



Riding the “Marvel of Transportation”: **Secretary Foxx’s Successful Trip to Japan**

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Secretary Foxx and Minister Ishii inside the SCMAGLEV train

From November 7-9, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx made his first trip to Japan. It is the first tour for a Transportation Secretary to Japan since 2010.

One of the highlights of the trip was the test ride on the SCMAGLEV (Japanese Superconducting Maglev) train on November 8. After a comfortable ride with the maximum cruising speed of 314 mph, Secretary Foxx told the reporter, “It is obviously a testament to the great research of many people here in this country, to see this marvel of transportation.”

His counterpart in Japan, Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Minister Keiichi Ishii who accompanied Secretary Foxx, told the reporters that the Secretary appeared to be impressed by how quiet the cars were at high speed.

He also announced that USDOT has awarded \$27.8 million to conduct studies on building a SCMAGLEV line that would carry passengers between Washington, DC and Baltimore in about 15 minutes. These are the first federal funds dedicated for the project, which is a part of a larger vision for building a SCMAGLEV system all the way up to New York City.

Maryland’s Department of Transportation and the state’s Economic Development Corporation applied for these funds in April. Governor Hogan issued the following press release welcoming this award.



On the following day, Secretary Foxx met Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga and Minister Ishii in their offices.

The U.S.-Japan cooperation in the transportation sector is not limited to the SCMAGLEV project and the other ongoing high-speed rail projects in California and Texas.



Bilateral meeting between Secretary Foxx and Minister Ishii in the Minister's office

Both Secretary Foxx and Minister Ishii signed a joint statement reaffirming the importance of high-level cooperation in such areas as (1) regulatory cooperation on aviation, rail and automotive safety; (2) enhancement of aviation relationship; (3) accessible, sustainable, and resilient multimodal transportation networks; (4) advanced technology for automobile and road, such as automated- and connected driving and Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS); and (5) advanced transportation technologies, such as high-speed rail and future air transportation systems, including NextGen, CARATS and unmanned aircraft systems.

To advance one of the best cooperative relationships in the world, including conducting the newly approved SCMAGLEV study, we are fully committed to continue our best efforts.

Kanji Yamanouchi
Economic Minister, Embassy of Japan