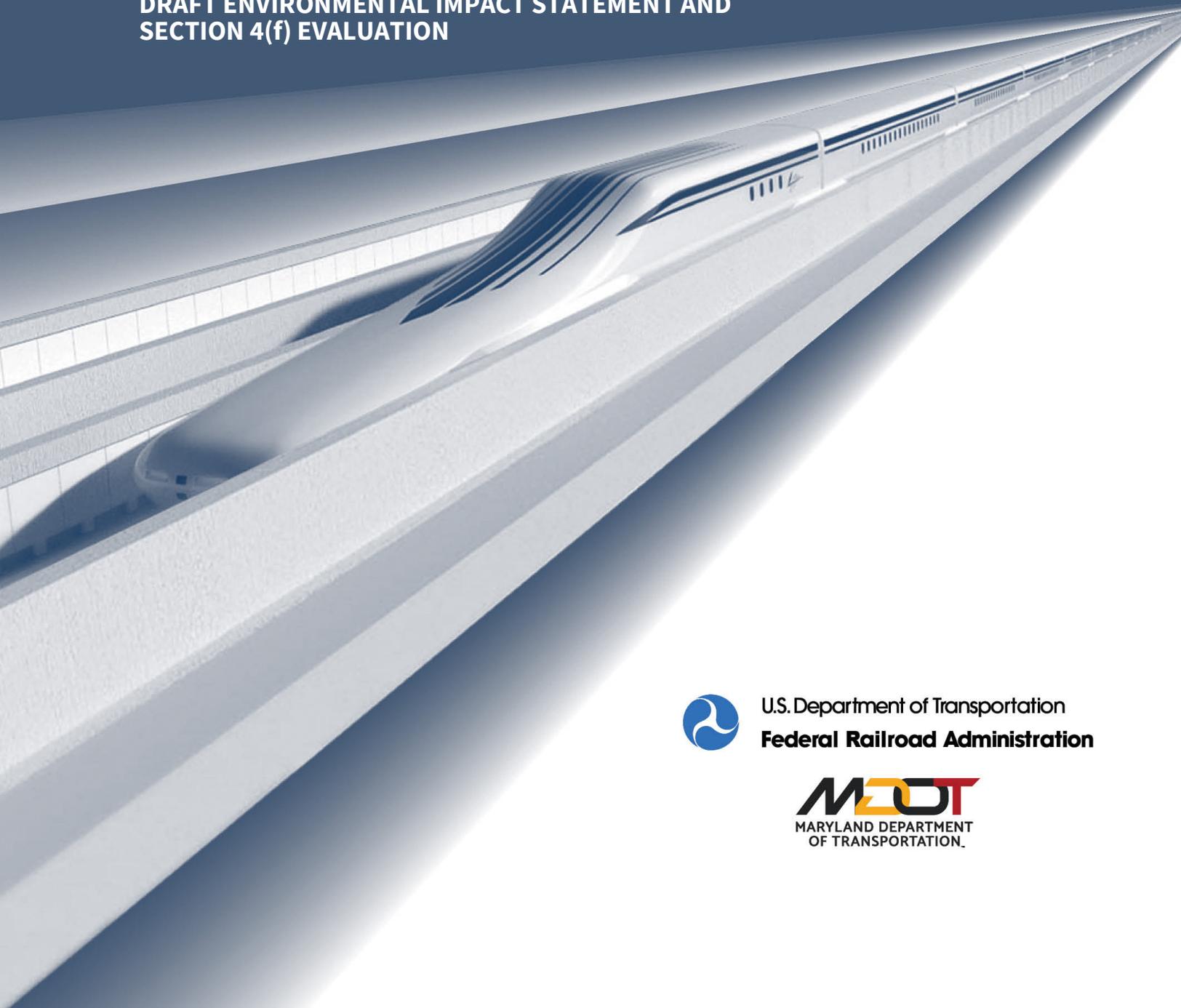


Chapter 5

Public Involvement and Agency Coordination

**BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON
SUPERCONDUCTING MAGLEV PROJECT
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND
SECTION 4(f) EVALUATION**



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration



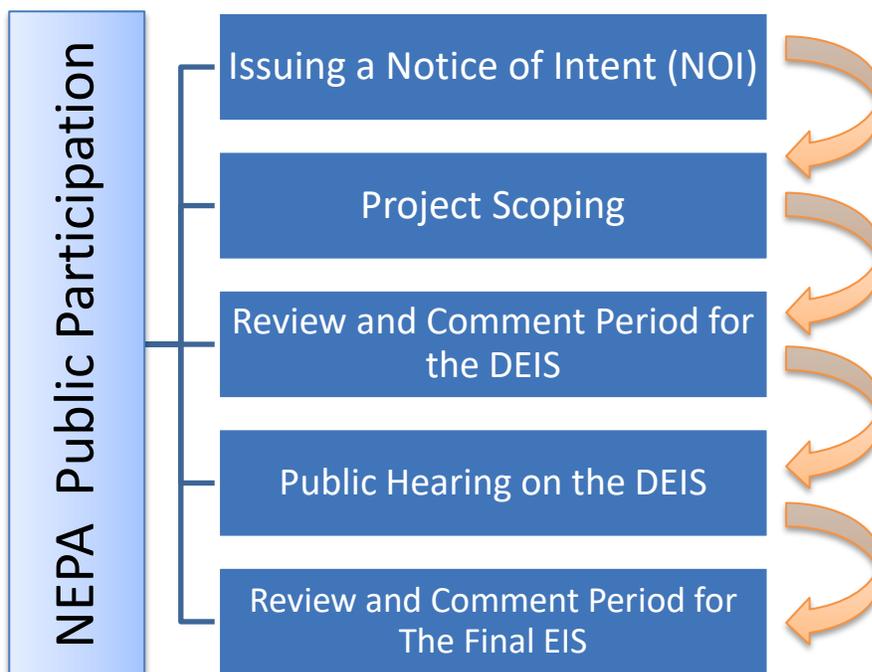
Chapter 5: Public Involvement and Agency Coordination

Members of the public, elected officials, regulatory agencies, and community organizations play an important role in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) gathered public and agency input throughout the duration of this study and has used their input to guide the development of project scoping, Purpose and Need, alternatives development, and the identification of potential impacts and areas of special concern.

This chapter reviews the public involvement and agency coordination efforts conducted by FRA as part of this Draft Environment Impact Statement (DEIS). All public and agency comments received to date have been recorded and included as part of the formal record. FRA will continue to solicit and consider all additional comments received throughout the remainder of the NEPA process.

The NEPA regulations require that the public have access to project information and are provided opportunities to work with FRA to better understand Superconducting Magnetic Levitation Project (SCMAGLEV Project) affects and ultimately communicate with decision makers to voice support and/or opposition to proposed project elements and impacts. **Figure 5.0-1** provides an overview of public involvement opportunities.

Figure 5.0-1: The Five Key Steps for NEPA Public Participation Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) NEPA Regulations (40 C.F.R. 1501.7)



In preparing this document, FRA engaged elected officials, agency stakeholders, community groups, business organizations, environmental justice communities, local

media, and the public, to solicit feedback on the SCMAGLEV Project. FRA engagement activities included, but were not limited to, the following:

- Prepared and distributed of informational materials (e.g., newsletters, maps, and data) and reports;
- Developed and maintained a SCMAGLEV Project website which included project documentation, information, and interactive online mapping with an integrated commenting tool;
- Hosted Public Scoping Meetings;
- Hosted Public Purpose and Need and Initial Alternatives Meetings;
- Hosted Public Preliminary Alternative Screening Meetings;
- Hosted Public Open House Meeting in Cherry Hill/Patapsco Avenue area of Baltimore City;
- Hosted meetings with community associations upon request;
- Hosted resource and regulatory agency meetings;
- Hosted meetings with local and state elected officials;
- Conducted Environmental Justice outreach and coordination with Environmental Justice community officials; and,
- Provide notification and circulation of this DEIS, which will be followed by public hearings to receive formal testimony from residents, business owners, and elected officials.

5.1 Notice of Intent

FRA published the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in Volume 81, Number 227 of the *Federal Register* on Friday, November 25, 2016. The notice included the following:

- A brief description of the SCMAGLEV Project;
- Contact information for members of the Project Team Members;
- 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 E.1.

5.2 Public Communication

5.2.1 Public Involvement Activities

The SCMAGLEV Project included an open, participatory environmental review process. FRA informed and solicited early feedback from the public; encouraged open discussion of SCMAGLEV Project details and issues throughout DEIS development; and provided opportunities for public and agency comments and questions. See **Table 5.2-1** for a summary of public involvement milestones and associated outreach efforts.

Table 5.2-1: Public Involvement by NEPA Milestone

	Milestone							
	NOI	Scoping	Initial Alternatives	Preliminary Alternatives	Retained Alternatives	DEIS	FEIS	ROD
Website https://www.bwmaglev.info/	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Social Media	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mailing List	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
News and Print Media	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Public Meetings (PM) and Hearings (H)	-	✓ (PM)	✓ (PM)	✓ (PM)	✓	✓ (H)	-	-
Presentations to Stakeholder Groups and Businesses	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
Advertisement using MDOT MTA Outreach Tools	-	-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓
USDOT Permitting Dashboard https://www.permits.performance.gov/	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓

5.2.2 Communicating with the Public

FRA and Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) developed a public involvement plan which includes several outreach tools and activities to involve the public. The following is a list of activities:

- **Permitting Dashboard**

FRA added the SCMAGLEV Project to the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Permitting Dashboard for Federal Infrastructure Projects (www.permits.performance.gov), an online tool for Federal agencies, project

developers and interested members of the public to track the Federal government's permitting and review process for large or complex infrastructure projects.

