

Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail and North America's Building Trades Unions Agree to Use Skilled Labor for Future SCMAGLEV Construction

BALTIMORE -- Leaders from Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail (BWRR), North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU) and the Baltimore/Washington building trades announced today the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to utilize and develop skilled labor for future SCMAGLEV construction. This action marks the latest step forward in the ongoing effort to connect Washington, DC and Baltimore with the world's fastest train, the Superconducting Maglev (SCMAGLEV) system.

In a press conference at the B&O Railroad Museum in Baltimore, BWRR Vice Chairman Jeff Hirschberg, Mayor Catherine E. Pugh, City of Baltimore and North America's Building Trades Unions President Sean McGarvey, pledged their commitment to serving the Baltimore community's economic development and the nation's infrastructure through support of The Northeast Maglev (TNEM) project.

"This exciting partnership showcases a longstanding commitment to providing economic opportunity to Baltimore and the Northeast Corridor," BWRR Vice Chairman Jeff Hirschberg said. "We look forward to utilizing the skilled labor NABTU provides, once construction on the SCMAGLEV project begins in the years ahead. Together, we will enhance the nation's transportation system and create jobs throughout the Baltimore region and beyond"

"Through projects large and small, our members have a long history of contributing to the continued growth and transformation of the region," said North America's Building Trades Unions President Sean McGarvey. "The opportunity to participate in this historic project speaks to the professionalism and skills the NABTU workforce brings to the table. We are enthusiastic about partnering with BWRR and its contractors and subcontractors to make American high-speed rail a reality."

The unions that make up the building trades support the SCMAGLEV project and through the MOU agree to provide a model Project Labor Agreement for BWRR's contractors and subcontractors and their expertise and resources to obtain the necessary permits and financing needed for future construction. BWRR will utilize the skilled labor that NABTU provides and work with these groups to develop new opportunities for training and skill development. Additionally, BWRR will adopt workforce centric principles including that an adequately compensated, and trained workforce delivers a higher quality product and service and agrees that its contractors and subcontractors will abide by such principles on the SCMAGLEV project.

Working with 28 local unions in the greater Baltimore/Washington, DC/Northern Virginia region, NABTU represents thousands of skilled craft professionals in the building and construction industry. The organization will provide BWRR with a better opportunity to further its goals for investment in the SCMAGLEV project through its Community Hub for Opportunities in Construction ("CHOICE") program, providing BWRR with a diverse, adequately compensated, and trained workforce to deliver a higher quality product and service to the construction of SCMAGLEV.

This announcement is the latest in a series of developments that are making SCMAGLEV a reality. Having received an official rail franchise two years ago, BWRR is now a third of the way through the environmental impact study and remains encouraged by the progress to date. TNEM and BWRR are continuing to work closely with local communities in Maryland alongside the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) to identify the best project routes for all stakeholders and bring new high-speed rail to meet our pressing mass transit needs.

About Baltimore Washington Rapid Rail

Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail (BWRR) is an American company that is the developer for the Baltimore-Washington Superconducting Maglev (SCMAGLEV) project. The SCMAGLEV system is the world's fastest ground transportation system and will connect Washington, DC to Baltimore in 15 minutes. The SCMAGLEV system is a safe and transformative transportation solution that will revolutionize how people live and work in the most congested region of the country. Central Japan Railway Company (JR Central) is currently building a SCMAGLEV project to connect Tokyo, Nagoya and Osaka. JR Central's SCMAGLEV line outside of Tokyo has undergone more than a million miles of testing since 1998, carrying more than 210,000 passengers. Learn more at www.NortheastMaglev.com

About North America's Building Trades Unions

North America's Building Trades Unions is an alliance of 14 national and international unions in the building and construction industry that collectively represent over 3 million skilled craft professionals in the United States and Canada. Each year, our unions and our signatory contractor partners invest over \$1 billion in private sector money to fund and operate over 1,900 apprenticeship training and education facilities across North America that produce the safest, most highly trained, and productive skilled craft workers found anywhere in the world.