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Description of document: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Meeting Materials from the June 23, 2025 FRA meeting with landholders and agencies about the Baltimore to DC MagLev Train Project

Requested date: 04-August-2025

Release date: 02-April-2026

Posted date: 13-April-2026

Source of document: FOIA Request
Freedom of Information Act Coordinator
Freedom of Information Act Office
Office of the Chief Counsel
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, Stop 10
Washington, D.C. 20590
Email: FRAFOIA@dot.gov
Fax: 202-493-6481
FOIA.gov

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April 2, 2026

Re: FFRA-25-00456

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), dated August 4, 2025, in which you requested, , *“a copy of the meeting minutes, the meeting agendas, the transcript if available, the video if available, the presentation slides from the meeting and each handout from the meeting, for the June 23, 2025 meeting of FRA with federal land-owning and permitted agencies, BWRR, MDOT and FRA representatives, concerning the proposed DC - Baltimore Maglev project.”*

In accordance with the FOIA, enclosed record is responsive to your request. No fee has been assessed for the documents in light of the minimal cost incurred in providing you with these documents. FRA has considered the foreseeable harm standard when reviewing records and applying FOIA exemptions.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(6), the [name and email address] of individuals included in the responsive record are exempt from disclosure. FOIA Exemption (b)(6) exempts personnel and medical and similar files, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. It is FRA’s policy to withhold the name and email address of individuals because such information constitutes sensitive, personal, and private information.

You may appeal this decision to the Administrator; Federal Railroad Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E., Washington, DC 20590. According to the FOIA statute, 5 U.S.C. § 552 (a)(6)(A)(i)(III)(aa), your appeal must be submitted in writing within ninety days of your receipt of this letter. Per the Department’s FOIA regulations, 49 C.F.R. Part 7 the appeal must indicate that it is an appeal under FOIA, it must include all arguments and information upon which you rely, and the envelope in which the appeal is sent must be prominently marked, “FOIA Appeal.”

Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001; e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769. Please note that using OGIS services does not affect the timing of filing an appeal with the FRA’s FOI/PA Office.

The 2007 FOIA amendments created the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation.

If you have any questions regarding your FOIA request, you may contact FRA's FOIA Office at: FRAFOIA@dot.gov. You may also contact FRA's FOIA Public Liaison Office at: FRAFOIALiaison@dot.gov for any further assistance.

Since FRA has no additional records in its possession that are responsive to your request, I am closing your file in this office.

Sincerely,

Yolanda Brown

Yolanda Brown
Government Information Specialist
Office of the Chief Counsel

Enclosure(s)
FRA's Maglev Project Meeting Presentation and Notes

From: Osterhues, Marlys (FRA)
Sent: Mon, 2 Jun 2025 22:35:53 +0000
To: Bill Scott
Cc: Fields, Kyle (FRA); Nissenbaum, Paul (FRA); Perez-Arrieta, Stephanie (FRA); Karunaratne, Lahiru (FRA); Bratcher, Brandon (FRA); Peternith, Andrew (FRA); Mohammed, Faris (OST); Van Nostrand, Christopher (FRA); Davis, Wynne (FRA); jthorne; Michael Dowd; [(b)(6)] [(b)(6)] Ian Rainey
Subject: Hold date/time for Interagency Meeting with Land-owning Agencies - June 23rd at 1-2:30pm

Good evening, Bill –

The time for the meeting on the 23rd has now been set from 1-2:30pm. So please hold the date/time. The format of the meeting will be hybrid with an in-person option at USDOT Headquarters and virtual option via MS Teams. The agenda for the meeting is still under development and will be shared with participants in advance of the meeting. This is a reminder to please provide any written questions for the agencies as soon as possible. We plan to provide those questions to the agencies in advance, with the agenda, to ensure a productive discussion.

Regards –

Marlys Osterhues

From: Osterhues, Marlys (FRA)
Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2025 5:27 PM
To: Bill Scott [(b)(6)] Michael Dowd [(b)(6)] Ian Rainey [(b)(6)] [(b)(6)] [(b)(6)]
Cc: Fields, Kyle (FRA) [(b)(6)] Nissenbaum, Paul (FRA) [(b)(6)] Perez-Arrieta, Stephanie (FRA) [(b)(6)] Karunaratne, Lahiru (FRA) [(b)(6)] Bratcher, Brandon (FRA) [(b)(6)] Peternith, Andrew (FRA) [(b)(6)] Mohammed, Faris (OST) [(b)(6)] Van Nostrand, Christopher (FRA) [(b)(6)] Davis, Wynne (FRA) [(b)(6)] jthorne [(b)(6)] [(b)(6)]
Subject: Scheduling of Interagency Meeting with Land-owning Agencies - Meeting Date Set for June 23rd