- **SCMAGLEV Project Website**

FRA and MDOT MTA launched the SCMAGLEV Project website on November 25, 2016 which can be found at www.bwmaglev.info. The website includes an overview of the SCMAGLEV Project and information on superconducting magnetic levitation technology, the NEPA process, SCMAGLEV Project documents, past and upcoming public meeting dates and locations, and public meeting displays and materials (**Figure 5.1-1**). The SCMAGLEV Project website allows interested parties to become involved in the NEPA process by joining the mailing list and locating contact information to reach out to Project Team Members.

The SCMAGLEV Project website is the main source of SCMAGLEV Project information for the public and is updated as appropriate. The website provides critical published Project documents, interactive graphic Information System (GIS) mapping, a public survey/questionnaire, FAQ's, a Project milestone schedule, and a portal for concerned citizens to provide comments. SCMAGLEV Project information developed for the website and social media platforms has been formatted for optimized viewing on mobile devices. All public meeting advertisements and additional public outreach materials contain the website address and encourage readers to visit the site.

In addition to the SCMAGLEV Project website, other Federal, regional, and local jurisdictions and transportation agencies' websites, including websites for Maryland Department of Transportation, Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA), FRA, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Administration (WMATA), and District Department of Transportation (DDOT), have been used to periodically post project information such as meeting dates and locations for upcoming SCMAGLEV Project milestones.

- **Social Media**

The use of social media platforms is an effective way to disperse information quickly to a large audience. FRA and MDOT MTA used social media platforms to increase SCMAGLEV Project and superconducting magnetic levitation technology awareness, as well as provide information such as important dates, documents, and SCMAGLEV Project milestones. Social media can also be a powerful tool to solicit feedback from the public. FRA and MDOT MTA utilized social media to advertise public meetings and currently posts updates on the MDOT MTA's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram social media outlets.

Figure 5.1-1: Screen Capture of Project Website



- **Mailing List**

FRA and MDOT MTA developed a comprehensive mailing list that includes stakeholders such as community groups, chambers of commerce, neighborhood associations, interested residents, and elected officials. This list was used to announce the DEIS Publication and corresponding Public Hearings. FRA and MDOT MTA sent out postcards announcing the scoping meetings in December 2016 and preliminary alternatives open house meetings in April 2017, October 2017, December 2018. FRA continues to refine the process for reaching additional interested parties such as the wider general public and businesses through a constantly updated electronic mailing list using buffer areas surrounding the proposed alternatives for bulk mailings instead of using zone areas for bulk mail. The mailing list is used to inform interested parties about the SCMAGLEV Project status and meeting notifications. Stakeholders may request to be added to the mailing lists at public or interagency meetings, via the website or email. FRA and MDOT MTA will continue to add stakeholders to the list throughout the completion of the NEPA process.

- **SCMAGLEV Project Fact Sheets**

FRA developed SCMAGLEV Project fact sheets (in both English and Spanish) at key milestones for the SCMAGLEV Project, for the purposes of informing the general public about this EIS process, providing information on the SCMAGLEV Project, announcing public participation opportunities, and providing SCMAGLEV Project contact information.

- **Mass Email Distribution**

Mass email distribution (email blasts) have been used to inform the public, elected officials, and agency representatives about upcoming meetings and significant milestones in the NEPA process. Mass email blasts will be used for future meeting updates and SCMAGLEV Project activities and to disseminate announcements electronically.

- **Local Government and Stakeholder Briefings**

FRA has briefed the appropriate local government entities and stakeholders to provide information, answer questions, and receive feedback.

- **News and Print Media**

In addition to social media and the SCMAGLEV Project website, FRA and MDOT MTA used additional media outlets to advertise public meetings. FRA and MDOT MTA advertised the public scoping process, scoping meetings, and preliminary alternatives meetings in a variety of local media sources, including featured advertisements on afro.com, patch.com, the *Latin Opinion*, desktop and mobile pages for Anne Arundel County and Takoma Park, the *Prince George's County Sentinel*, *Baltimore Sun* desktop and touchscreen pages, the Transportation Research Board (TRB) iPad and mobile applications, and The *Washington Post* desktop and mobile pages. Additional media platforms, including print, internet,

radio, television, and billboards will be considered as the SCMAGLEV Project progresses through the completion of the NEPA process.

- **Meeting Fliers**

Meeting announcement fliers, in English and Spanish, have been mailed and/or emailed to the SCMAGLEV Project mailing list. Fliers have also been distributed to libraries, public community centers, and other community gathering places. Additional fliers may be provided announcing future meetings as the SCMAGLEV Project completes the NEPA process.

- **Mass Transit Advertisements**

FRA and MDOT MTA coordinated SCMAGLEV Project advertisements for potential use with regional and local mass transit agencies that operate within the Project Study Area. The advertisements are formatted to be featured in bus and train stations and stops, airports, and on vehicles and trains. The advertisements were used to inform current transit users about the SCMAGLEV Project and direct the public to the SCMAGLEV Project website for additional information regarding this EIS and public involvement process.

- **Environmental Justice Outreach**

The intent of the SCMAGLEV Project outreach is to ensure that stakeholders are provided opportunities to be heard and to participate meaningfully from the outset of the SCMAGLEV Project and throughout all phases of project development. Preliminary research has identified potential Environmental Justice communities in the Project Study Area. As part of the NEPA process, potentially impacted Environmental Justice communities within the Project Study Area have been included in the public outreach process so that they can participate meaningfully in review of the SCMAGLEV Project and its potential effects on the human environment.

Additional details about the Environmental Justice outreach efforts can be found in Section 4.5 of this document.

- **Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Outreach**

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

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

- **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 508 Compliance**

To the extent possible, and in accordance with Federal, state, and local regulations, public outreach materials and events have been generated to comply with ADA and Section 508 requirements to accommodate disabled and/or elderly citizens. The ADA and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act guarantee that all people have equal access to goods, services, and communication. Section 508 regulations apply specifically to “information communication technology” for Federal government agencies and services. In addition, all meeting materials and communications have been designed with the intent to fully accommodate people with hearing and/or visual impairments (i.e., written transcripts, closed captioning, adjustable text size, and compatibility with computer automated screen readers). FRA and MDOT MTA also offer additional assistance through the Office of Customer and Community Relations at 410-767-3999 or 866-743-3682 or TTY 410-539-3497, through which sign language interpreters, foreign language interpreters, and assistance for the visually impaired are available upon request.

- **Public Comments**

Comment periods are required as part of the NEPA process during the NEPA Scoping phase and after the publication of the DEIS. Comment periods are advertised prior to the beginning of the commenting period and extend at least 30-45 days after they are announced. Comments received during the required comment periods are subsequently addressed in future iterations of the EIS.

In addition to these required commenting periods, FRA solicits feedback and comments from the public throughout the planning phase of the SCMAGLEV Project. The SCMAGLEV Project website includes comment forms and contact information for Project Team Members. During all scheduled public meetings and all SCMAGLEV Project meetings with citizens, businesses, advocacy groups and other stakeholders, feedback and comments are actively solicited from participants via onsite paper and electronic comment cards. For comments received outside of advertised comment periods, FRA collects and files the comments in a database. Comments are filed by category based on technical subject matter (e.g., wetlands, parklands, noise, etc.). Comments seeking response from FRA are filed as “response needed” and forwarded to the correct Project Team Members discipline lead for a response.

5.3 Public Outreach

Four rounds of public meetings have been held to date for the following: Scoping, informational public open houses for Purpose and Need and initial alternatives, informational open houses for preliminary alternatives screening, and an informational open house for the proposed station and trainset maintenance facility in the Cherry Hill/Patapsco Avenue area of Baltimore. FRA and MDOT MTA held the public scoping meetings in December 2016, the purpose and need and initial alternatives open house meetings in April 2017, the preliminary alternatives screening public open house meetings in October 2017, and the Cherry Hill/Patapsco Avenue Baltimore meeting in December 2018.

Following publication of this DEIS, FRA will host a series of public hearings. The public hearing(s) would include an open house, a presentation, and an opportunity for oral testimony recorded by a stenographer. FRA will not respond to the oral testimony at the meeting, and conversations with Project Team Members during the open house portion of the meeting would not be reflected in the SCMAGLEV Project record.

5.3.1 Public Scoping Process, Meetings and Comments – December 2016

Public notification of the SCMAGLEV Project and the NEPA process began in November 2016. The NOI published in the *Federal Register* on November 25, 2016 marked the official beginning of the scoping outreach process and comment period. FRA held a series of public scoping meetings in December 2016, and the associated public scoping comment period ended on January 9, 2017 (after 45 days). However, feedback from the public and any stakeholder is accepted throughout the NEPA process.

Scoping outreach and notification conducted by FRA include the NOI published in the *Federal Register*; the SCMAGLEV 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 flier distribution at community centers, recreation centers, libraries, and community organizations. Outreach and notification activities utilized U.S. Census and GIS data from the geographic extent of the defined Project Study Area to develop a coordinated mailing list that would emphasize communication with EJ communities.

FRA and MDOT MTA sent a total of 669 postcard mailings to community groups, chambers of commerce, and neighborhood associations in early December 2016. FRA defined the mailing list based upon proximity to proposed alternative alignments

FRA sent letters 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 that represent 23 cities and towns, including Baltimore City, MD and Washington, D.C.; and,
- District of Columbia Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) chairpersons.

Letters to elected officials featured a description of the SCMAGLEV Project, a list of relevant laws, the deadline for sending scoping comments, Project Study Area map, 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 E.3. Follow-up phone calls and/or e-mails were made each state-wide, district-wide, and county-wide elected official within the Project Study Area, as well as to at least one elected representative for each town, municipality, and ANC (in Washington, D.C.), during the week of December 5, 2016.

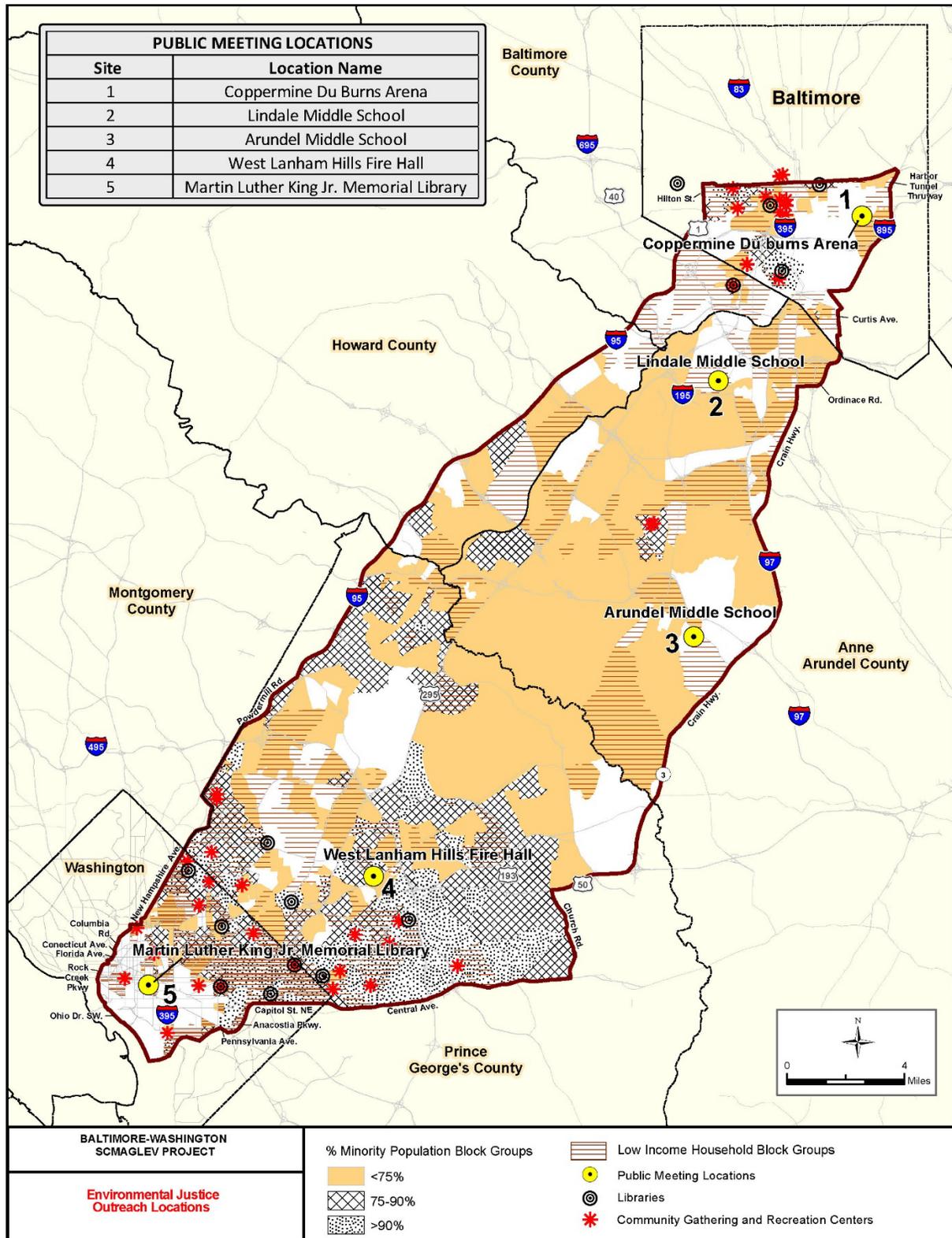
FRA and MDOT MTA advertised the public scoping process and scoping open house meetings in a variety of local media sources. FRA featured advertisements on the MDOT MTA's Instagram and Facebook pages; afro.com; the patch.com; desktop and mobile pages for Anne Arundel County and the City of Takoma Park; 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.

EJ communities, populations with high concentrations of minority and/or low-income individuals, may be less likely to view online communications. To reach these communities, on December 5, 2016 FRA and MDOT MTA distributed hard copy fliers in person or via mail to the 58 different locations, listed by type in **Table 5.3-1** and shown **Figure 5.3-1** (the addresses of the flier distribution locations are provided in Appendix E.3).

Table 5.3-1: Scoping Flier Distribution

Location Type	District of Columbia	Prince George's County	Anne Arundel County	Baltimore City/County	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

Figure 5.3-1: Environmental Justice Communities and Scoping Flier Distribution Locations



5.3.2 Scoping Public Open House Meetings – December 2016

FRA conducted five public open house meetings throughout the Project Study Area in mid-December 2016. These open house meetings provided opportunities for members of the public and elected officials to learn about the SCMAGLEV Project by speaking with the Project Team Members and viewing the display boards shown in Appendix E.5. 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 5.3-2**.

In addition to the 57 comments submitted at the public meetings, 16 comments were submitted via the SCMAGLEV Project e-mail and two comments were submitted via mail, for a total of 75 comments. All 75 public comments are provided in Appendix E.3. The Project Team Members categorized these comments into 20 topics, as shown in **Table 5.3-3**.

Table 5.3-2: Scoping Public Open House Meeting Dates and Times

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, D.C. 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

Table 5.3-3: 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%

Topic	Number of Comments*	Percent of Comments*
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 total greater than 100 percent. Percentages are rounded to the nearest 1 percent.

5.3.3 Purpose and Need and Initial Alternatives Public Open House Meetings – April 2017

The Project Team Members encouraged agency and public input throughout the SCMAGLEV Project Purpose and Need development and the development of the initial alternatives. The Project Team Members facilitated two agency and five public meetings and maintained a SCMAGLEV Project website and SCMAGLEV Project e-mail account. Input from these meetings informed the *Preliminary Alternatives Screening Report* and was used to identify potential impacts for further research.

FRA and MDOT MTA informed the public of the SCMAGLEV Project Purpose and Need and initial alternatives outreach phase via the SCMAGLEV Project website (www.bwmaglev.info) and via notices posted in local and major newspapers; at community and neighborhood organizations; and sent to Federal, state, county, and local officials. FRA and MDOT MTA also distributed fliers to community centers.

FRA and MDOT MTA held a series of five public open houses, shown in **Table 5.3-4**, throughout the Project Study Area. The open houses included 20 display boards focused on the SCMAGLEV Project Purpose and Need and preliminary alternatives

screening process. Preliminary alternatives mapping was available for review and Project Team Members were present to explain the boards and answer questions.

Table 5.3-4: Purpose and Need and Initial Alternatives Open House Meetings

Date	Time	Location	Address	Sign-Ins	Comments
Monday, April 3, 2017	5:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Baltimore War Memorial	101 N. Gay Street Baltimore, MD 21202	8	1
Tuesday, April 4, 2017	5:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Lindale Middle School	1179 Hammond Lane, Odenton, MD 21113	23	4
Wednesday, April 5, 2017	5:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Bowie Community Center	3209 Stonybrook Drive Bowie, MD 20715	97	41
Thursday, April 6, 2017	5:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Cheverly Town Hall	6401 Forest Road Cheverly, MD 20785	14	1
Saturday, April 8, 2017	10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Courtyard Marriott	1325 2nd Street, NE Washington, D.C. 20002	13	5
Total				155	52

Using the same process as the Public Scoping Open House Meetings, FRA and MDOT MTA advertised the Purpose and Need and Initial Alternatives public open house meetings in a variety of local media sources. Advertisements were featured on the MDOT 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.

Keeping consistent with the approach used for the scoping public open house meetings, FRA and MDOT MTA distributed hard copy fliers to EJ communities and areas with high concentrations of minority and/or low-income individuals in March 2017 in person or via mail to the 58 different location types listed in **Table 5.3-5**.

