

# Town of Bladensburg

## Council Members

### Ward I

Trina Brown

Kalisha Dixon



### Mayor

Takisha James

## Council Members

### Ward I

Marilyn Blount

Carrol McBryde

February 12, 2025

Written Testimony of Mayor Takisha James  
Town of Bladensburg  
House Environment and Transportation Committee  
Hearing Date: Friday, February 14, 1:30 PM

**Re:** Support for House Bill 400: State Finance - Prohibited Appropriations - Magnetic Levitation

Chairman Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee,

My name is Takisha James, and I serve as the Mayor of the Town of Bladensburg. I am submitting this testimony in support of House Bill 400, which prohibits state appropriations for developing a Magnetic Levitation (Maglev) Transportation System.

The proposed Maglev project presents significant concerns for the residents of Bladensburg and surrounding communities. This project threatens to disrupt established neighborhoods, increase noise pollution, and displace residents and businesses—all without demonstrating clear benefits to the communities most directly impacted. The lack of comprehensive community engagement and transparent planning further exacerbates these concerns.

Bladensburg, like many municipalities in Prince George's County, prioritizes sustainable and equitable transportation solutions that serve all residents, particularly those who rely on accessible and affordable public transit. The Maglev project does not align with these priorities. Instead, it poses risks to environmental justice, public infrastructure, and the financial health of our state by diverting crucial funds away from projects that directly benefit Marylanders.

Additionally, this bill ensures that taxpayer dollars are not allocated to a project that lacks a clear path to affordability and accessibility for the average commuter. Investing in existing transportation networks, such as MARC train improvements, enhanced bus services, and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure, would yield far greater returns for our communities. The State of Maryland is facing significant funding challenges, and cutting funding to this project would be a perfect way to save valuable tax dollars.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to issue a favorable report on House Bill 400. Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to policies that reflect the best interests of Maryland's communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Takisha D. James". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'T' and 'J'.

Takisha D. James

Mayor, Town of Bladensburg