

February 16, 2022

Written Testimony in Favor of SB0516 – Equitable and Inclusive Transit-Oriented Development Enhancement Act (Cross-file HB0710)

Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

My name is Susan McCutchen. I am writing in support of SB0516, sponsored by Senator Malcolm Augustine. I want to thank him for bringing forth this bill. A supporter of projects such as the West Baltimore Project and other transportation projects that are equitable and inclusive of Maryland residents, I strongly support this bill.

Marylanders need projects that, unlike the SCMaglev that is exclusive and not mass transit, serve residents where they live and more readily address their real and pressing transportation needs creatively and at a reasonable cost to help them improve their lives. For example, the West Baltimore Project (Baltimore-Washington Transportation Research Group) would serve Baltimore residents far better than would the far-too-expensive and impractical SCMaglev Oligarch Train.

We already have a service in place capable of achieving the state [Maglev EIS] objectives ... MARC could run additive express service on the Penn Line with existing equipment on existing tracks tomorrow, if it chose to, and the trip time between Baltimore and Washington would be under a half-hour. No new construction needed, and with a ticket price of less than \$10.”

<https://westbaltimoreproject.org/maglev>

In a pilot run on August 30, 2021 (unfortunately with no stop at the West Baltimore Station):

“During afternoon rush hour, the train took just 23 minutes to get to its BWI Rail Station station, 30 minutes to hit the West Baltimore Station (but not stop!), and 40 minutes to pull into Baltimore Penn.”

<https://westbaltimoreproject.org/maglev>

Again, the above serves as an example of what can be achieved with equitable and inclusive transit-oriented development. We residents understand our legislators are tasked with finding solutions to our transportation needs. We ask that you strongly consider our input about practicable solutions to those needs where we live and try to thrive.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony. I look forward to SB0516 moving out of committee and going forward.

Sincerely,

Susan R. McCutchen

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