Table 5.3-5: Purpose and Need and Initial Alternatives Open House Flier Distribution

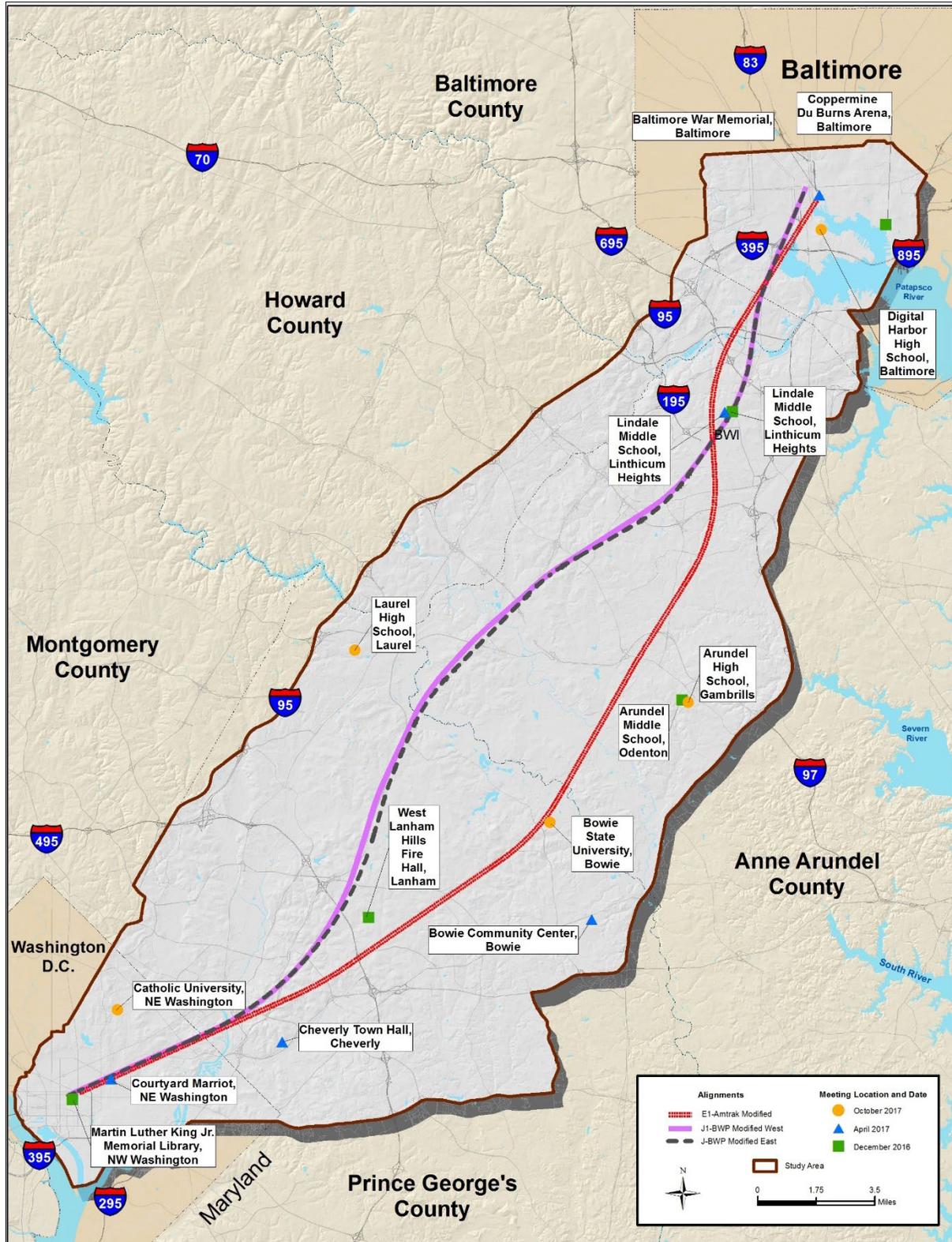
Location Type	District of Columbia	Prince George's County	Anne Arundel County	Baltimore City/County	Total
Community Organizations	5	2	0	4	11
Libraries	6	4	0	5	15
Community Centers	0	10	0	0	10
Recreation Centers	8	1	1	2	12
Health Centers	0	1	0	1	2
Transit Stops	0	0	0	8	8
Total	19	18	1	20	58

5.3.4 Preliminary Alternatives Screening Public Open House Meetings – October 2017

Similar to the prior public meetings, FRA and MDOT MTA informed the public of the revised Draft SCMAGLEV Project Purpose and Need and preliminary alignments during outreach via the SCMAGLEV Project website (<http://www.bwmaglev.info>) and notices posted in local and major newspapers; on-line social media and advertisements; notices posted at community and neighborhood organizations; and notices sent to Federal, state, county, and local officials. FRA and MDOT MTA also distributed Fliers to community centers and to EJ sensitive locations. FRA and MDOT MTA held a third round of five public open houses to present the findings of the draft Preliminary Alternatives Screening Report (PASR) in October 2017. See **Figure 5.3-2** for a map illustrating the locations of the public open house meetings and the preliminary alternatives presented at that time.

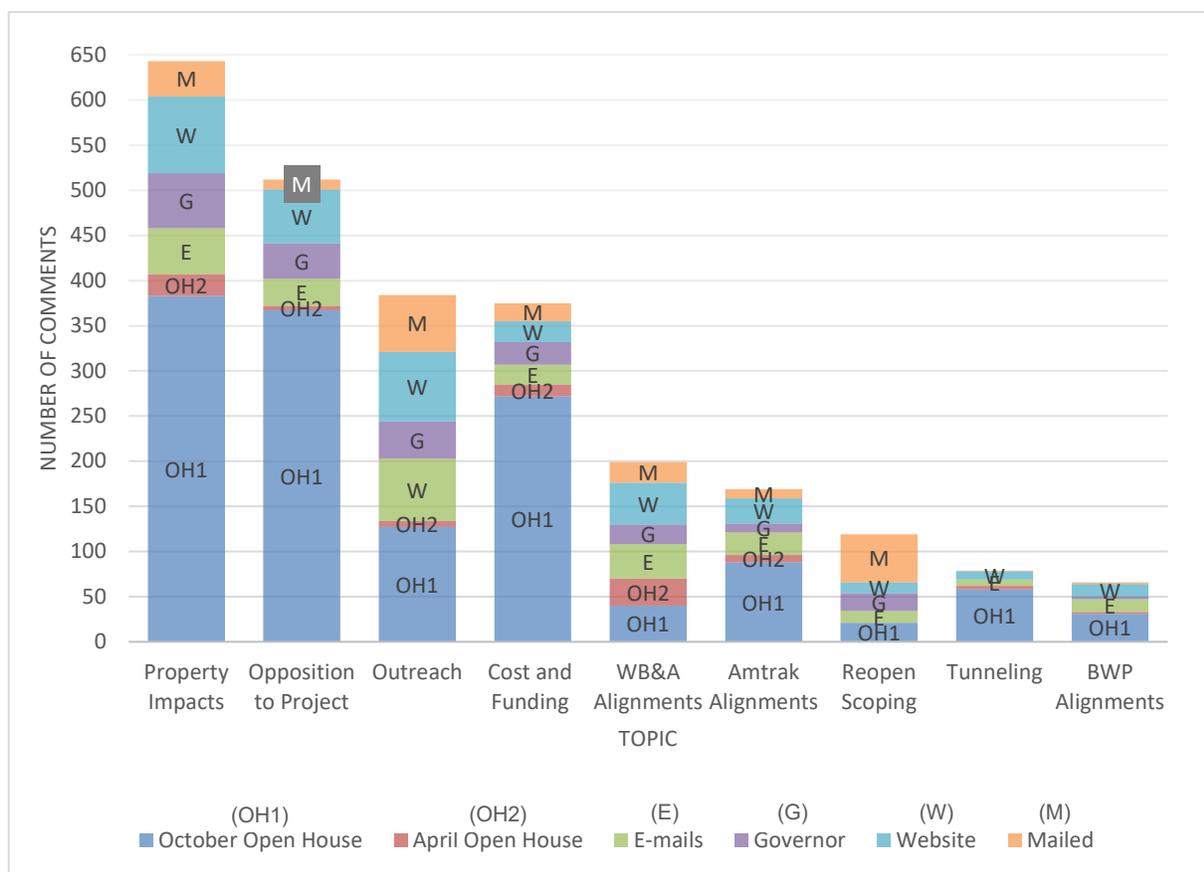
In October 2017, the open houses focused on the draft PASR results, with large (1" = 600' scale) maps of the three alignments recommended for further study on tables for viewing. Project Team Members were present to explain the maps, boards, answer questions, and also encourage the public to comment on the SCMAGLEV Project. A total of 1,526 people signed in at the five preliminary alternative screening public open house meetings and submitted 653 comments.

Figure 5.3-2: Preliminary Alternative Alignments and Public Open House Meeting Locations



In addition to comments received at the Purpose and Need and preliminary alternative screening public open house meetings (April 2017 and October 2017), FRA and MDOT MTA also received 210 comments via the SCMAGLEV Project website comment form; 161 comments via the SCMAGLEV Project e-mail account (info@bwmaglev.info) or e-mail accounts of individual Project Team Members; 99 comments via the Governor’s Office e-mail account; and 64 comments via mail; for a subtotal of 1,239 comments. **Figure 5.3-3** provides a summary of public comments and topics.

Figure 5.3-3: Summary of Public Comments from April 2017 and October 2017 Purpose and Need and Preliminary Alternatives Screening Open House Meetings



FRA and MDOT MTA analyzed written comments leading up to and including the second round of public meetings in mid-April 2017 through the completion of the third round of public meetings in late October 2017. This period coincided with the development and screening of preliminary alignments. The top comment types are noted below:

- Property Impacts – 643 or 52 percent of comments addressed property impacts, including property devaluation and use of eminent domain. Property impacts are the public’s top concern, and this sentiment has grown, particularly in the Bowie

area since the April meetings.

