



February 12, 2019

Environmental Protection Specialist
Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)
Attn: Mr. Brandon Bratcher
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, West Building 3rd Floor
Washington DC 20590

Dear Mr. Bratcher:

As President of the Westport Neighborhood Association, I am writing to express my strong endorsement of a Maglev station in Cherry Hill. Residents of Westport, Mt. Winans, Curtis Bay, Lakeland and Cherry Hill are extremely excited about the arrival of the Maglev train to Baltimore, but particularly to South Baltimore. A project of the scale and stature of Maglev will allow our communities to prosper, raising the profile of Baltimore as a whole.

People consider the Middle Branch communities in South Baltimore a hidden jewel, like a diamond in a rough. It is the gateway to Baltimore and a neighborhood bursting with ambition and potential. We commend the FRA and MDOT for their recognition that geography matters in siting a station. Improved highway and transit connections, the potential for direct bus and water taxi connectivity are all features that contribute to Cherry Hill being an ideal station location.

However, beyond the good fortune of geography is a neighborhood that has earned its turn. Although some may be inclined to locate a station in downtown Baltimore, that would be a choice inconsistent with development trends and a failure to optimize potential development opportunities in the city's residential neighborhoods.

Contingent upon satisfactory findings from the Draft Environmental Impact Statement to be released in the near future, we strongly endorse the Cherry Hill Station as the preferred Baltimore location for the Maglev train.

Sincerely,

Keisha Allen

Keisha Allen
President, Westport Neighborhood Association

CC: Bradley Smith