

Introduced: Mr. Roberts
1st Reading: September 21, 2020
Passed: September 21, 2020
Posted: September 25, 2020
Effective: September 21, 2020

Resolution Number 2088

A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A GREENBELT SCMAGLEV OPPOSITION TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) are preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential impacts of constructing and operating a high-speed superconducting magnetic levitation (SCMaglev) system between Washington, DC and Baltimore, Maryland with an intermediate stop at BWI Airport; and

WHEREAS, the project is being privately sponsored by Baltimore Washington Rapid Rail; and

WHEREAS, the City has stated its strong opposition to the project citing adverse social, environmental and economic impacts; and

WHEREAS, both of the two route alignments under consideration (Alignments J & J-1) traverse under and above ground through Greenbelt posing significant threat to homes, schools, historical properties, park facilities/lands, businesses, sensitive environmental resources (i.e., woods, streams, wildlife, etc.) and forest preserve areas; and

WHEREAS, the J-1 alignment will have destructive impact on valuable, environmentally sensitive resources within and adjacent to our City including the Baltimore-Washington Parkway, the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC), NASA Goddard Space Flight Center; the Patuxent Research Refuge and other important open spaces; and

WHEREAS, this project will not in any way benefit Greenbelt residents or any of the communities and neighborhoods along the proposed routes; and

WHEREAS, the adverse impacts of the proposed project will expand far beyond the City of Greenbelt; and

WHEREAS, the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is expected in January 2021; and

WHEREAS, the city is dedicated to a thorough review of the DEIS and in the implementation of strategies that promote the No Build alternative; and

WHEREAS, the City’s review of the DEIS and advocacy for the No-Build option should include the involvement of existing City Council advisory boards and committees, as well as incorporate the expertise and talents of other interested citizens from the public at large, environmental advocacy groups and existing SCMaglev opposition advocacy groups. **NOW THEREFORE**

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Greenbelt, Maryland that a Greenbelt SCMaglev Opposition Task Force be established to lead opposition efforts against the SCMaglev project including, but not limited to, identifying short and long term action strategies, public education and outreach; coordinating efforts with local and regional advocacy groups and agencies; assisting with social media campaign; and building local and regional partnerships. The Task force shall be organized and directed as follows:

Greenbelt SCMaglev Opposition Task Force

I. Purpose.

The SCMaglev Opposition Task Force (hereafter the “Task Force”) shall be responsible for the identification and implementation of short and long term strategies for promoting the No Build alternative, leading opposition efforts on the two build alternatives, and for assisting in the review of the DEIS. The Task Force shall lead public education and outreach efforts in support of the No Build alternative, coordinate advocacy efforts with other established groups opposing the SCMaglev, build partnerships with neighboring communities and conduct local, state and federal lobbying efforts.

II. Membership

Recognizing the complexity of the SCMaglev project, the size and composition of the Task Force shall be broad reaching and flexible to allow for the establishment of subcommittees as advocacy and review needs evolve. Staff suggests that Council use the following criteria for a guide in appointing initial members to the Task Force:

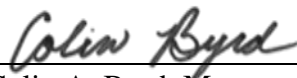
- a. Greenbelt City Council Members (non-voting members)
- b. Forest Preserve Advisory Board Members
- c. At least one (1) member in good standing each from the Advisory Planning Board, GreenACES/Green Team, Youth Advisory Committee, Community Relations Advisory Board, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and Advisory Committee on Trees.
- d. A Representative of Greenbelt Homes Incorporated’s SCMaglev Task Force.
- e. Dedicated and hardworking Greenbelt residents, preferably some with backgrounds in environmental law, social justice, environmental engineering and community engagement.

- f. Representatives from Greenbelt East homeowner/condominium associations including the Greenbelt East Advisory Committee.
- g. Representatives of established organizations/groups involved in advocacy work in opposition to the SCMaglev project (i.e., Citizens Against SCMaglev and Greenbelt Advocates for Environmental and Social Justice and 295 Coalition).
- h. City staff member liaison appointed by the City Manager.
- i. The Task Force should be demographically diverse.

III. Meetings

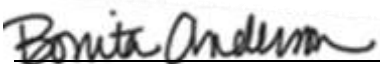
- a. The Task Force shall establish a regular date and time for meetings, which shall be scheduled no less frequently than bi-monthly.
- b. Meetings of the Task Force shall be held in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.
- c. The Task Force may create subcommittees as needed and those subcommittees shall meet on an as needed basis and report back to the Task Force as appropriate.
- d. The Task Force shall elect its own officers.
- e. The Task Force shall keep minutes of all meetings. Minutes shall be approved by a majority vote of the Task Force and forwarded to Council/City Manager.
- f. The Task Force may communicate with the City Council through reports adopted by a majority vote of the Task Force.

PASSED by the Council of the City of Greenbelt, Maryland, at a Special Meeting, September 21, 2020.



Colin A. Byrd, Mayor

ATTEST:



Bonita Anderson, City Clerk