- Opposition to the SCMAGLEV Project – 512 or 41 percent of comments expressed direct opposition to the SCMAGLEV Project (not just specific alignments).
- Outreach – 384 or 31 percent of comments addressed public outreach, including 119 or 10 percent specifically requesting re-opening the scoping process due to “insufficient notification.”
- Cost and Funding – 375 or 30 percent of comments addressed SCMAGLEV Project cost and funding, including ticket price, taxes, and overall cost of the SCMAGLEV Project.
- Washington, Baltimore & Annapolis Trail Alignments (WB&A) – 199 or 16 percent of comments addressed the WB&A Alignments, including opposition to the alignments and questions or comments about how resources (particularly homes) would be impacted by the alignments.
- Amtrak Alignments – 169 or 14 percent of comments addressed the Amtrak Alignments. Further analysis of the comments regarding Amtrak Alignments showed 24 or 2 percent are in support of the Amtrak Alignments, while 87 or 7 percent are in opposition.
- Tunneling – 79 or 6 percent of comments addressed tunneling, including potential impacts from construction and vibration.
- Baltimore-Washington Parkway (BWP) Alignments – 66 or 5 percent of comments addressed the BWP Alignments. Further analysis of the comments regarding BWP Alignments showed 48 or 4 percent are in support of the BWP Alignments while 13 or 1 percent are in opposition.

Other comments included:

- Large numbers of attendees at the October meetings in Bowie and Gambrills (approximately 1,160 of the total 1,526 attendees that signed in) expressed concerns citing direct impacts to historic “old town” Bowie, Odenton, and surrounding areas.
- Although 6 percent of comments expressed concern with the impacts of tunneling, review agencies and some members of the public appeared to favor alignments with greater underground (tunneling) lengths as compared to alignments that would be above ground (elevated).
- Some meeting attendees and review agencies expressed concerns regarding impacts to natural and environmentally sensitive areas including Patuxent Research Refuge (PRR), Fran Uhler Natural Area, Saw Hill Creek, and Midland Park.
- Meeting attendees also raised concerns regarding a viaduct structure and Rolling Stock Depot (now referred to as Trainset Maintenance Facility or TMF) facility altering the landscape surrounding Bowie State University, which is a

historically black university and on the National Register of Historic Places.

- Meeting attendees also noted that Alignment E1 would impact Odenton Volunteer Fire Company, the only fire station in Odenton, and Bowie Assisted Living, Inc., the only proximate facility of its kind according to residents. Some meeting attendees and review agencies noted that Fort George G. Meade gun range and a closed sanitary landfill would be traversed with Alignment E1.

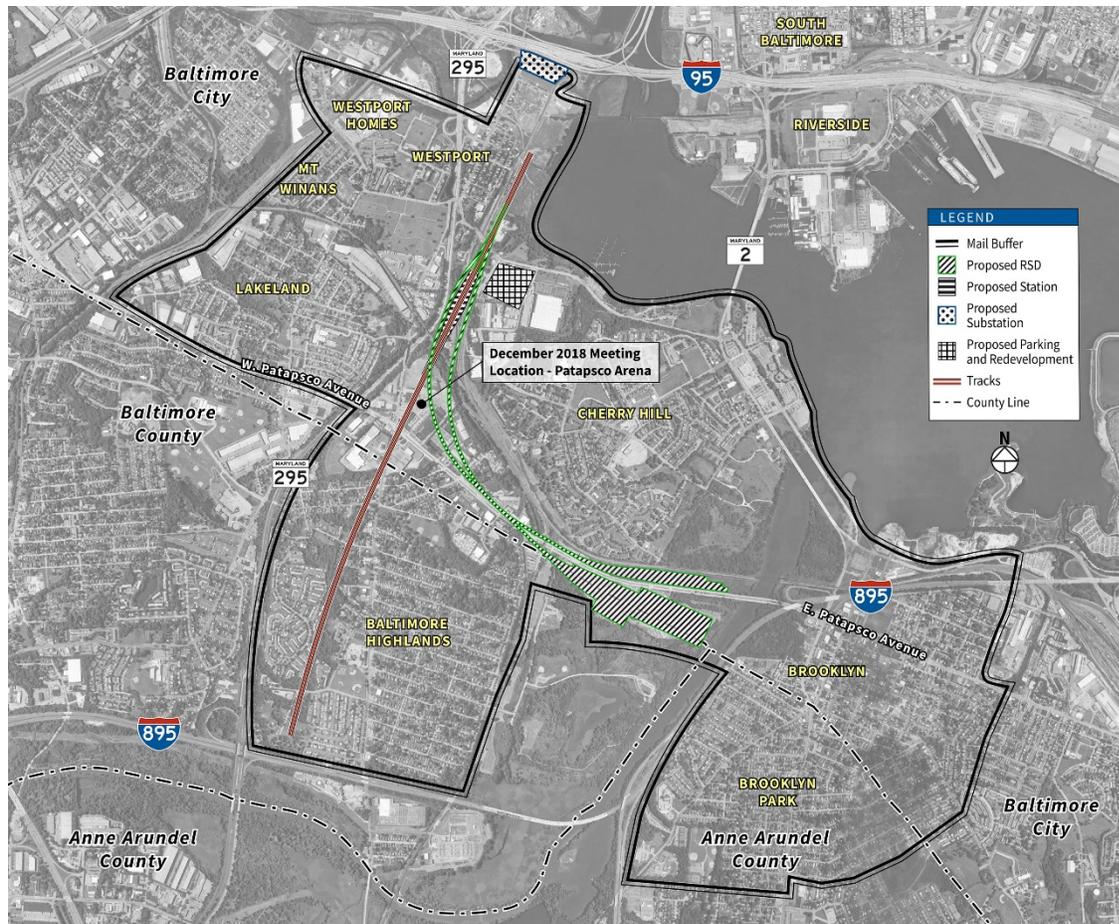
Including the 80 comments on specific alignments during the previous (April 2017) phase of SCMAGLEV Project outreach on initial alternatives, plus the 1,239 comments received during the development and screening of preliminary alignments for a total of 1,246 comments (as of November 2, 2017). Comments not received or compiled in time for the PASR were accepted and recorded/considered for future documents/phases. The SCMAGLEV Project website (<http://www.bwmaglev.info>) includes responses to the most common questions under the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) page, as well as meeting materials, interactive maps and reports.

5.3.5 Cherry Hill/Patapsco Avenue, Baltimore City Public Open House Meeting – December 2018

As the Project Team Members progressed through the development and refinement of the proposed alternatives and coinciding with the public publication of the draft Alternatives Report (posted to the SCMAGLEV Project website on November 15, 2018), FRA identified additional improvement options. These new proposed improvement options included refined station and trainset maintenance facility locations and configurations within the Cherry Hill/Patapsco Avenue areas of southern Baltimore City. **Figure 5.3-4** is an approximate depiction of the meeting mailing area and the proposed Cherry Hill Station and proposed Patapsco Avenue trainset maintenance facility (note that the proposed Camden Station is not shown in this figure, however FRA presented and discussed the Camden Station as part of this meeting. For more information see the meeting display boards in Appendix E.5).

During development of this DEIS, the design criteria for SCMAGLEV technology has evolved, resulting in design refinements to achieve newly adopted design criteria. This resulted in shifts and new locations for some elements and the elimination of others. Specifically, since the December 2018 meeting, the proposed Patapsco Avenue TMF has been eliminated due to inconsistencies with the latest design requirements. In addition, the proposed Cherry Hill Station has been modified to include additional operations and maintenance facilities and no longer has ramps connecting to the Patapsco Avenue TMF. For more information on the Alternatives Development Process and the changes effecting Cherry Hill/Patapsco Avenue, see Appendix C.

Figure 5.3-4: Cherry Hill/Patapsco Avenue Mailing Area and Proposed 2018 Elements



Disclaimer: The above Figure 5.3.4 does not reflect the current design options under considerations.

FRA and MDOT MTA informed the public of the Cherry Hill/Patapsco Avenue area Baltimore City Open House via the SCMAGLEV Project website, mailed postcards, and via advertisements posted in local print and on-line publications; at community and neighborhood organizations; and sent to Federal, state, county, and local officials. FRA and MDOT MTA also distributed fliers to public community centers and local gathering places.

FRA and MDOT MTA held one public open house meeting, shown in **Table 5.3-6**. The open house included 20 display boards focused on the SCMAGLEV Project Purpose and Need and preliminary alternatives screening process. An interactive display with alternatives mapping (also found on the SCMAGLEV Project website) was provided so that attendees could zoom in on areas of concerns and see how the proposed improvement options could potentially affect their community or other areas of interest. Project Team Members were present to explain the boards and answer questions.

Table 5.3-6: Cherry Hill/Patapsco Avenue, Baltimore City Open House

Date	Time	Location	Address	Sign-Ins	Comments
Thursday, December 13, 2018	5:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Patapsco Arena	3301 Annapolis Road Baltimore, MD 21230	26	7

Using the same process as was done for the previous public open house meetings, FRA and MDOT MTA advertised the Cherry Hill/Patapsco Avenue Baltimore City Open House in a variety of local media sources. FRA and MDOT MTA also featured advertisements on the SCMAGLEV Project website and on digital and print versions of the Afro American (afro.com); the Patch (patch.com); and the *Latin Opinion*.

FRA and MDOT MTA distributed hard copy fliers to EJ communities and areas with high concentrations of minority and/or low-income individuals in March 2017. Distribution was done in person or via mail to the 25 different locations listed in **Table 5.3-7**.

