

The MCRT Annual Meeting will start soon.

Our thanks to Kyle Hart and the National Parks Conservation Association for hosting tonight's meeting.



As you know, this is a ZOOM meeting.

- Take time now to make any adjustments to your screen.
- In respect to tonight's speakers, please be sure to keep you **mic muted**, and **video off**.
- If you have questions, or would like to share your thoughts, please post them in the Chat.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Tonight's Agenda:

- MCRT Year in Review
- Elected Officials' Taped Messages
- Panel Discussion - Advocating for Better Transit - 2022 Legislative Session
- Recognition of 2021 President and Call to Action



MCRT Annual Meeting

***2021* - Our First Year**

Activities and Accomplishments

February 10, 2022

Speakers & Topics

- **Susan McCutchen** –
SCMaglev Opposition Beginnings and Formation of MCRT.
- **Vicki Reynolds** –
Nonprofit Exploratory Committee and Current MCRT Board members.
- **Pat Jackman** –
MCRT's Formation, Mission, and Finances.
- **Larry Liebesman** –
2021 Legal Challenge Activities and Looking Ahead into 2022.
- **Dan Woomer & Suzzie Schuyler** –
MCRT 2021 – Accomplishments, Building to Our Future.

MCRT's Roots

- From 2016 – 2019:
 - Our communities first became aware of the proposal to build the SCMaglev.
 - While several different paths for the SCMaglev were under consideration, groups of concerned residents shared information on social media.
 - Questions about financial stability, the potential health impacts, and potential environmental damage were being identified and discussed among the locations along the alternate paths.
 - Concerned residents came together and formed the *Citizens Against the SCMaglev* (CATS). They started contacting elected officials and testifying at local, county, and state government hearings.
 - CATS created a website and Facebook page to collect and share their and others research.
 - Through 2020, CATS members and leadership have shared information with state and congressional elected officials. CATS members testified before the Maryland legislature raising their concerns about building and operating the SCMaglev.

Nonprofit Exploratory Committee (Sept. – Dec. 2020)

- ★ **Kathy Bartolomeo** (Greenbelt)
- ★ **Deborah Barrett** (Laurel)
- ★ **Owen Kelley** (Greenbelt)
- ★ **Pat Jackman** (New Carrollton)
- ★ **Susan McCutchen** (Bladensburg)
- ★ **Vicki Reynolds** (Lanham)



MCRT's 2022 Board of Directors

- **Vicki Reynolds** – President
- **Pat Jackman** – Treasurer
- **Kathy Bartolomeo** – Secretary
- **Suzzie Schuyler** – Parliamentarian
- **Kyle Hart** – At Large
- **Susan McCutchen** – At Large
- **Dan Woomer** – At Large



MCRT Mission Statement

Maryland Coalition for Responsible Transit

is organized exclusively to:

- Evaluate transit projects for social equity, environmental impact, economic viability, and community accessibility; and to inform decision makers.
- Research and inform the community on planned transportation projects and their potential impact on our communities, residents, and businesses.
- Increase public participation in transportation projects through education and awareness.



