-80 acres of Refuge land. There was no alternative that would explore meeting the FAA's purpose and need by expanding other regional airports. The DOT Section 4(f) regulations require rigorous exploration and objective evaluation of alternative actions that would avoid all use of Section 4(f) properties and that would avoid some or all adverse environmental effects. Analysis of such alternatives, their costs, and the impacts on the Section 4(f) properties should be included in draft National Environmental Policy Act documents. The Department recommends that the FAA evaluate other airport alternatives.

P. 28, Table 4.3: Environmental impact category to fish, wildlife, and plants. This table summarizes the impacts in a general term "Habitat Impacts". Impacts go beyond habitat impacts; there will also be direct and indirect impacts to wildlife from increased air traffic. Based on this EA, the Service is anticipating significant and permanent impacts to specific taxonomic groups, particularly birds and bats, which will affect more than just the 74 acres described. We recommend that the table be altered to encompass all impacts not just habitat impacts.

P. 29, 4.4 Alternative Analyses. The proposed action, along with Alternatives 2 and 3 are incompatible land use with respect to the mission and purpose of the Refuge (appendix B). The Refuge has a compatibility determinations process to analyze proposed uses of refuge property by outside interests. If the proposed action were to be analyzed through the compatibility process, it would undoubtedly be determined to be an incompatible use; i.e., a use that would materially detract from the refuge purpose and/or NWRS mission. We recommend that the EA evaluate additional alternatives consistent with the Refuge's compatible use process.

P. 30, Alternative Analysis. The EA states the "proposed action is not viewed as insurmountable by type or intensity" or is "...most environmentally plausible". While the proposed action affects fewer acres of upland and wetland than alternative 2 and 3, it is still intense and all of the actions except no action involve significant and permanent impacts on forest acreage beyond the construction footprint. We recommend that the EA consider the direct and indirect impacts to fish and wildlife resources.

P. 42, 5.6 Wetlands. This section states wetland delineation was conducted on January 17, 2014. The Service is concerned that this delineation was done at the wrong time of year. The project area should be surveyed in early spring to examine intermittent streams and vernal pools that may not have been evident in early winter (Brown, L. J, and Jung, R.E. 2005.). One of Refuge's Comprehensive Conservation Program (CCP) forest goal is to protect substantial blocks of upland forest that harbor vernal pools (Patuxent Research Refuge, Comprehensive Conservation Plan, 2013).

P. 63, 6.5.3.2 Size. The Service disagrees with the characterization that “only 74 acres out of 12,841 total refuge acres will be impacted. The EA should have stated that it is 74 acres out of the total acres of the adjacent contiguous forest block, which is about 1,033.7 acres of “interior” forest (area that is 300 feet or more from non-forest edge). The Refuge measured the number of “interior” acres of the forest block from the airport east along the south edge of Route 32 to the shooting ranges, then south along the edge of the shooting ranges, then southwest along Amtrak rail line to the Little Patuxent River, then upstream along the Little Patuxent River to the Ammunition Supply Point (ASP), then north along the east side of the ASP to the airport boundary. This is a most significant block of contiguous, unfragmented forest on the North Tract (Personal Communication with Sandy Spencer, Patuxent Research Refuge). We recommended that the EA evaluate both direct and indirect impacts to the habitat and wildlife usage from fragmentation of the contiguous forest habitat.

Page 63-64, Sections 6.5.3.2-6.3.4 Size; Visual Information; and Uses. The description of the construction foot print in the EA is a little confusing. The text talks about 74 acres of Refuge being impacted. However, when the impacts to the Refuge are broken down the impacts are reported as: Acquiring 3.4 acres for the Proposed Runway; Acquiring 51 acres to control and prevent vegetation from impacting proposed Part 77 surfaces; and removing 74 acres of trees and brush to eliminate proposed obstructions to Part 77 with the limits of disturbance for clearing at approximately 80 acres. Using the numbers, the maximum impact to the refuge is 134.4 acres. We recommend that the EA clearly identify the direct impacts to Refuge property.

P. 64, 6.5.3.4 Uses: Proposed fencing along boundary of Pine Trail and airport will encourage non-native invasive vine establishment, impede wildlife movement, and present visual degradation to people’s trail experience. We recommend that the EA discuss mitigation of introduced non-native species and all impacts of the fence to wildlife and to people; including appropriate monitoring and mitigation efforts to reduce impacts.

P. 68, 6.7 Fish, Wildlife, Plants. Millcreek Consultants did a Biotic Communities Report as part of the EA (Appendix G, Nov 25, 2013) where the characterization of fauna for “Community A” relied only on general or outdated textbooks and field guides. Consultation with the refuge should have been considered. In the affected 1,033 acre forest, there were significant numbers of forest interior dwelling species detected from 2008 formal bird surveys at points in and close to the removal area: Scarlet tanager (17), ovenbird (32), and wood thrush (29). These are area sensitive species that need large forest blocks ample distance from edge effects. Kentucky warbler (priority species of BCR 30 and PIF44 and MD Wildlife Diversity Conservation Plan) were detected not far from site. Also detected within the removal area in 2013, Myotis bats, were identified in the forested sites through acoustic sampling. Myotis bats include several species that are in decline, proposed for listing (long-eared bat) or endangered species (Indiana bat). Additional coordination with the Service regarding endangered species is necessary. We recommend that The EA update Appendix G and H with current information.

P 78, 6.9.3.2 Solid Waste Impacts, Vegetative Debris. FAA/Tipton would not be authorized to sell Refuge timber or mulch. Heavy debris tree tops and logs, left in piles, or hanging, or in great quantities pose fire risk from hazardous fuels and impede regeneration or restoration and access by work crews with light equipment for vegetation management activity. The EA mentions that Best Management Practices (BMPs) for forest harvest would be observed, however it should be noted that the BMPs address protection of streamside management zones for permanent and intermittent streams by leaving a buffer width of trees, width of buffer depends on slope. There are intermittent streams within the east proposed obstruction removal area. We recommend that the EA provide a description and impact analysis to address deforestation operations.

References:

Brown, L. J, and Jung , R.E. 2005. An Introduction to Mid-Atlantic Seasonal Pools, EPA/903/B-05/001. US. Environmental Protection Agency, Mid-Atlantic Integrated Assessment, Ft. Meade, Maryland.

Clean Water Act, 1977. 33 U.S.C. §§ 1251 et. seq.

Federal Administration National Wildlife Strike Database - Serial Report No. 20. Report of the Associate Administrator of Airports Office of Airport Safety and Standards Airport Safety Certification Washington, DC.

Military Construction Appropriations Act, 1991. PUBLIC LAW 101-519. November. 5, 1990.

Patuxent Research Refuge, Comprehensive Conservation Plan, 2013.

Appendix A. Patuxent Research Refuge Involvement in Tipton Airfield Expansion Discussions

January 26, 2001 - letter from Michael Baker, Inc. to Patuxent Research Refuge (Refuge) announcing a Comprehensive Environmental Assessment has "been initiated" for Tipton Airport.

March 23, 2001 - meeting with Michael Baker, Inc. to discuss Comprehensive Environmental Assessment - at that time, draft EA did include a runway expansion. No one from Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) was in attendance.

July 6, 2001 – Special Use Permit issued to environmental consultant to access the Refuge for inspection of possible impacts.

July 16, 2001 - letter from the Refuge to Tipton Airport manager expressing concerns over clearing of trees needed if runway is expanded.



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Patuxent Research Refuge
12100 Beech Forest Road, Suite 138
Laurel, Maryland 20708

Ms. Carol Braegelmann
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
1849 C Street, NW-MS 2462-MIB
Washington D.C. 20240

January 31, 2017

RE: Tier 1 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Section 4(f) Assessment for NEC FUTURE, A Rail Investment Plan for the Northeast Corridor, Washington, DC, MD, DE, PA, NJ, NY, CT, RI, and MA

Dear Ms. Braegelmann:

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the Tier 1 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Section 4(f) Assessment for NEC FUTURE, A Rail Investment Plan for the Northeast Corridor, and offers the following comments pursuant to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) for your consideration. These comments are limited to potential impacts to Service managed National Wildlife Refuges located in Maryland. Additional Service comments pursuant to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act and the Endangered Species Act (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) will be submitted in separate reports.

Alternative 3 will impact 60 acres of the Patuxent Research Refuge (Patuxent) located in Laurel, MD. Patuxent is managed by the Service as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and was established by Executive Order 7514, dated December 16, 1936, to serve “as a wildlife experiment and research refuge.”

An additional purpose for Patuxent was established by Executive Order 11724, dated June 27, 1973, “to effectuate further the purposes of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act”. The Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1929, 16 U.S.C. 715, was passed to more effectively meet the U.S. migratory bird treaty obligations through the acquisition of land and water for perpetual reservation for birds.