Table 5.3-7: Cherry Hill/Patapsco Avenue, Baltimore City Open House Flier Distribution

Location	Address	English Fliers	Spanish Fliers
Salvation Army	2250 Gable Avenue	✓	✓
LA Mart	2159 W Patapsco Avenue	✓	✓
Big Laundromat – Lavandería	2123 W Patapsco Avenue	✓	✓
Cinco de Mayo Grocery	1490 W Patapsco Avenue	✓	✓
Patapsco Discount Liquors	1400 W Patapsco Avenue	✓	
Cherry Hill Senior Manor	901 Cherry Hill Road	✓	
St. Veronica Catholic Church	806 Cherry Hill Road	✓	
Cherry Hill Community Presbyterian Church	819 Cherry Hill Road	✓	
First Baptist Church of Cherry Hill	823 Cherry Hill Road	✓	
Community Baptist Church	827 Cherry Hill Road	✓	
Created for so Much More Worship Center	701 Cherry Hill Road	✓	
Cherry Hill Mart	661 Cherry Hill Road	✓	
Happy Family Mart	700B Cherry Hill Road	✓	
Cherry Hill Town Center/Enoch Pratt Library-Cherry Hill	606 Cherry Hill Road	✓	
Coin Laundromat & Cleaners	618 Cherry Hill Road	✓	
South Harbor Pawn Shop	3438 Annapolis Road	✓	✓
Gold Brokers Pawn Shop	2135 W Patapsco Avenue	✓	✓
Sudsville Laundry Inc	3460 Annapolis Road	✓	
Enoch Pratt Library-Brooklyn Branch	300 E Patapsco Avenue	✓	✓
Mama Rosa Grill	3321 Annapolis Road	✓	✓

Location	Address	English Fliers	Spanish Fliers
SaveMart	3901 Hollins Ferry Road	✓	✓
Geely Laundromat	3903 Hollins Ferry Road	✓	✓
Guacamole Mexican Restaurant	3307 Annapolis Road	✓	✓
Cherry Hill Light Rail Station	Cherry Hill Road	✓	✓
Cherry Hill Community Coalition/Cherry Hill Development Corporation	806 Cherry Hill Road	✓	✓

There were approximately 30 public attendees (26 sign-ins) and eleven (11) comments (seven comment cards and four emails) received at the December Cherry Hill/Patapsco Avenue public open house. In subsequent months, between December 2018 and March 2019, the Project Team Members also received an additional 32 comments via the SCMAGLEV Project website comment form, Governor’s Office, and the SCMAGLEV Project e-mail account (info@bwmaglev.info) for a total of 43 comments.

The comments received focused on safety, security, hazardous materials, potential negative environmental impacts, transportation connectivity, economic constraints, appropriation of Federal and state funding, station location, ticket pricing, and possible effects on Baltimore City – both potentially positive and negative.

5.3.6 Other Stakeholder Involvement Activities

FRA has encouraged the involvement of community leaders, elected officials, and other stakeholders in the Project Study Area. These individuals and organizations have assisted FRA in understanding and addressing local concerns, including those of the EJ communities that could be affected by the SCMAGLEV Project. Stakeholder involvement activities have included:

- **Elected Officials Briefings:** FRA briefed elected officials and other key stakeholders prior to events such as the public scoping meeting and other public meetings and events related to the production of the DEIS. These were informal meetings where discussions on various topics are coordinated between the Project Team Members and elected officials.
- **Section 106 Consulting Party Participation:** See description below (Section 5.6.1).
- **Environmental Justice Outreach:** FRA has included outreach efforts specifically targeted to reach EJ communities located in the Project Study Area (Section 4.5).
- **Stakeholder Meetings:** Meetings have been held with individuals or small groups to discuss specific SCMAGLEV Project considerations.
- **Project Website GIS Commenting Application:** An interactive mapping application with survey questions was launched in July 2020 on the Project website to gather feedback on Build Alternatives and other aspects of the

project. As of December 2020, 111 respondents have submitted comments on a range of issues, including proposed alternatives and potential economic and environmental impacts of the SCMAGLEV Project. Responses are a mix of positive and negative support for the project.

5.4 Agency Coordination

5.4.1 Cooperating and Participating Agency Coordination

FRA has and will continue to collaborate with Cooperating and Participating Agencies in defining the SCMAGLEV Project's Purpose and Need and range of alternatives; developing impact assessment methodologies; assessing impacts; identifying avoidance, minimization and mitigation measures; and preparing for future permit applications.

Agency representatives have been and will be notified of the availability of key SCMAGLEV Project documents, including the Scoping Report, PASR, Alternatives Report, DEIS, FEIS and ROD, and given appropriate comment opportunities. After release and circulation of this DEIS for public comment, and following issuance of the FEIS and subsequent ROD, the Project Sponsor would consult the appropriate agencies to complete any necessary permits for the SCMAGLEV Project.

5.4.2 Agencies, Roles, and Responsibilities

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

5.4.2.1 Lead Agencies and Project Sponsor

For projects subject to NEPA, the Lead Agencies are responsible for ensuring that the environmental review process is conducted properly and in accordance with all applicable environmental regulations. FRA is the Lead Federal Agency for the SCMAGLEV Project, and MDOT MTA, as the grantee, is the Joint Lead Agency. As the Lead Federal Agency, FRA is responsible for identifying, inviting, and proactively involving Cooperating and Participating Agencies as well as the public.

Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail (BWRR), as the private Project Sponsor and developer of the proposed SCMAGLEV system, is working with FRA to carry out preliminary engineering throughout the NEPA process.

5.4.2.2 Cooperating Agencies

According to CEQ regulations (40 CFR § 1508.5), a Cooperating Agency is defined as "any Federal agency other than a lead agency which has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposal (or a reasonable alternative) for legislation or other major Federal action significantly affecting

the quality of the human environment. “ A state or local agency of similar qualifications or when the effects are on a reservation, an Indian Tribe may, by agreement with the lead agency, become a Cooperating Agency. At this time the SCMAGLEV Project only has Federal Cooperating Agencies, and no state or local agencies or Indian Tribes have been granted Cooperating Agency status.

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

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

A Cooperating Agency may, in response to a Lead Agency’s request for assistance in preparing the EIS, reply that other program commitments preclude any involvement, or the degree of involvement requested in the action that is the subject of this EIS. A copy of this reply shall be submitted to the CEQ.

5.4.2.3 Participating Agencies

Participating Agencies are Federal, state, or local agencies or federally recognized tribal governmental organizations with an interest in the SCMAGLEV Project. According to FHWA definition for participating and cooperating agencies, “The standard for participating agency status is more encompassing than the standard for cooperating agency status. Therefore, cooperating agencies are, by definition, participating agencies”¹. However, not all Participating Agencies are designated as Cooperating Agencies. Cooperating agencies have a higher degree of authority, responsibility, and involvement in the environmental review process than participating agencies.

As the Lead Federal Agency, FRA considered the distinctions noted above in deciding whether to invite an agency to serve as a Participating Agency.

¹ FHWA

https://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/legislation/authorizations/safetealu/reviewProcess_faq.aspx#faq_1

The role of Participating Agencies is to:

- Provide input on defining the SCMAGLEV Project's Purpose and Need, the range of alternatives to be considered, and the methodologies and level of detail required in the alternatives' analysis;
- Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews, as appropriate;
As requested by FRA, provide timely review and comments on certain pre-draft or pre- final environmental documents; and,
- Provide timely comments on unresolved issues.

5.4.2.4 Concurring and Commenting Agencies

The Project Team Members for the SCMAGLEV Project is using a modified version of Maryland's Streamlined Environmental and Regulatory Process to establish concurrent coordination of Section 106, Endangered Species Act, Clean Air Act, and Clean Water Act Section 404. This streamlined process helps to ensure the appropriate agencies have been provided an opportunity to communicate necessary information to the team and to review and comment on the preliminary findings of the NEPA studies.

Concurring agencies review, comment and provide formal concurrence at three key milestones for issuance of required wetlands and waterways permits following the NEPA phase. Milestones are:

1. Purpose and Need,
2. Alternatives retained for detailed study; and
3. Preferred Alternative/Conceptual mitigation.

Concurring agencies provide agreement to the decisions made at key milestones, unless there are substantial changes to the proposed action or significant new circumstances or information relevant to the environmental concern. Cooperating and Participating Agencies would review and provide formal comments at the above three milestones. Both Concurring and commenting agencies work closely with other Federal, state, and local resource agencies during the NEPA phase of the SCMAGLEV Project.

While consensus is not required in the development of impact assessment methodologies, FRA has and will continue to consider the views of the agencies with relevant interests before deciding on a particular assessment methodology and related decisions. After collaboration associated with this DEIS has taken place, FRA will determine the appropriate methodology and level of detail to be used as part of the decision-making process.

5.4.2.5 Summary

FRA has invited applicable Federal, state, county, and local government regulatory and jurisdictional agencies within the Project Study Area to be Cooperating and Participating

Agencies. As study alternatives are developed and potential property impacts are determined, additional public landowners would be invited to participate in the NEPA process.

Table 5.4-1 lists the Lead Agencies as well as the agencies that have been invited and agreed to serve as Cooperating and/or Concurring or Participating Agencies for the SCMAGLEV Project, with their responsibilities associated with the applicable area of jurisdiction or expertise. Any Federal agency that is invited by the Lead Agency to participate in the environmental review process for a project shall be designated as a Participating Agency by the Lead Agency unless the invited agency declines in writing; other state and local agencies must accept in writing.