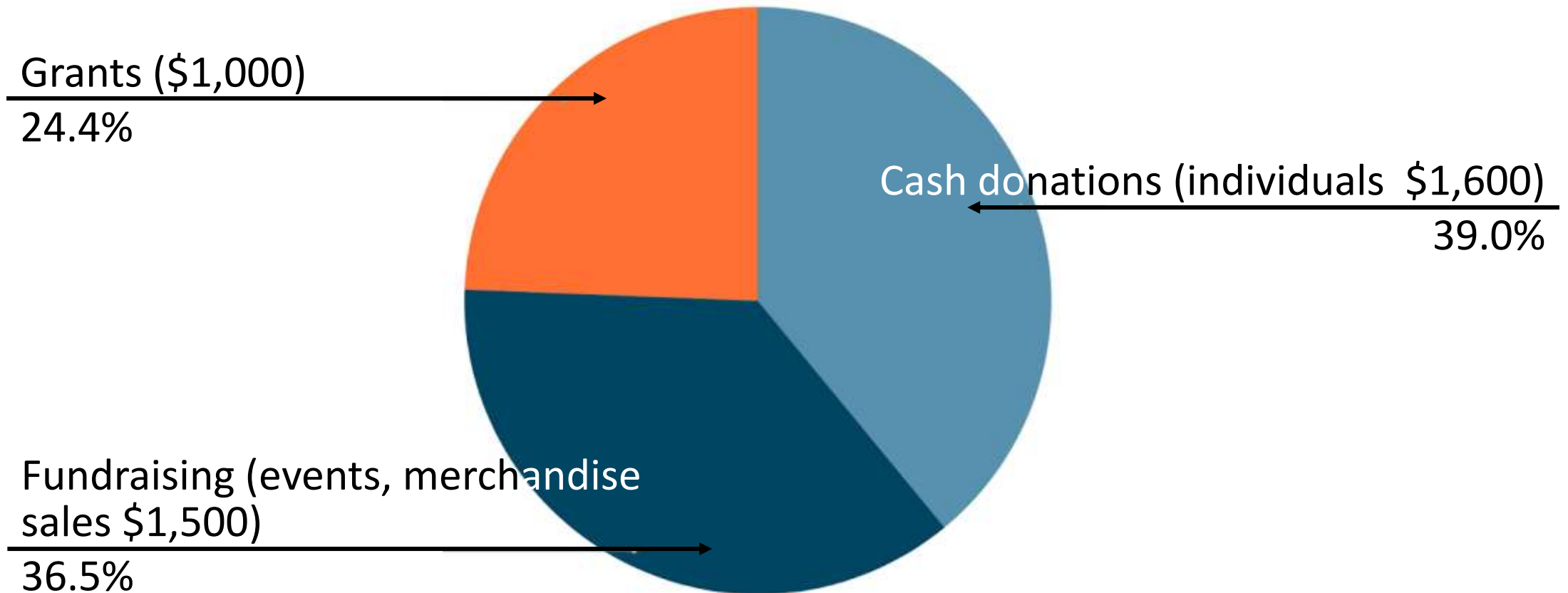
MCRT Starts Up and Gets to Work

MCRT goals include:

- Mobilize opposition to respond to the SCMaglev Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and to sustain opposition beyond the DEIS phase.
- Build on the work CATS and other groups have achieved.
- Bring other concerned organizations together to grow the opposition to the SCMaglev project. (Environmental Contingent, NPCA, GCAN, TPMC).
- Educate the public through community presentations, social media, information tables at local events, and information releases to news media, such as local newspapers and reporters.

Finally, with the creation of our webpage and communications outreach we are able to accept charitable donations to fuel opposition efforts.

MCRT's Fiscal Year 2021 Revenue



MCRT also received \$3,000 in in-kind donations during 2021.

MCRT's Communication and Outreach

- MCRT forms the Communication and Outreach Committee to grow the sharing of information about SCMaglev opposition.
- 2021 developed and implemented:
 - Door hangers and flyers (translated)
 - Established extensive distribution networks (Susan McCutchen)
 - Started a webpage:
www.mcrt-action.org
 - Petition tool (translated)
 - Facebook pages: CATS and MCRT providing information and “boosts” (Bill Boone and Kristi Fletcher)
 - “Stop the Maglev Train” signs
 - Newsletters and alerts (Mailchimp)
 - Affiliated with Simple Steps (Beth LeaMond and Susan Barnett)
 - Draft letters and emails to elected officials
 - Led the work on the DEIS review, analysis, and creation and delivery of the MCRT comments submission

MCRT Goals for Fiscal Year 2022

2022 MCRT Plans include:

- Increase cash donations by 50%.
- Increase grant funding.
- Improve website content and style with paid technical expertise.
- Update communication tools and translate to reach a broader audience.
- Increase outreach to underserved communities to raise awareness and participation.
- Prepare throughout the year for 2023 Maryland General Assembly legislative session to better involve our membership.
- Stay abreast of transit projects and issues.

Larry Liebesman – MCRT Attorney from the Chesapeake Legal Alliance

2021 Legal Challenge Activities and Looking Ahead to 2022

- Guided MCRT in understanding NEPA regulations and advised on the MCRT DEIS comment submission.
- Lead MCRT's advisory meeting with the White House Council on Environmental Quality.
- Developed FOIA request and appeal challenging redactions in FRA-provided ridership data.
- Address Clean Water Act Permitting Issues.
Army Corps of Engineers and Maryland Department of the Environment.
- Coordinated with M-NCPPC and City of Greenbelt.
- Continues to advise in 2022.



A Year Filled with MCRT Activities and Accomplishments

- MCRT is established and registered as a 501(c)(3) organization in December 2020.
- MCRT online presence – setup and growth of our website, Facebook page, and Twitter in January 2021.
MCRT website: www.mcrt-action.org MCRT Facebook page: www.facebook.com/MCRTaction
- Renee Green (Renee Green Productions) videographs and posts a series of community SCMaglev impact videos.
- MCRT develops and posts fifteen opposition position papers on various facets of the SCMaglev.
- MCRT's FRA Submission "SCMagLev DEIS Comments, Concerns, and Questions"
 - January through May - Experts come together and form teams to review and identify concerns, questions, missing information, and errant statements within the 4,100 pages of the SCMaglev DEIS. The MCRT team produces a 395-page submission for the Federal Railroad Administration and the Maryland Department of Transportation, filed on May 20, 2021.
- MCRT organizes community meetings and town hall presentations, including:
 - January through March –
 - "Is the SCMaglev Train Project Good For Maryland?"
 - Virtual Town Hall" co-sponsored by PGC Councilmembers Dannielle Glaros and Jolene Ivey
 - "SCMaglev Not the Solution" briefing for the AAC Executive Pittman
 - Prince George's County Environmental Forum
 - Pilot B-W SCMaglev DEIS Commenting Workshop
 - "Maglev Community Forum" presentation hosted by PGC Councilmember Dannielle Glaros