A significant portion of the impact area was established as refuge land by Public Law 101-519 (the Military Construction Appropriations Act, 1991). Public Law 101-519 transferred property from the Department of the Defense to the Department of the Interior, adding 8,100 acres of land to Patuxent in 1991 and 1992. Section 126 of this law states that:

“...the Secretary of the Interior shall administer this property consistent with wildlife conservation purposes and shall provide for the continued use of the property by Federal agencies to the extent such agencies are using it on the date of the enactment of this act.”

Public Law 101-519, Section 126(c) also states:

“The Secretary of the Interior may not convey, lease, transfer, declare excess or surplus, or otherwise dispose of any portion of the property transferred pursuant to subsection (a) unless approved by law.”

We interpret this section of the law to preclude any consideration for transfer of these lands out of refuge ownership or conversion to non-wildlife conservation purposes. Therefore, acquisition and/or conversion of refuge land for transportation use is prohibited by Public Law. Additionally, the Service contends feasible and prudent avoidance alternative exist to converting Patuxent land to transportation use.

In addition, the Susquehanna National Wildlife Refuge and Garrett Island occur near the NEC FUTURE study corridor at the mouth of the Susquehanna River. Both are satellite refuges managed by our Chesapeake Marshlands National Wildlife Refuge Complex (Complex). If Susquehanna River rail-crossing locations or corridors change, FRA should coordinate with the Complex to ensure impacts to these refuges are avoided.

If there are any questions please contact me at 301-497-5582 or at brad_knudsen@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

Brad Knudsen, Refuge Manager
Patuxent Research Refuge

Cc: Regional Chief, NWRS – Region 5
Cc: Refuge Manager, Chesapeake Marshlands NWR Complex
Cc: CPA, Chesapeake Bay Field Office

Attachment:

Attachment:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife General Comments on the Tier 1 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Section 4(f) Assessment for NEC FUTURE, A Rail Investment Plan for the Northeast Corridor, Washington, DC, MD, DE, PA, NJ, NY, CT, RI, and MA (ER15/0629)

COMMENTS:

1. As a landowner potentially being impacted by project, the Patuxent Research Refuge was not directly contacted during project scoping, or Tier 1 EIS development or public comment period
2. Alternative 3 will directly affect 60 acres of stream, wetland, floodplain, riparian and forest habitats located within Patuxent Research Refuge. The project may also impact potential roost and forage sites of the federal-listed threatened Northern long-eared bat located on the Refuge
3. The 2,000' wide affected corridor does not adequately take into account secondary and indirect effects to habitat quality and function (e.g. habitat fragmentation and isolation, loss of forest interior, degradation through increased noise and vibration, increased impervious and resultant stormwater, pathways for invasive plants).
4. Increased rail traffic and speeds is expected to increase wildlife strikes and mortality
5. Conversion of Patuxent Research Refuge land for transportation use is an incompatible land use with respect to the mission and purpose of the Refuge, and is prohibited by Public Law. Furthermore, due to the significant secondary and indirect effects and availability of feasible and prudent avoidance alternative, the Service contends Section 4(f) does not apply

On Sep 9, 2016, at 11:28 AM, "Marcus.Brundage@faa.gov" <Marcus.Brundage@faa.gov> wrote:

Thanks Dan.

Hello Danyell/Kelly/Brandon:

If you would, please bring MAA and FAA up to speed. If the proposed project encroaches/involves MAA's property, then there are some FAA requirements that would need to take place.

Thank you,

Marcus Brundage,REM
Environmental Protection Specialist
FAA Washington Airport District Office-AEA-WAS-ADO
23723 Air Freight Lane, Suite 210
Dulles, VA 20166
(O) 703-661-1365; (F) 703-661-1370
marcus.brundage@faa.gov

"We're Only As Strong As Our Weakest Link"

From: Dan Reagle [<mailto:DReagle1@mta.maryland.gov>]
Sent: Friday, September 09, 2016 11:15 AM
To: Brundage, Marcus (FAA); Robin Bowie
Cc: Brooks, Andrew (FAA); Priscilla, Tom (FAA); Danyell Diggs; Kelly Lyles; Bratcher, Brandon (FRA)
Subject: RE: MAGLEV

Hi Marcus,

Thank you for the early notification of MAA/FAA's anticipated role in the project. Danyell Diggs and Kelly Lyles are the key staff working on this project in MTA's Planning Office. Brandon Bratcher is the FRA environmental protection specialist. I've copied them on this email so they have your contact information and can involve you in the NEPA process.

