



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

Dear Mr. Bratcher,

As Executive Director of the Westport Community Economic Development Corporation, home of the Harbor West Collaborative, I am writing to express our qualified support of a Maglev station in Cherry Hill. Residents of Westport, Mt. Winans, Curtis Bay, Lakeland and Cherry Hill recognize the value of increased access to jobs, and opportunity that the arrival of the Maglev train may bring to our neighborhoods. We also want to make informed choices and reserved full-throated support until the NEPA draft review has been circulated and final information is known regarding how the creation of infrastructure for that station will affect the quality of life for our residents.

Our areas of concern include reduced air quality, noise pollution, increased traffic volume, preservation of the site line for all residents to the waterfront, adequate parking for the station, damage to existing structures due to construction of the line, adequate compensation for any property that may need to be acquired to accomodate the line and the station, as well as the successful negotiation of a community benefits agreement.

If, however, all of these concerns are addressed, we would support the economic development, job creation, and equitable access to opportunity potential for South Baltimore. Our residents have experienced generations of dis-investment and Maglev could provide the infusion of energy and visibility needed to overcome past oversights.

With all due consideration given to the above articulated concerns, we conditionally endorse Cherry Hill Station as the preferred Baltimore location for the Maglev train.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa R. Hodges-Hiken".

Lisa R. Hodges-Hiken

Executive Director, Westport Community Economic Development Corporation

CC: Bradley Smith