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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION & MDOT MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION  
ANNOUNCE OPENING OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON  
SCMAGLEV PROJECT DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

*FRA has Agreed to Extend the Public Comment Period from 45 to 90 days*

**BALTIMORE, MD (JANUARY 15, 2021)** – Continuing their efforts to keep the public informed about the progress of the environmental review of the private-sector Baltimore-Washington Superconducting Maglev (SCMAGLEV) Project, the [Federal Railroad Administration](#) (FRA) and [Maryland Department of Transportation \(MDOT\) Maryland Transit Administration](#) (MDOT MTA) today announced the public comment period will open on Friday, January 22, on the SCMAGLEV Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The DEIS was posted online today at [bwmaglev.info](#) for public review. All comments received beginning today will be included in the formal public record. Responding to requests from stakeholders, FRA has agreed to extend the original planned public comment period from 45 to 90 days.

The Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV is a private-sector project being proposed by Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail (BWRR). FRA and MDOT MTA prepared a DEIS to study the potential environmental impacts of a new high-speed rail system. BWRR's proposed SCMAGLEV system would operate between Washington, D.C., and Baltimore with a stop at Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport.

On behalf of BWRR, MDOT's responsibilities, in partnership with FRA, include: administering the federal grant funding to perform preliminary engineering and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) study, preparing NEPA documentation and managing the DEIS public outreach process.

FRA and MDOT MTA plan to host virtual public hearings (dates to be determined). These public hearings will be held no sooner than March 22. For updates on the virtual hearing dates and times, please visit [bwmaglev.info](#) and sign up to join the project mailing list. Due to the current COVID-19 protocols, the public hearings will be held virtually. The virtual public hearings will provide an opportunity for the public to verbally comment on the SCMAGLEV DEIS.

The 90-day comment period is open until April 22. In addition to providing comments at the virtual public hearings, the public can submit comments on the website at [bwmaglev.info](#), by email at [info@bwmaglev.info](mailto:info@bwmaglev.info) or by mail to SCMAGLEV Project, c/o Lauren Molesworth, Maryland Transit Administration, 6 Saint Paul St., Baltimore, MD 21202.

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