Thank you,

Dan Reagle
Environmental Planner

Maryland Transit Administration
Environmental Planning Division
6 St. Paul Street, 9th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202
Office: 410-767-3771 **Fax:** 410-333-0489
DReagle1@mta.maryland.gov

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<image001.png><image002.png>

From: Marcus.Brundage@faa.gov [<mailto:Marcus.Brundage@faa.gov>]
Sent: Friday, September 09, 2016 11:11 AM
To: Robin Bowie; Dan Reagle
Cc: Andrew.Brooks@faa.gov; Tom.Priscilla@faa.gov
Subject: RE: MAGLEV

Dan:

If you are the PM for this project please involve MAA and FAA ASAP. If the proposed project involves MAA's property, the FAA will need to issue a FINDING as well.

Thank you,

Marcus Brundage,REM
Environmental Protection Specialist
FAA Washington Airport District Office-AEA-WAS-ADO
23723 Air Freight Lane, Suite 210
Dulles, VA 20166
(O) 703-661-1365; (F) 703-661-1370
marcus.brundage@faa.gov

"We're Only As Strong As Our Weakest Link"

From: Brundage, Marcus (FAA)
Sent: Friday, September 09, 2016 10:59 AM
To: 'Robin Bowie'
Cc: Brooks, Andrew (FAA); Priscilla, Tom (FAA)
Subject: RE: MAGLEV

Robin:

We (MAA & FAA) need to reach out to Dan Reagle (MTA) to get involved early because from reading the articles an EIS is already "underway". That document will need to address FAA Impact Categories as well.

Thanks,

Marcus Brundage,REM
Environmental Protection Specialist
FAA Washington Airport District Office-AEA-WAS-ADO
23723 Air Freight Lane, Suite 210
Dulles, VA 20166
(O) 703-661-1365; (F) 703-661-1370
marcus.brundage@faa.gov

"We're Only As Strong As Our Weakest Link"

From: Robin Bowie [<mailto:rbowie@bwiairport.com>]
Sent: Friday, September 09, 2016 10:53 AM

To: Brundage, Marcus (FAA)
Cc: Brooks, Andrew (FAA); Priscilla, Tom (FAA)
Subject: RE: MAGLEV

Marcus,

We are aware but have not been formally invited to a table as yet. We'll certainly let you know when we do.

Sent via the Samsung GALAXY S® 5, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Marcus.Brundage@faa.gov
Date: 9/9/16 10:50 AM (GMT-05:00)
To: Robin Bowie <rbowie@bwairport.com>
Cc: Andrew.Brooks@faa.gov, Tom.Priscilla@faa.gov
Subject: MAGLEV

Robin:

A few days ago this article was posted. I see MTA will be the Lead State Agency on this. Because this project encroaches on MAA property, the FAA will need to issue a FINDING. If Dan Reagle is the PM please have him send the FAA the contact info of the FRA or FTA POCs.

<https://wamu.org/news/16/09/06/maglev-between-dc-and-baltimore-mta-embarks-on-environmental-study-of-high-speed-train>

Thank you,

Marcus Brundage, REM
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From: Andrew.Brooks@faa.gov [mailto:Andrew.Brooks@faa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 2:42 PM
To: brandon.bratcher@dot.gov; Marcus.Brundage@faa.gov; Jones, Angela
Cc: PShank@bwiairport.com; rbowie@bwiairport.com; Tom.Priscilla@faa.gov; jean.wolfers-lawrence@faa.gov;
Matthew.Thys@faa.gov
Subject: RE: Baltimore - Washington SCMAGLEV Project Cooperating Agency Comments

Brandon,

As a follow on to Marcus's comments below, please include us in any meetings relative to the projects associated with the BWI Station and include us on distributions of draft documentation so that we can provide feedback in an expedited fashion to support both agency's findings. Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Andrew Brooks
Environmental Program Manager
Federal Aviation Administration
Eastern Regional Office
1 Aviation Plaza
Jamaica, NY 11434
Phone: 718-553-2511

From: Bratcher, Brandon (FRA)
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 2:31 PM
To: Brundage, Marcus (FAA); Angela.Jones@aecom.com
Cc: PShank@bwiairport.com; rbowie@bwiairport.com; Priscilla, Tom (FAA); Brooks, Andrew (FAA); Wolfers-Lawrence, Jean (FAA); Thys, Matthew (FAA)
Subject: RE: Baltimore - Washington SCMAGLEV Project Cooperating Agency Comments

Thank you Marcus!