Table 5.4-1: Lead Agencies and Invited Cooperating and Participating Agencies

Agency	Accepted Invitation	Responsibilities
Lead Agencies		
Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)	NA	Manage environmental review process; prepare EIS and NEPA decision document; provide opportunity for public and agency involvement; arbitrate and resolve issues.
Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)	NA	Administer Federal grant funding in amount of \$27.8M; oversee environmental studies and preliminary engineering being performed by other state agencies, including MEDCO and the MTA for BWRR's proposal; and oversee the public outreach process.
Maryland Department of Transportation, Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA)	NA	Oversee EIS documentation, which is being prepared by the Environmental Consultant, AECOM.
Cooperating Agencies		
Federal Agencies		
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)****	Yes	Regulatory authority over Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI Marshall Airport). Consultation related to airport planning and FAA Form 7460-1, Notice of Proposed Construction or Alteration. FAA has approval authority over BWI Marshall Airport layout plan pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 47107(a)(16)(B).
Federal Transit Administration (FTA)	Yes	Consultation related to transit services and facilities including MDOT MTA Commuter Bus, Commuter Rail and Light Rail and Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Metrorail and Commuter Bus services.

Agency	Accepted Invitation	Responsibilities
National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC)	Yes	Approval authority over Federal projects within the District, including all land transfers and physical alterations to Federal property, pursuant to the National Capital Planning Act of 1952. Federal properties noted within the Project Study Area include the Baltimore-Washington Parkway (BWP), Greenbelt Park, Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens, U.S. National Arboretum; Anacostia Park; Beall's Pleasure, and the L'Enfant Plan Reservation 173 & 174.
U.S. Department of Interior (USDOI)-National Park Service (NPS)	Yes	NPS is responsible for managing the National Park System, including permitting on NPS land. The NPS has jurisdiction over Federal park land in the Project Study Area including BWP, Kenilworth Park, and Anacostia Park. There are several National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-listed properties in the Project Study Area, including L'Enfant Plan (Reservation 173), the Baltimore and Washington Parkway, Greenbelt.
Surface Transportation Board (STB)	Yes	STB has not determined if it has jurisdiction over construction of the SCMAGLEV Project. If the STB finds that it does have jurisdiction, then it would become a Cooperating Agency.
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)****	Yes	Review and permitting for impacts to rivers, streams, and wetlands under Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 10, and Clean Water Act (CWA) Sections 401, 404, and 408. Oversees selection of the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative (LEDPA) pursuant to CWA Section 404 before the NEPA process is completed. Oversees review/approval for tunnel crossings beneath Federal flood control project at the Anacostia River pursuant to CWA Section 408.
U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)***	No	Consultation on the permitting of bridge construction in or over navigable waterways (Patapsco River, Anacostia River).
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)–Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC)	Yes	Provide protection to human health and the environment of BARC and the U.S. National Arboretum (USNA) through compliance with all environmental related management requirements; specifically, through complying with Executive Order 13693.
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)****	Yes	NEPA Compliance, Hazardous Materials, Environmental Justice, Air Quality, Water Quality.
National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Goddard Space Flight Center (NASA/GSFC)	Yes	Consultation related to impacts to their property and operations.
National Security Agency (NSA)	Yes	Consultation related to impacts to their property and operations including potential impacts from SCMAGLEV's electromagnetic fields.

Agency	Accepted Invitation	Responsibilities
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)****	Yes	Consultation related to Federally Listed Threatened & Endangered Species, Jurisdiction of Patuxent Research Refuge.
Participating Agencies		
Federal Agencies		
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)*	Yes	Provides consultation related to the planning, construction, and maintenance of roadways within the Project Study Area.
Fort George G. Meade (U.S. Army)**	Yes	Consultation related to potential impacts to their property. Fort George G. Meade is a Participating Agency, but if an alternative impacting their property is in the DEIS, they will become a Cooperating Agency.
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	Yes	Consultation related to resilience and floodplain issues.
U.S. Secret Service (USSS)**	Yes	Consultation related to impacts to their property and operations.
U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA)	Yes	Review design proposals for public and private properties in the National Capital, as they affect the Federal interest and preserve the dignity of the nation's capital.
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) - National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)	Yes	Consultation related to the Federal management of United States fisheries under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and regarding management plans and regulations.
General Services Administration (GSA)	Yes	Consultation related to properties and Federal lands operated and maintained by the GSA
Department of Labor (DOL)	Yes	Consultation related to properties leased and operated by the DOL.
State Agencies		
Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA)	Yes	Consultation related impacts for compliance with requirements of FAA Order 1050.1F.
Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maryland Park Service • Wildlife and Heritage Service • Maryland Environmental Trust 	Yes	Consultation related to development within Chesapeake Bay Critical Area; resources regulated by Maryland's Forest Conservation Act; the presence of state listed rare, threatened and endangered species and critical habitat; and significant fisheries resources. Consultation related to Patapsco Valley State Park. Consultation related to rare, threatened, and endangered species. Consultation related to environmental easements.
Maryland Department of Planning (MDP)	Yes	Consultation related to comprehensive plans, ordinances, and state and county level geographic information.
Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)	Yes	Consultation related to compliance with Maryland's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements; Erosion and Sediment Control/Stormwater Management requirements; and Tidal and Nontidal Wetlands, Waterways and Floodplains.

Agency	Accepted Invitation	Responsibilities
Maryland Historical Trust (MHT)	Yes	Part of the MDP, the MHT serves as Maryland's State Historic Preservation Office (MD SHPO) pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 for compliance.
Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC)***	No***	Consultation related to compliance with requirements for operation of rail passenger services in Maryland.
Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA)	Yes	Consultation related to SHA's transportation system including its infrastructure, operations, safety, public space, and right of way.
Regional Agencies		
Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)	Yes	Administers the Baltimore region's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan (CLRTP), and Clean Air Act (CAA) compliance. BMC provides oversight for the regional transportation network and programming.
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG)	No (declined)	Administers the region's TIP, CLRTP, and CAA compliance. MWCOG provides oversight for the regional transportation network and programming.
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)	Yes	Consultation related to Metrorail facilities within the Project Study Area, including its station facilities, rail alignments, ridership statistics, and future plans.
County Agencies		
Anne Arundel County Transportation Division	Yes	Consultation related to planning and engineering for SCMAGLEV Project and its impact to County transportation operations and adequate public facilities requirements.
Baltimore County Planning Office	No (declined)	Consultation related to County's land uses, development, and neighborhood planning.
Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning	Yes	Consultation related to County's land uses, development, and neighborhood planning.
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Planning Countywide Planning Park Planning and Development 	Yes	Consultation related to proposed impacts to Prince George's County parks, trails and recreations facilities. Consultation related to plans and studies used to guide future growth and physical alterations throughout the County, i.e. Master Sector Plans. Consultation related to transportation (bicycle/pedestrian/roadway) policies that guide growth and development while providing a countywide perspective. Consultation related to the subdivision review, site plan review, and review of zoning applications related to parks and recreation.
Prince George's Public Works and Transportation	Yes	Consultation related to the county-maintained roadway network impacts and transit connectivity.
Local Agencies		
Baltimore City Department of Planning	Yes	Consultation related to City's land uses, development, and neighborhood planning.

Agency	Accepted Invitation	Responsibilities
Baltimore City Department of Transportation (BCDOT)	Yes	Consultation related to City's transportation system including its infrastructure, operations, safety, public space, and right of way.
District of Columbia Department of Transportation (DDOT)*	Yes	Consultation related to DDOT's transportation system including its infrastructure, operations, safety, public space, and right of way.
District of Columbia Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE)	Yes	Consultation related to wildlife and habitat review; compliance with the CWA; regulatory review of stormwater management, sediment and erosion control, and floodplain management; oversight and compliance with Underground Storage Tank regulations (Risk Based Corrective Action process) and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERLCA).
District of Columbia Department of Public Works (DPW)	Yes	Consultation related to District waste management, parking enforcement, and fleet management.
District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO)	Yes	Review for NHPA Section 106 compliance in the District.
District of Columbia Office of Planning (DCOP)	Yes	Consultation related to District land uses, development, and neighborhood planning.
District of Columbia Public Service Commission	No (declined)	Regulatory agency responsible for landline telephone, electricity, and gas utility companies operating within the District.

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

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

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

**** Agency is also a Concurring Agency.

FRA sent letters in late November 2016, inviting agencies to be either Cooperating or Participating Agencies and to participate in scoping for the SCMAGLEV Project (see Appendix E.3 for a sample of this letter). The invitations requested written responses by December 23, 2016.

5.4.3 Agency Scoping

FRA invited the agencies listed above in **Table 5.4-1** to attend two agencies scoping meetings. One meeting was held via webinar on January 18, 2017 as part of MDOT SHA's monthly Interagency Review Meeting. Another meeting was held in-person on January 31, 2017 at the NPS National Capital Region Headquarters in Washington, D.C. The purpose of these meetings was to provide an opportunity for the early identification of significant issues related to the SCMAGLEV 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 State Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO)
- 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 State Historic Preservation Office (MD SHPO)
- 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 (USEPA)
- U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

See Appendix E.3 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. Agencies were also able to submit comments via the same methods as the public, including the SCMAGLEV Project website, the SCMAGLEV Project e-mail address, and the SCMAGLEV Project mailing address. The Project Team Members received comments regarding the scope of the EIS from the following agencies: the DDOT, NCPD, USACE, USEPA, MDNR, FAA, MAA, NPS, USFWS, Amtrak, and Howard County Office of Transportation. When answers were known, FRA responded with available information during the meeting. Many other comments and questions will be responded to as the SCMAGLEV Project continues through the NEPA process. Questions and comments from the agencies are summarized in Appendix E.3.

