

Presentation to the
Bowie City Council
September 5, 2017

**Baltimore-Washington
SCMAGLEV Project**





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **State's Role in the Project**

- MDOT is facilitating the review of BWRR's proposal
 - MDOT is administering the federal grant funding
 - MDOT is conducting the environmental reviews

- **NEPA Process**

- FRA is the lead federal agency for NEPA
- MDOT is working with FRA and many federal, state and local agencies to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of BWRR's proposal
- The NEPA process provides numerous opportunities for the public to review and comment on the analysis

- **Next Steps**

- Next Round of public meetings will be held in October 2017
 - Bowie meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 14th from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at Bowie State University



MARYLAND'S ROLE



PROJECT BACKGROUND

- Baltimore Washington Rapid Rail (BWRR), a private Maryland-based company, is proposing to build and operate a superconducting magnetic levitation (SCMAGLEV) train between Baltimore and Washington DC



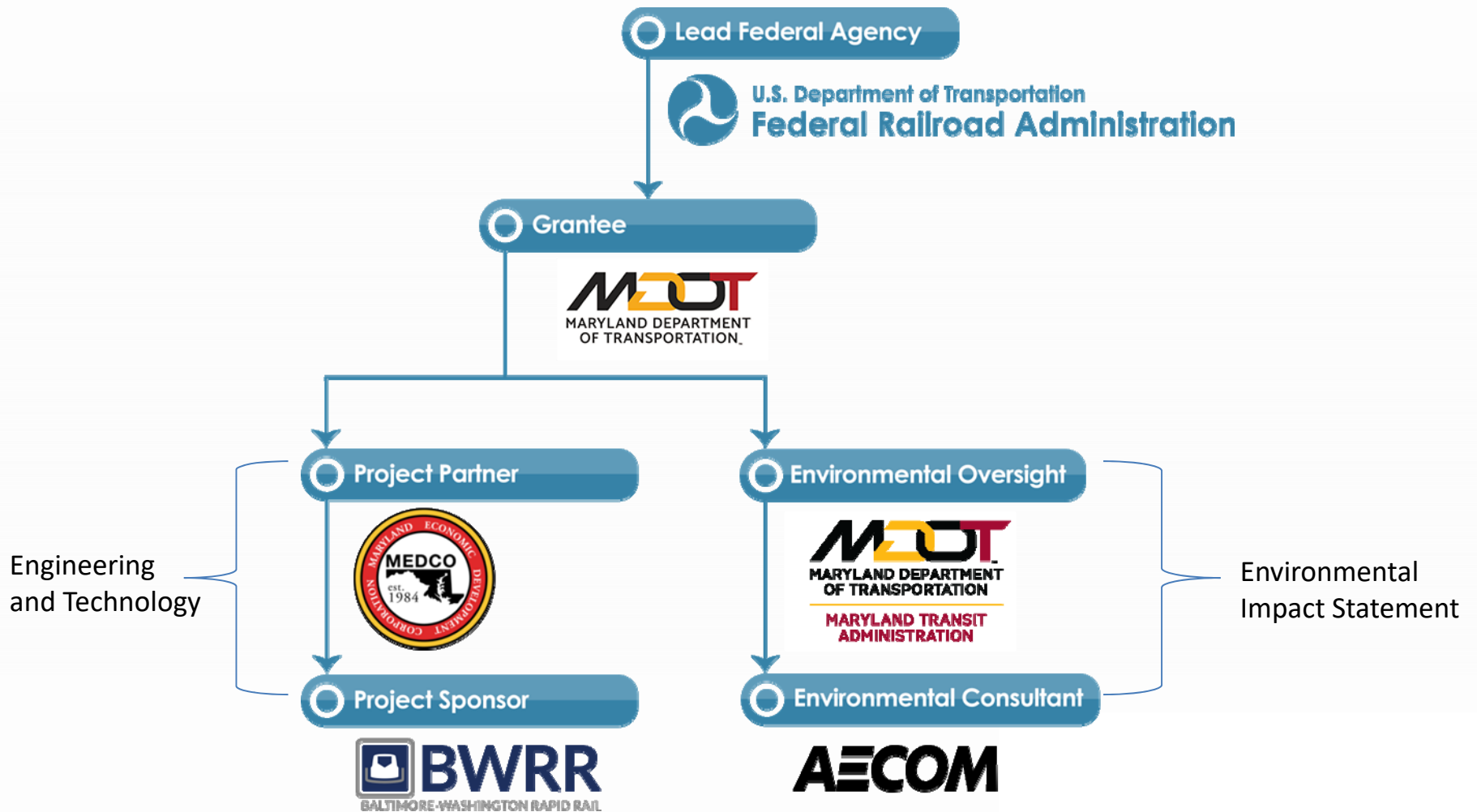
- Three proposed stations
 - Baltimore City
 - BWI Airport
 - Washington DC
- SCMAGLEV train will operate at over 300 mph and take approximately 15 minutes to travel between the two cities
- BWRR would eventually like to extend the system to New York City



MDOT'S ROLE

- MDOT is facilitating the review of BWRR's proposal
- As a private entity, BWRR is not eligible to directly receive federal grant funding to conduct the required federal environmental review
- In 2015, MDOT was awarded \$27.8 million of federal grant funding to conduct the necessary environmental review of BWRR's proposal
- MDOT's responsibilities include:
 - Administer \$27.8 million of federal grant funding to conduct the studies
 - Conduct National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation for BWRR's proposal
 - Oversee public outreach process as part of NEPA

PROJECT STRUCTURE





NEPA PROCESS





NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)