Brandon L. Bratcher
Environmental Protection Specialist
Office: (202) 493-0844
Cell: (202) 868-2626

From: Marcus.Brundage@faa.gov [mailto:Marcus.Brundage@faa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 2:13 PM
To: Angela.Jones@aecom.com; Bratcher, Brandon (FRA)
Cc: PShank@bwiairport.com; rbowie@bwiairport.com; Tom.Priscilla@faa.gov; Andrew.Brooks@faa.gov; jean.wolfers-lawrence@faa.gov; Matthew.Thys@faa.gov
Subject: Baltimore - Washington SCMAGLEV Project Cooperating Agency Comments

Good afternoon Brandon/Angela:

Here are the FAA WADO's comments due by COB today...

Due to the proposed SCMAGLEV Project encroaching on Airport's property FAA WADO has informed MAA, the Airport Sponsor, that they must submit an Airport Layout Plan (ALP), a draft would be acceptable, which depicts a location of

the proposed MAGLEV alignment on airport property for FAA review prior to FRA submittal of an alternatives working paper.

FAA can use the draft ALP as a plan on file. The current approved ALP does not depict SCMAGLEV. On Jan 27, 2017, MAA advised they will submit a plan this month to the FAA which depicts a preferred alignment that FRA/MTA/MAA have discussed and agreed to. The preferred alignment is entirely underground (they identified 60 feet underground) on airport property with a station at the location of the current central garage. The central garage will be demolished to permit construction of the boring pit for the tunnel. FAA WADO advised MAA that any connected action, including temporary replacement of the lost parking areas, must also be identified on the draft ALP.

Given that the FRA Baltimore - Washington SCMAGLEV alternatives working paper is proposed to be submitted for review/comment in February, it is a high priority for MAA to submit this draft ALP so as not to delay FAA review of the working paper.

FAA's Impact categories are attached (see attachment)...FAA has to issue a separate FINDING for the FRA SCMAGLEV EA prior to any action taking place on MAA's property (the airport) so please be sure to address the impact categories in your analysis.

Thank you,

Marcus Brundage, REM
Environmental Protection Specialist
FAA Washington Airport District Office-AEA-WAS-ADO
23723 Air Freight Lane, Suite 210
Dulles, VA 20166
(O) 703-661-1365; (F) 703-661-1370
marcus.brundage@faa.gov

"We're Only As Strong As Our Weakest Link"

From: Jones, Angela [<mailto:Angela.Jones@aecom.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2017 1:28 PM
To: Bratcher, Brandon (FRA); Brundage, Marcus (FAA)
Cc: PShank@bwiairport.com; rbowie@bwiairport.com; Priscilla, Tom (FAA); Brooks, Andrew (FAA)
Subject: RE: Baltimore - Washington SCMAGLEV Project

Hi Marcus,
The Preliminary Alternatives Screening Report is due in late Feb 2017; the Alternatives Report is due in late May 2017.
Hope this clears things up.
Thanks

Angela J. Jones, P.E.
SCMaglev Project Manager
AECOM
Phone: 410-637-1728; Cell: 443-722-5680
Email: angela.jones@aecom.com

From: Bratcher, Brandon (FRA) [<mailto:brandon.bratcher@dot.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2017 11:58 AM
To: Marcus.Brundage@faa.gov; Jones, Angela
Cc: PShank@bwiairport.com; rbowie@bwiairport.com; Tom.Priscilla@faa.gov; Andrew.Brooks@faa.gov
Subject: RE: Baltimore - Washington SCMAGLEV Project

We're talking about the first quarter of 2017.

Angela, can you shuttle a copy of the big picture schedule over to Marcus and co.?

Brandon L. Bratcher

Environmental Protection Specialist
(202) 493-0844

From: Marcus.Brundage@faa.gov [<mailto:Marcus.Brundage@faa.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2017 11:41 AM
To: Bratcher, Brandon (FRA); Angela.Jones@aecom.com
Cc: PShank@bwiairport.com; rbowie@bwiairport.com; Tom.Priscilla@faa.gov; Andrew.Brooks@faa.gov
Subject: RE: Baltimore - Washington SCMAGLEV Project

Brandon/Angela:

Via the telcon/meeting the FAA heard that the Prelim Alternative Report will be in Spring 2017, however on page 8 of the slides it has it Winter 2017 and Alternative report it has Spring 2017. This is somewhat confusing...did you mean Winter as in Jan-March 2017?