5.4.4 Section 106 Consultation

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR Part 800) (NHPA) requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of their undertakings on historic properties that are listed or meet the eligibility criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). A Federal undertaking is defined as a project, activity, or program funded, permitted, licensed, or approved by a Federal agency. The Section 106 process has a specific public involvement component. In particular, the implementing regulations require that FRA, in consultation with the SHPOs (in this case, the MD SHPO and DC SHPO) as applicable, identify appropriate points for seeking public input regarding the identification of historic properties in the SCMAGLEV Project's Area of Potential Effects (APE), assessment of the SCMAGLEV Project's effects to those properties, and resolution of any adverse effects. Additional detailed information regarding the Section 106 process can be found in Section 4.8 Cultural Resources.

Public outreach for purposes of NEPA satisfies Section 106 public outreach requirements, by providing information regarding the SCMAGLEV Project's effects on historic properties at NEPA public meetings and in the EIS. Consistent with Section 106, the public and consulting parties have an opportunity to comment and have concerns taken into account on findings identified in Section 106 survey and effects documents via attendance at public meetings where they can submit comments on the information presented, as well as access the Section 106 documents via email requests to FRA or on the SCMAGLEV Project website. The public is given the opportunity to provide FRA with comments on the identification and evaluation of effects to historic properties during the DEIS public comment period. Members of the public with a demonstrated interest in the SCMAGLEV Project (due to the nature of their legal or economic relation to the undertaking or affected properties, or their concern with the undertaking's effects on historic properties) may participate as Section 106 Consulting Parties.

See Section 4.8 Cultural Resources and Appendix D.5 for more detail about the methodology and more information about the parties participating in the Section 106 Consultation process.

5.4.5 Section 4(f) Coordination

FRA has provided opportunities for coordination and comment to the official(s) with jurisdiction (OWJ) over any Section 4(f) resource that may be affected by the SCMAGLEV Project as well as to the USDOJ, and as appropriate, the USDA and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Resources protected under Section 4(f) include public parks, wildlife refuges, and historic resources. Section 4(f) resources were identified through the Section 106, NEPA and Section 4(f) processes, in consultation with MD SHPO, DC SHPO, OWJs and any other relevant Consulting Parties or resource agencies. The public has and will continue to be provided an opportunity to review and comment on the SCMAGLEV Project's Section 4(f) Evaluation in coordination with the NEPA public review periods. Additional details about the Section 4(f) coordination efforts can be found in Appendix F of this document.

5.4.6 Additional Agency Involvement Activities

The following meetings have been or will be held to engage agency participation in the SCMAGLEV Project:

- Interagency Review Meetings;
- Joint Evaluation Meetings;
- Field Meetings; and,
- One-on-one Meetings.

FRA has and will continue to meet regularly with agencies via Interagency Review Meetings and Joint Environmental Committee (JE) meetings through the completion of the EIS. These meetings will be held at NEPA milestones in both Maryland and Washington, D.C. Locations and format (in-person and webinar) will vary depending on agency availability and preference. FRA, in coordination with the Project Team Members, has and will send the meeting invitations to Lead Agencies, Cooperating Agencies, and Participating Agencies. For those who cannot attend, the meetings will be conducted via a webinar, when possible. The presentation and meeting summary have and will be emailed following each meeting. The purpose of Interagency Review Meetings is to provide agencies an opportunity to:

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

Cooperating and Participating Agencies have and will be provided an opportunity to comment on and/or concur upon the following SCMAGLEV Project documents:

- The Draft Purpose and Need (Comment and Concur*);
- Preliminary Alternatives Screening Report (Comment during Interagency Review Meeting);
- Alternatives Report (Comment and Concur*);
- Environmental Analysis Methodology and Technical Reports (Comment Only);
- DEIS (Comment Only);
- Final EIS (Comment Only); and,
 ROD.

*Concurring Agencies listed in **Table 5.4.1**, above, are required to comment and/or concur (or not concur).

Table 5.4-3 is a list of meetings held between FRA, the Project Team Members, and Agency representatives.

Table 5.4-3: List of Agency Meetings

Meeting Title	Meeting Date
FAA & MDOT MAA Meeting	4/5/2017
USFWS, PRR, BARC, NPS Meeting	4/19/2017
USACE and MDE Meeting	5/3/2017
Anne Arundel County Planning Meeting	5/25/2017
NSA Meeting	5/30/2017
BARC, NASA Meeting	6/1/2017
USDA Meeting	6/1/2017
Interagency Review Meeting	6/12/2017
M-NCPPC - Prince George's County Meeting	6/13/2017
Secret Service Meeting	6/13/2017
Fort George G. Meade Meeting	6/14/2017
USACE and MDE Meeting	6/15/2017
Joint Evaluation Meeting	6/28/2017
Agency Field Review Meeting	7/19/2017
Agency Field Review Meeting	7/26/2017
NPS Meeting	8/28/2017
USACE and MDE Meeting	8/29/2017
Joint Evaluation Meeting	8/30/2017
Interagency Review Meeting	10/3/2017
NPS Meeting	11/20/2017
Interagency Review Meeting	12/7/2017
Joint Evaluation Meeting	12/20/2017
NPS/FRA Workshop	1/30/2018
USACE Meeting	2/6/2018

Meeting Title	Meeting Date
MDOT SHA Meeting	2/20/2018
NASA Meeting	2/27/2018
National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Consulting Party Meeting #1	3/14/2018
DNR Meeting	3/19/2018
Secret Service Meeting	3/20/2018
Baltimore City Planning Department Meeting	3/26/2018
M-NCPPC - Prince George's County Meeting	3/27/2018
NPS, USDA/BARC, USFWS Meeting	3/29/2018
Anne Arundel County Planning Meeting	4/2/2018
DDOT, Planning, Energy and Environment Meeting	4/3/2018
NSA Meeting	4/10/2018
Interagency Review Meeting	4/17/2018
Fort George G. Meade Meeting	4/19/2018
MDOT MAA Meeting	5/2/2018
USEPA Meeting	5/10/2018
Interagency Review Meeting	5/15/2018
DOI, NPS, USDA/BARC, USFWS Meeting	6/4/2018
FAA Meeting	6/18/2018
Interagency Review Meeting	6/19/2018
MDOT MTA Engineering – Station Meeting	6/21/2018
DC Agency Coordination Meeting	6/27/2018
Baltimore City Planning Department Meeting	7/9/2018
Interagency Review Meeting	7/17/2018
M-NCPPC - Prince George's County Meeting	7/24/2018
FAA Meeting	7/30/2018
MDOT MTA Engineering – Follow-up Meeting	8/20/2018
Interagency Review Meeting	8/21/2018
USDA Meeting	8/21/2018
NCPC/CFA/HPO/DDOT Meeting	9/11/2018
National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Consulting Party Meeting #2	9/17/2018
Interagency Review Meeting	9/18/2018
SCMAGLEV Agency Field Review Meeting.	9/20/2018
SCMAGLEV Agency Field Review Meeting	9/25/2018
National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Consulting Party Field Review Meeting	10/3/2018
Fort George G. Meade Meeting	10/10/2018
SCMAGLEV FRA Field Review Meeting	10/15/2018
Interagency Review Meeting	10/16/2018
FAA Meeting	10/16/2018
DDOT Meeting	10/22/2018

Meeting Title	Meeting Date
NPS 4(f) Meeting	10/23/2018
USFWS/Natural Resources Field Review Meeting	10/29/2018
Fort George G. Meade Meeting	10/30/2018
Interagency Review Meeting	11/20/2018
Cherry Hill Community Coalition Meeting	12/6/2018
NPS 4(f) Meeting	12/11/2018
Interagency Review Meeting	12/12/2018
Elected Officials Webinar	12/12/2018
Secret Service Meeting	1/24/2019
NCPC Meeting	2/7/2019
USACE Meeting	2/21/2019
Interagency Review Meeting	2/26/2019
NPS 4(f) Meeting	2/26/2019
Baltimore City Meeting	4/18/2019
DDOT Meeting	4/22/2019
FWS Meeting	4/29/2019
USDA-BARC Meeting	5/2/2019
DNR Meeting	5/6/2019
NSA Meeting	5/8/2019
MDOT SHA Meeting	5/10/2019
FAA Meeting	5/13/2019
Baltimore County DRP Meeting	5/15/2019
Secret Service Meeting	5/17/2019
FTA Meeting	5/20/2019
Interagency Review Meeting	5/21/2019
NPS Meeting	5/23/2019
EPA Meeting	5/28/2019
Baltimore City DRP	5/29/2019
Fort George G. Meade Meeting	6/3/2019
Prince George's County Planning Board Meeting	6/6/2019
DC DRP Meeting	6/6/2019
NCPC Meeting	6/10/2019
USACE Meeting	6/11/2019
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Meeting	6/12/2019
US Commission of Fine Arts Meeting	6/26/2019
NASA Meeting	7/10/2019
Fort Meade Project Restart Meeting	6/9/2020
USDA BARC Project Restart Meeting	6/9/2020
NSA Project Restart Meeting	6/10/2020
USFWS Project Restart Meeting	6/10/2020
NASA Project Restart Meeting	6/12/2020

Meeting Title	Meeting Date
NPS Project Restart Meeting	6/15/2020
US Secret Service Project Restart Meeting	6/18/2020
USACE Project Restart Meeting	6/19/2020
Interagency Review Meeting	6/23/2020
National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Consulting Party Meeting #3	7/20/2020
FAA and MAA Meeting	7/29/2020
NSA/Fort Meade Update Meeting	8/3/2020
M-NCPPC Project Restart Meeting	8/4/2020
USACE Meeting	10/8/2020
Interagency Review Meeting	10/14/2020
US Department of Labor Meeting	10/28/2020
USACE Field Review Meeting	11/2/2020