



**Maryland State Conference**  
**National Association for the Advancement of Colored People**  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***Maryland State Conference NAACP Endorses the Northeast Maglev High-Speed Rail Project***

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*Baltimore, MD* -- The Maryland State Conference NAACP announced its support of the first phase of the Northeast Maglev's SCMAGLEV project at a press conference in the Baltimore office of Northeast Maglev on Friday morning.

*Secretary*  
**Betty Johnson**

Central to its support will be the working relationship between the Maryland State Conference NAACP and Northeast Maglev regarding outreach and education on various issues, including information about the high-speed rail project, discussions about construction plans and recruitment for construction-related and permanent employment.

*Assistant Secretary*  
**Neva Stansbury**

*Treasurer*  
**Zilpha P. Smith**

"The Maryland State Conference NAACP has an extensive history of ensuring Maryland's minority populations have equal protections and are included wherever opportunities that create benefits are concerned," stated Maryland State Conference NAACP President Gerald Stansbury. "We will work with Northeast Maglev leaders to regularly discuss, plan and participate in efforts where citizens can remain informed, have their issues heard, and secure labor union apprenticeships, and various other jobs. We are committed to participate in these ways and more to help the exciting SCMAGLEV project have a positive impact in Maryland," Stansbury added.

*Assistant Treasurer*  
**Larry Shelton**

The relationship will also emphasize the ties between SCMAGLEV project and the NAACP's Strategic Game Changers for the 21st Century program. Some of these include preparing and encouraging youth regarding STEM careers, connecting minority communities to well-paying jobs and business opportunities, and helping increase the region's air quality by reducing the number of vehicles on the roadways of the Baltimore Washington Corridor.

*Youth and College Division President*  
**Charnell Ferguson**

"Having formerly worked for a passenger railroad, I fully appreciate the significance of moving people throughout the nation's most populous areas," expressed Prince George's County Branch NAACP President and Maryland State Conference Project Liaison Bob Ross.

"Representing one of the branches in Maryland's most congested region reinforces my understanding of the need for more transportation options. We are excited to find a partner in the Northeast Maglev that is willing to launch the world's most advanced train here in a way that will be sensitive to local concerns," he stressed.

“Without question, bringing SCMAGLEV train service to America’s Northeast Corridor is a major undertaking. As we develop the project’s first phase, we will have the advantage of the close involvement of one of Maryland’s most distinguished civil rights advocacy organizations - the Maryland State Conference NAACP,” Northeast Maglev CEO Wayne Rogers said.

“With the project’s expected 74,000 construction-related jobs, 1,500 permanent jobs, and various service contracts, the company looks to connect Maryland’s diverse communities to many of the forthcoming job training, employment, business and other opportunities, and we are eager to work with the NAACP to that end,” Rogers also noted.

The SCMAGLEV is set to be transformative in more ways than just transportation, where the service’s first phase will carry passengers from Washington, DC to Baltimore City in 15 minutes. The SCMAGLEV will help the region efficiently manage growth and relieve stress on the environment. The high-speed rail system plans to provide thousands of new high-tech and construction jobs, educational opportunities, and engage local firms.

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#### *About the NAACP Maryland State Conference*

Since its inception, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was poised for a long, tumultuous and rewarding history. Although it may be possible to chronicle the challenging and harrowing legacy of the NAACP, the real story of the nation’s most significant civil rights organization lies in the hearts and minds of the people who would not stand still while the rights of some of America’s darker citizens were denied

The NAACP Maryland State Conference (MSC) strives to be the primary voice of equity and justice in Annapolis. The unity of 23 Maryland County Branches lends strength to our influence in the legislative process. The MSC Political Action Committee (PAC) is tasked with the awesome responsibility of lobbying representation before Maryland’s General Assembly to inform and involve branch members and community allies in the legislative process.

#### *About the Northeast Maglev*

The Northeast Maglev is a private U.S. owned company that is working with the Central Japan Railway Company (JR Central) to promote the world’s fastest ground transportation system – JR Central’s Superconducting Maglev (SCMAGLEV) system – in the Northeast Corridor of the U.S. 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. 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 1.5 million miles of testing since 1998, carrying more than 260,000 passengers. Learn more at [www.northeastmaglev.com](http://www.northeastmaglev.com).