Please clarify. Thank you,

Marcus Brundage, REM
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marcus.brundage@faa.gov

"We're Only As Strong As Our Weakest Link"

From: Bratcher, Brandon (FRA)
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2017 10:35 AM
To: Brundage, Marcus (FAA); Angela.Jones@aecom.com
Cc: PShank@bwiairport.com; rbowie@bwiairport.com; Priscilla, Tom (FAA); Brooks, Andrew (FAA)
Subject: RE: Baltimore - Washington SCMAGLEV Project

Thanks for your help today as well. I am attaching the slides.

Will standby for your FAA HQ contact.

Brandon L. Bratcher

Environmental Protection Specialist
(202) 493-0844

From: Marcus.Brundage@faa.gov [<mailto:Marcus.Brundage@faa.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2017 9:58 AM
To: Bratcher, Brandon (FRA); Angela.Jones@aecom.com
Cc: PShank@bwiairport.com; rbowie@bwiairport.com; Tom.Priscilla@faa.gov; Andrew.Brooks@faa.gov
Subject: Baltimore - Washington SCMAGLEV Project

Good morning Brandon/Angela:

Tom Priscilla (cc) and myself was on the call today from the FAA Washington Airport District Office. If you would please send the slides to us. I have included the FAA Eastern Region POC, Andrew Brooks, as well. Please add him to your distribution list.

NOTE: Due to the level (EIS) of NEPA required for the proposed project and the FAA having to issue a separate FINDING because of the BWI encroachment, someone from FAA HQs will also be assigned to the project. Once that person is assigned, we will let you know, they will need to be added to the email chain.

Thank you,

Marcus Brundage, REM
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"We're Only As Strong As Our Weakest Link"

Good morning everyone.

We wanted to put this on your calendar and communicate a few updates regarding the Maglev agency scoping meetings scheduled for January 18 and January 31.

The Maryland interagency scoping meeting on January 18 has been changed to a webinar. Please see information below. We will augment with supplemental materials prior to the call for those unable to join via WebEx.

DC-area stakeholders, please note: the SCMaglev project team will deliver the same presentation in person on January 31, 2017 @ 10 am. You should have an invite for that meeting (which is slated for the NPS - National Capital Region office: 1100 Ohio Drive SW, Washington, DC, 2nd Floor Conference Room).

It's not necessary to attend both meetings as they will present the same material, but feel free to attend whichever best accommodates your schedule and time constraints.

Join WebEx meeting
Meeting number (access code): 596 565 546
Meeting password: qBZdGYp9

Join from a video system or application
Dial [596565546@aecom.webex.com](tel:596565546)

Join by phone
+1 602 585 0123 US Toll
+1 844 712 3247 US Toll Free
Global call-in numbers | Toll-free calling restrictions

Can't join the meeting?

Chapter 4: Impact Categories, Significance, and Mitigation

4-1. Environmental Impact Categories. Environmental impact categories that may be relevant to FAA actions are listed below. These categories are alphabetized below for ease of reference, but are not intended to impose an alphabetical order on the FAA's NEPA documents. Detailed guidance on evaluating impacts in these categories is located in the 1050.1F Desk Reference.⁴ Construction and secondary (induced) impacts are addressed within the relevant environmental impact category chapters of the FAA 1050.1F Desk Reference. FAA-specific requirements for assessing impacts are highlighted in Appendix B of this Order and discussed in detail in the 1050.1F Desk Reference.

- Air quality
- Biological resources (including fish, wildlife, and plants)
- Climate
- Coastal resources
- Department of Transportation Act, Section 4(f)
- Farmlands
- Hazardous materials, solid waste, and pollution prevention
- Historical, architectural, archeological, and cultural resources
- Land use
- Natural resources and energy supply
- Noise and compatible land use
- Socioeconomics, environmental justice, and children's environmental health and safety risks
- Visual effects (including light emissions)
- Water resources (including wetlands, floodplains, surface waters, groundwater, and wild and scenic rivers)

4-2. Consideration of Impacts.