- NEPA requires that environmental factors be considered when undertaking a federal action – for example: federal funding, federal permit or use of federal property
- Environmental impacts to natural, social, economic and cultural resources are studied and weighed against the project’s purpose and need and the No Build alternative
 - Coordination with relevant federal, state and local agencies is required to identify potential impacts
- The project findings are shared with the public for review and comment
- The NEPA process is overseen by a lead federal agency
 - FRA is the lead federal agency for the Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV Project
- For the SCMAGLEV project, FRA is requiring an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the most comprehensive review under NEPA



NEPA PROCESS

- The NEPA process for an EIS involves a number of incremental steps:
 - Scoping
 - Initiated November 2016
 - Purpose and Need
 - Alternatives Development
 - Including analysis of potential environmental impacts
 - Draft Environmental Impact Statement
 - Final Environmental Impact Statement / Record of Decision

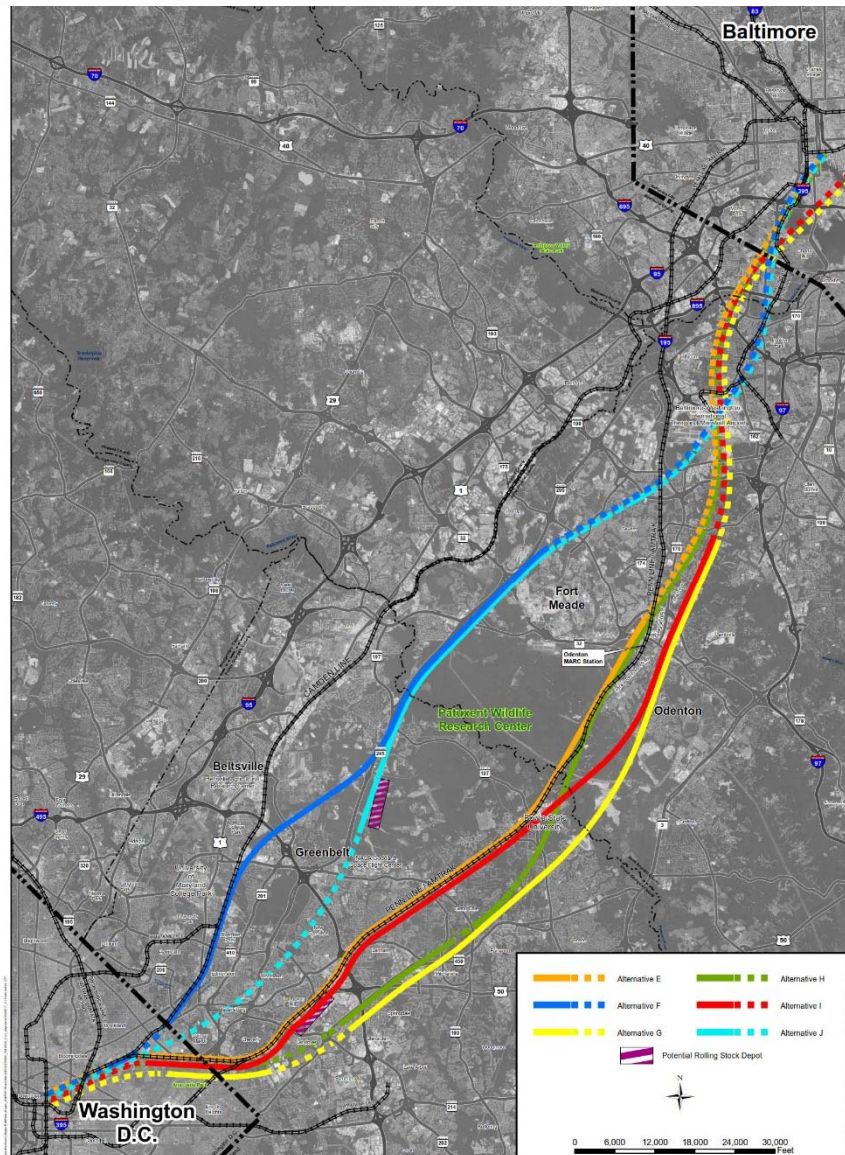


MILESTONES TO DATE

- December 2016 – First round of public workshops
 - Five meetings held throughout the study area
 - The purpose of the meetings was to introduce the project team and solicit public input into the scoping project

- April 2017 – Second round of public workshops
 - Five meetings held throughout the study area
 - The purpose of the meetings was to solicit public input on the draft Purpose and Need Statement and Preliminary Alignments under consideration
 - Six preliminary alignments and the No Build Alternative were included

PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVES (APRIL 2017)





WORK UNDERWAY SINCE APRIL 2017

- Since the April workshops, the project team has been working on the following activities:
 - Compiling comments received at (and following) the April 2017 workshops
 - Coordinating with federal, state and local agencies to solicit input on the preliminary alignments
 - Continuing to refine the alignments to avoid and minimize potential impacts of the preliminary alignments
 - Preparing updated information to be shared in October 2017



NEXT STEPS





NEXT STEPS

- The project team will host the 3rd round of public meetings in October
- The project team will share the results of the Preliminary Alternatives Screening Report (PASR) at the October meetings
 - Reduced number of alignments
 - More detailed information for the remaining alignments
 - Information regarding the potential environmental impacts of each alignment
- Five meetings will be held
 - Saturday, October 14, 2017 – Bowie State University
 - Other locations TBD
- Alternatives Report and Draft Environmental Impact Statement will follow the October meetings



LEARN MORE AND STAY ENGAGED

- Visit the Project Website

www.bwmaglev.info

- Email the Project Team

info@BaltimoreWashingtonSCMaglevProject.com

- Attend an Upcoming Public Meeting



THANK YOU