A Year Filled with MCRT Activities and Accomplishments

- MCRT presented at the “Town of Bladensburg SCMaglev Community Meeting.” Spanish-language documents provided
- April through June –
 - “Don’t Be Fooled By the SCMaglev Town Hall” hosted by MCRT & PGC Young Democrats.
 - MCRT hosted several Draft Environmental Impact Statement public hearings.
 - MCRT presented “Maglev High-Speed Train: Impacts Overview and Action Resources” to the North College Park Community Association.
 - MCRT presented “Maglev Opposition” in English and Spanish hosted by Senator Pam Beidle, AAC.
 - MCRT presented at the “Town of Bladensburg SCMaglev Community Meeting” Spanish-language documents provided.
 - MCRT provided opposition information at the Greenbelt Maglev Rally.
- MCRT hosted a Spanish-language Emergency Maglev Meeting for the Latino Community on the SCMaglev Train Project. MCRT in coordination with Community Oriented Policing Services and PGC Office of Community Relations.
- MCRT presented opposition information to the Greater Riverdale Thrives Community Coalition.
- MCRT presented opposition information to the People for Change Coalition Black Chamber Emergency Meeting to counter statements made by BWRR.
- MCRT hosted a Spanish-language Emergency Maglev Meeting for the Latino Community on the SCMaglev Train Project MCRT in coordination with Community Oriented Policing Services and PGC Office of Community Relations.
- MCRT participated at the Greenbelt Spellman Bridge Rally sharing SCMaglev opposition information.

A Year Filled with MCRT Activities and Accomplishments

- MCRT organizes community meetings and town hall presentations, including:
 - July through December –
 - September 29 - “Alternatives to the Maglev: Equitable Transit for All Marylanders”
Hosted by Delegate Jared Solomon
- MCRT gathers affiliate organizations to join the effort to stop the SCMaglev.
To see the list of affiliates, go to our website at: www.mcrt-action.org.
- MCRT meets and briefs elected officials throughout 2021, including:
 - Congressman Anthony Brown’s staff
 - Congressman Jamie Raskin’s staff
 - Senator Chris Van Hollen’s staff
 - Federal Railroad Administration and Maryland Department of Transportation Listening Session
 - Congressman Steny Hoyer’s staff
 - Congressman John Sarbanes’ staff
 - Senator Benjamin Cardin’s staff
 - Council on Environmental Quality (National Environmental Policy Act) Listening Session

A Year Filled with MCRT Activities and Accomplishments

- MCRT attended, staffed information tables, and fund raised including:
 - Glory Days Grill in Linthicum – Dine in for Dollars.
 - Maryland City Target Store.
 - Annual Benson-Hammond House Craft Fair.
 - Annual Greenbelt Labor Day Festival.
 - Annual Mexican Independence Day in the Town of Bladensburg.
 - First of several bi-weekly information tables at the Riverdale Farmers Market.
 - Annual Linthicum Parade and Craft Fair.
 - Annual Bowie International Day.
- MCRT applied for and received two grants to continue outreach and community engagement.

What's in Store for MCRT in 2022?

- MCRT's first 2022 presentation:
 - January 26 - "Opposition to SCMaglev in the United States"
The planned two-hour Zoom conference sponsored by the Nashinoki Peace Academy and Friends of the Earth Japan extended to over three hours with an excellent exchange of information and perspective. More such sessions are planned as we build our alliance with the Japanese opposed to the SCMaglev.
- Increase outreach and continue to organize opposition to building and operating the SCMaglev.
- MCRT has joined other organizations in opposing the current plans to expand the Washington, D.C., Beltway, and install toll lanes.
- Continue to review transportation project proposals assessing their impact on the environment and on our communities and residents.

Expanding SCMaglev Opposition Beyond the MCRT

- Several federal agencies, such as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the U.S. Department of the Interior, have expressed serious concerns with building and operating the SCMaglev.
- While opposition will be a long and hard struggle against a wealthy and influential opponent, the MCRT will continue coordinate and consolidate its opposition and continue our efforts to stop the building of the SCMaglev.
- The MCRT has received and posted opposition comments from federal agencies and elected officials, as well as community, civic, and environmental organizations, on our website. To see and read these go to www.mcrt-action.org and click on the “SCMaglev Opposition” tab.
- Currently, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has paused the review schedule for building the SCMaglev for a second time because of receiving so many opposition comments. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has also paused their permitting review. The MCRT has met with the FRA review team and the White House’s Council on Environmental Quality office leadership to discuss the reasons and justifications to oppose construction of the SCMaglev.

Thank you for listening.

If you want to find out more about the *Maryland Coalition for Responsible Transit*, join in our efforts, or help with your financial support, please visit our website at:
www.mcrt-action.org.

Now onto the second part of our Annual Meeting.