a. Desk Reference. The 1050.1F Desk Reference provides details on current guidance and updated technical information for each environmental impact category that the FAA examines for its proposed actions and alternatives. The desk reference is available on the FAA website at http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/apl/environ_policy_guidance/policy/. This includes references to current requirements; information about permits, licenses, certificates, or other forms of approval and review; an overview of specific responsibilities for gathering data, assessing impacts, consulting other

⁴ The Desk Reference is available on the FAA website at http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/apl/environ_policy_guidance/policy/



SENT VIA EMAIL

January 31, 2017

JANET CAMPBELL-LORENC
Director, Business Development

Corporate Planning

Mr. Bradley M. Smith
Director of the Office of Freight and Multi-modalism
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, Maryland 21076

RE: SCOPE COMMENTS / BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON SUPERCONDUCTING MAGLEV PROJECT EIS

Dear Mr. Smith:

Amtrak is pleased to submit comments on the scope of the Federal Rail Administration's (FRA) and Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOT) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV project.

Amtrak provides intercity passenger rail service over 21,000 route miles in 46 states, the District of Columbia, and Canada. Amtrak provides *Acela Express*, *Northeast Regional*, *State Supported*, and *Long Distance* rail services between Boston, New York City, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington, D.C. As majority-owner of the Northeast Corridor (NEC), Amtrak provides coordinated passenger and freight rail service planning for the NEC as well as infrastructure access and operational support to eight commuter rail authorities and four freight rail operators. Amtrak's experience as the U.S. high-speed rail operator and NEC end-to-end user provides a unique perspective and insight about the Baltimore-Washington passenger rail transportation network.

Amtrak has several concerns with the scope of the Baltimore-Washington Superconducting Maglev (SGMAGLEV) project as described below.

- 1. NEC FUTURE analyzed passenger rail transportation needs between Baltimore and Washington and discarded the new alignment alternative.**

The NEC FUTURE program has already addressed the mobility challenges of the Baltimore-Washington, DC travel corridor with a focus on the role of passenger rail in meeting those challenges. FRA evaluated future transportation needs and considered the capacity constraints of the total transportation system including rail, highway, and air and completed a programmatic EIS. The EIS focused on technology-neutral rail passenger technologies, and although a new alignment was considered, the new alignment option was ruled out. Instead, a preferred alternative focused on improving the existing rail alignment was selected.



2. The framework for passenger rail investment between Baltimore and Washington, DC is already in place.

Amtrak, as owner of the NEC between Baltimore and Washington DC, works collaboratively with the FRA, the Northeast Corridor Commission, Maryland, MTA MARC, VRE, DDOT, WMATA and Virginia to solve problems, prepare plans and invest in passenger rail between Baltimore and Washington, DC. Together, the stakeholders have agreed upon a process to develop and implement multi-year investment plans with leadership by the NEC Commission. For longer range NEC investments, NEC FUTURE has already provided the framework for the Passenger Rail Corridor Investment Plan through 2040 and beyond. The proposed maglev scope is wholly contrary to the passenger rail investment framework that has been collaboratively developed by the region's stakeholders.

3. The ability to evaluate the environmental consequences of Maglev is unclear.

The maglev technology proposed is not a proven passenger rail technology. The technology has yet to be commercially proven. Data and experience are not yet available to evaluate the potential effects of maglev on the economy, transportation system, and the human and natural environment as is required in an EIS. Additionally, BWRR has clearly indicated that this is only the first segment of a SCMAGLEV line extending from Baltimore to Boston, Massachusetts to the north, and from Washington D.C. to Charlotte, North Carolina to the south, which indicates that the current maglev EIS scope does not provide true independent utility.

4. Substantial investment in passenger rail transportation is already underway between Baltimore and Washington, DC.

Amtrak questions the competing priorities between the Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV project – which calls for the construction of a separate maglev network with new guideway, stations and maintenance facilities, and anticipates funding from a mix of federal and private sources – and the NEC FUTURE's EIS to renew and modernize the NEC infrastructure between Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York City and Boston.

NEC FUTURE has confirmed the need for major passenger rail investments on the existing corridor between Baltimore and Washington DC including the replacement of the Baltimore & Potomac Tunnels, additional right-of-way and track segments, and modernization and expansion of Washington Union Station. These and other crucial NEC projects are already well along in the planning process, with several projects having completed environmental clearance and preliminary engineering. Over the next five to ten years, the cost to complete will require a substantial financial commitment from the Federal government, Amtrak and others, commitments that have the potential to be in direct competition with the plans for maglev.

