



## PRESS RELEASE

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**Maryland Coalition for Responsible Transit Denounces Continued Misleading Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail Claims and Recent South Baltimore 7 Coalition Actions in Controversial Support of the Superconducting Magnetic Levitation Train Project**

**September 20, 2022, Maryland Coalition for Responsible Transit MD** – In its September 8 press release, the South Baltimore 7 Coalition (SB7) claimed to represent all its members as wholly endorsing the Superconducting Magnetic Levitation (SCMaglev) train project. This inaccurate and misleading representation emanated from the convening of a special board meeting by SB7 Chair Michael Middleton to pressure community leaders to vote in favor of a letter supporting this transportation project.

The Westport Neighborhood Association (WNA) and Westport Community Economic Development Corporation (Westport CEDC) are setting the record straight regarding the SB7. The actual support was limited to **only three** board members. With one abstention and two “no” votes, **less than a majority** of the directors present voted in favor of such a letter with the condition that a “planned” community benefits agreement be put in place “to detail BWRR’s [Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail] activities with, and contributions to, South Baltimore communities.” As has been pointed out by the WNA and Westport CEDC in their public statements, there have been no substantive discussions leading to the promised formulation of such an agreement with BWRR or The Northeast Maglev (TNEM), the promoter of the Baltimore-Washington SCMaglev project.

MCRT joins WNA and the Westport CEDC in challenging the continued deceptive and unsupported claims made by BWRR to promote building the SCMaglev. We will continue to partner with residents and allied community and civic associations, environmental organizations, cities, counties, and federal agencies to achieve a “No Build” decision by the Federal Railroad Administration and to stop this monstrosity before it destroys our communities and damages sensitive protected environmental areas.

To read the SB7 press release, [click here](#). TNEM included this announcement in its September 15 marketing newsletter, thanking the SB7 communities for “throwing their collective weight behind the Northeast Maglev project,” further spreading misleading information. To read the WNA/Westport CEDC response, [click here](#). On September 16, the *Baltimore Sun* reported on this standoff: “Westport neighborhood groups remain strongly opposed to a high-speed Maglev train that would cut through their community’s undeveloped waterfront, despite new support for the controversial project from a larger coalition of South Baltimore residents.” [Click here](#) to read the full article.

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