



Cherry Hill Development Corporation  
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January 23, 2019

Mr. Brandon Bratcher  
USDOT Federal Railroad Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, MS-20  
Washington, DC 20590

CC: Bradley Smith, MDOT

Dear Mr. Bratcher,

I am writing on behalf of the Cherry Hill Development Corporation to express my strong support for a SCMAGLEV station and supporting facilities to be located in Cherry Hill. That being said, on December 13, 2018, the MDOT/AECOM team scheduled a public open house in South Baltimore regarding the proposed SCMAGLEV station. This date was selected without consultation with leaders of the communities directly affected (Cherry Hill, Lakeland, Westport and Mt. Winan) and as a result conflicted with a scheduled holiday meeting of the Coalition of South Baltimore Communities (AKA SB7). This Coalition is comprised of the leaders of the communities of Brooklyn, Curtis Bay, Cherry Hill, Lakeland, Mt. Winan and Westport. Since this was a holiday meeting, members of the respective communities were in attendance as well. These are the people who should and need to be heard but were not! As President and Chairman of the Board of Directors for SB7, I posted our concern on the website but only received an email response thanking me for my comments. I believe that a meeting hosted by MDOT/AECOM and/or the Cherry Hill Development corporation is immediately needed.

I am excited to hear that Cherry Hill has the potential to grow with the addition of the proposed Maglev station and facilities. After meeting with representatives of Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail, it's become clear that this would be a major win for our community and the surrounding communities alike. It's major projects like this that will allow our community to flourish going into the future, raising the profile of Baltimore as a whole.

There is a lot of attention being focused on Southwest Baltimore for community development purposes and the opportunity to introduce more transportation options and transit-oriented development could add a nice complement to some of the plans under consideration. The combination of a SCMAGLEV station and related facilities coming to this section of Baltimore City would create opportunities for meaningful opportunities for area residents in Cherry Hill

and beyond. A project like this would bring several hundred permanent jobs in addition to the thousands of jobs during construction, as well as the potential for training opportunities for higher paying jobs.

I am also aware there is a Downtown site under consideration for the SCMAGLEV station. However, I am concerned that a decision to locate the station in the central business core would sadly continue the unfortunate past practices of neglecting to optimize potential development opportunities in the city's residential neighborhoods. My organization hopes that the United States Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration will stand with Cherry Hill's residents, businesses and institutions to bring the station and associated facilities to our community.

*Michael Middleton*  
Let's work together with the Maryland Department of Transportation to quickly schedule a meeting for January 2019 to discuss all of the details and current status of the upcoming Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,



Michael Middleton,  
Executive Director  
Cherry Hill Development Corporation