BWRR has now openly stated that further public investment will be pursued for maglev. However, as noted above, major public passenger rail investment has already been committed and is underway. Public/private investment is also already underway. Amtrak has taken out a \$2.5 billion loan with the FRA to purchase new high speed trains and construct infrastructure needed to optimize high speed rail service between Baltimore and Washington DC.



The completion of NEC FUTURE was a landmark achievement and key affirmation of Amtrak's long-held view that rebuilding and expanding the Northeast Corridor is essential for the growth and prosperity of the entire region. After four years of study by the FRA, which involved the use of significant financial and human resources, and the engagement of all stakeholders – the Federal government, state, cities, the railroads and the public – the recently-published Final EIS for NEC FUTURE recommends a planning and investment approach to address the NEC's current and future passenger rail needs. This report should remain the prevailing guide for outlining the pathway of passenger rail.

We look forward to addressing these concerns with MDOT and FRA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet Campbell-Lorenc". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Janet" being the most prominent.

Janet Campbell-Lorenc, AICP
Director, Business Development

cc: Stephen Gardner
Karen Gelman
Jeff Gerlach
Thomas Moritz

From: Cookson, David [<mailto:dcookson@howardcountymd.gov>]

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 3:32 PM

To: bsmith9@mdot.state.md.us

Cc: Bratcher, Brandon (FRA); Donodeo, Kathleen; Cookson, David

Subject: Environmental Impact Statement for the Baltimore-Washington Superconducting Maglev Project Scoping Comments



Howard County Office of Transportation

3430 Court House Drive ■ Ellicott City, Maryland 21043 ■ 410-313-4312

Clive Graham, Administrator

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Bradley M. Smith
Director of the Office of Freight and Multimodalism
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, Maryland 21076

Dear Mr. Smith,

The Howard County Office of Transportation (OOT) appreciates the opportunity to participate in the Environmental Impact Statement process for the Baltimore-Washington Superconducting Maglev Project (SCMAGLEV). OOT offers the follow comments for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Study Area and Impacts

The project study area includes significant sections of Howard County. The study should include additional and focused assessment of resources and impacts. These should include, but are not constrained to:

Land Use

We strongly encourage the study to assess and ensure the proposed alignments minimize impacts on established and planned residential, mixed-use and commercial areas in the study area. Land use and planning is guided by the Howard County General Plan (Plan Howard 2030): <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/Planning-and-Zoning/Community-Planning/General-Plan>.

Transportation Impacts

The study area encompasses significant employment, commercial, residential areas and transportation corridors and we encourage close coordination with transportation initiatives in this area. We strongly encourage the study to assess short and long-term impacts on existing and planned passenger rail transportation, local and regional bus transit, and bicycle/pedestrian transportation. Links to several of Howard County's initiatives are presented below:

- Bicycle Master Plan: www.bikehoward.com
- Pedestrian Master Plan: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/County-Administration/Transportation/Transportation-Projects>
- Central Maryland Transit Development Plan: <http://www.kfhgroup.com/centralmd/transitplan.html>

Open Space, Environmental and Historic Resources

The project study area encompasses several large park and open spaces, including parks and open space owned by Howard County or the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

The EIS should evaluate impacts to both natural and historic resources in the study area and we encourage coordination with the Howard County Departments of Recreation and Parks and Planning and Zoning's Resource Conservation Division. The study should address, at a minimum, the follow topics:

- Changes in air, light and noise pollution
- Changes in vegetation and tree canopy
- Stormwater runoff and management, including both federal, state and local requirements
- Impervious surfaces
- Energy use
- Short term impacts from construction
- Historic structures

Purpose and Need Statement

The project states that the primary purpose of the project is to:

- Increase capacity
- Reduce travel time
- Improve reliability and mobility options between Baltimore and Washington, DC

The project states this project is needed because:

- Growth, development, and continued demands on the transportation infrastructure.
- Demand on infrastructure will continue to increase along major roadways thereby decreasing level of service, reliability, and mobility

Howard County welcomes the focus on improved and new transportation options for travelers and residents of the region. However, the EIS should fully assess the impact of enhancing frequency and capacity on the Penn and Camden lines and that these initiatives are fully considered and accounted for in developing any alternatives.

Sincerely



David Cookson | Planning Manager

Howard County Office of Transportation
3430 Court House Drive | Ellicott City, MD 21043
410.313.3842 (w) | 202.812.1300 (m)