

Federal Railroad Administration
Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, Maryland 21076

To Whom It May Concern:

On November 25, 2016, the Federal Railroad Administration published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS for the Baltimore-Washington Superconducting Magnetic Levitation (SCMAGLEV) Project. This notice provided for thirty day period to provide comments in writing and four public meetings. The NOI's Purpose and Need statement was to "increase capacity, reduce travel time, and improve both reliability and mobility options between Baltimore and Washington."

In May of 2017, a Final Scoping Report was completed to capture the results of the initial scoping effort. The document states that 57 comments were submitted at public meetings, 16 comments were submitted via project email, and two comments were submitted via mail for a total of 75 comments.

The proposed project is multi-billion infrastructure development that initially identified six possible routes that transect numerous private lands in multiple jurisdictions. Despite repeated efforts to engage the project proponent, we have been unable to garner additional information on the exact proposed routes and even documents justifying the purpose and need of the project. In fact, the project manager indicated that they identified the proposed routes through computer simulations and had not even walked area under consideration. Now the website shows two possible routes without any explanation as to the narrowing of options or engagement with impacted communities.

Many of us would agree that MAGLEV technology offers benefits in terms of reduction harmful emissions and the current traffic congestion plaguing our region. However, a project of this magnitude deserved more public engagement than 30 day during the holiday season. Moreover, there needs to be more discussion regarding the purpose and need of this project given existing infrastructure rail needs along the Northeast Corridor and within the DC Metro area.

We respectfully request that you work with the project proponents to re-open the Scoping Process and provide for more meaningful engagement with landowners, local governments, elected officials, and federal partners before moving forward with the selection and analysis of alternative to consider in the full Environmental Impact Statement. Further, we would appreciate more direct engagement and information related to the purpose and need for the proposed project.

While we appreciate that the Scoping process is the first in a series of opportunities to engage, it is critical for landowners and communities who are potentially impacted by the review of routes impacting

their lands. Other major infrastructure projects in the DC Metro area have indicated that the failure to productively engagement communities and landowners results in a process mired in litigation. As landowners, community members, and Maryland taxpayers, we don't feel that this scoping process was adequate.

Thank you, in advance, for your consideration of this request and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely

Citizens Against the SCMAGLEV (CATS)
Keep Our Community Beautiful
(8306 Laurel Bowie Road
Bowie, MD 20715)

Cc: Maryland Congressional Delegation
Prince Georges County Elected Officials
Council on Environmental Quality
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation