



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

July 31, 2025

The Honorable Paul Wiedefeld
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, MD 21076

Re: Baltimore-Washington Superconducting Maglev Project (SCMAGLEV Project)

Dear Secretary Wiedefeld:

I am writing to thank you for the past collaboration between the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) on the environmental review for the Baltimore-Washington Super Conducting Magnetic Levitation (SCMAGLEV) Project (the Project). As you are aware, the Project is funded through Cooperative Agreement No. FR-MPS-0002-16 (Agreement) but has experienced numerous delays and cost overruns. Since the award was obligated in 2016, the environmental review process has been paused twice on the Federal Permitting Dashboard. It remains on pause today, where it has been since August 24, 2021. We appreciate MDOT's efforts over the past year to re-engage with the federal cooperating agencies to further understand potential impacts from construction and operation of the Project. However, based on agency feedback, FRA has concluded the Project, as planned, will result in significant, unresolvable impacts to federal agencies and federal property. In addition, given the substantial delay and cost overruns associated with the Project, FRA does not see a viable path to continue investment in the Project. Our understanding is that MDOT agrees with these conclusions and supports the termination of the Agreement.

Therefore, FRA requests that MDOT promptly submit the final reports to close out the Agreement. Once the close out process is complete, FRA will not expect MDOT to expend further financial resources to fulfill its commitments under the Agreement. In addition, FRA will not advance the other two selected projects associated with SCMAGLEV as they are intended to advance the current proposal. FRA will also rescind the Notice of Intent that initiated the Environmental Impact Statement. 81 Fed. Reg. 85319 (Nov. 25, 2016). This will end FRA's involvement in the environmental review process, but it does not preclude the future deployment of SCMAGLEV technology in the United States.

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Please contact FRA Project Manager, Lahiru Karunaratne, for any questions. We appreciate your continued partnership and prompt attention to close out Cooperative Agreement No. FR-MPS-0002-16.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Drew Feeley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Drew" being more prominent than the last name "Feeley".

Drew Feeley
Acting Administrator

cc:

Samantha Biddle, Maryland Department of Transportation

Wayne Rodgers, Baltimore Washington Rapid Rail

J. Thomas Sadowski, Jr., Maryland Economic Development Corporation