Good evening, Bill:

Thank you for your email. FRA agrees to schedule the interagency meeting for Monday, June 23. FRA is not scheduling individual meetings with the agencies, but BWRR may provide specific questions for individual agencies or ask specific questions to individual agencies during the interagency meeting. **Please provide any written questions for the agencies no later than COB Monday, June 2.**

BWRR has previously met directly with agencies without FRA. FRA continues to have no objection to BWRR reaching out to individual agencies on technical matters related to the project. To be clear, FRA would not arrange separate meetings; a combined interagency meeting remains the best way to coordinate on next steps.

FRA reiterates that this combined meeting is an opportunity for BWRR to seek clarification from all relevant agencies as to what additional work, if any, including technical analyses, mitigation, or design changes are needed to advance the project. This is also an opportunity for BWRR to confirm whether specific resources need to be avoided along the proposed alignment. BWRR has access to pertinent agency comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the summary report from the interagency coordination conducted last summer.

FRA will follow up with the specific meeting time on the 23rd.

Regards –

Marlys Osterhues

From: Bill Scott [(b)(6)]
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 1:23 PM
To: Osterhues, Marlys (FRA) [(b)(6)] Michael Dowd [(b)(6)]
Ian Rainey [(b)(6)] [(b)(6)]
[(b)(6)] [(b)(6)] [(b)(6)]
Cc: Fields, Kyle (FRA) [(b)(6)] Nissenbaum, Paul (FRA) [(b)(6)]
Perez-Arrieta, Stephanie (FRA) [(b)(6)] Karunaratne, Lahiru (FRA)
[(b)(6)] Bratcher, Brandon (FRA) [(b)(6)] Peternith,
Andrew (FRA) [(b)(6)] Mohammed, Faris (FRA) [(b)(6)] Bill
Scott [(b)(6)]
Subject: RE: Scheduling of Interagency Meeting with Land-owning Agencies - Target Meeting Date of June 16th

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Department of Transportation (DOT). Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon Marlys,

BWRR is very interested in meeting with each individual agency to discuss our preferred alternative and its potential impacts on their properties. We believe that our preferred alternative is workable with many of the agencies based on our review of their comments and meeting summaries. BWRR is unavailable to meet during the week of June 16th as key members are out of the country but would be available the week of June 23rd for a larger group meeting.

In order to make this 23rd meeting most productive and efficient, BWRR is asking for FRA's assistance to set-up individual meetings on our preferred alternative with each key land owning agency, BWRR, and MDOT in advance, as we believe we can address many agency specific issues this way, and would lead to a more productive meeting on the 23rd about path forward and remaining open issues.

Please let me know if you have any questions and who we could coordinate with to set-up meetings over the next several weeks. Thank you.

Regards,
Bill Scott
President and Chief Operating Officer

(b)(6)



From: Osterhues, Marlys (FRA) [(b)(6)]
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 7:12 PM
To: Michael Dowd [(b)(6)] Bill Scott [(b)(6)] Ian Rainey [(b)(6)]
[(b)(6)] [(b)(6)] [(b)(6)]
jthorne [(b)(6)]
Cc: Fields, Kyle (FRA) [(b)(6)] Nissenbaum, Paul (FRA) [(b)(6)]
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[(b)(6)] Bratcher, Brandon (FRA) [(b)(6)] Peternith, Andrew (FRA) [(b)(6)] Mohammed, Faris (FRA) [(b)(6)]
Subject: Scheduling of Interagency Meeting with Land-owning Agencies - Target Meeting Date of June 16th

Good evening BWRR and MDOT,

FRA is reaching out regarding BWRR's request for a meeting with land-owning agencies to discuss the Baltimore-Washington Superconducting Maglev (SCMAGLEV) Project. We are targeting **June 16 with back up of June 23rd**, for this follow-up meeting. FRA sent out notifications to the agencies today. We will confirm the final date/time once we receive responses from the land-owning agencies regarding their availability.

We request that BWRR submit questions for the agencies by **June 1st** to ensure a well-organized and productive meeting. We appreciate your time and will provide further updates as soon as possible.

Regards – Marlys

US Department of Interior

Baltimore—Washington Parkway

1. Does NPS have a long-term plan for BWP expansion and/or maintenance, and a timeline that the project would need to align with? If so, can you please provide this?
2. Are there improvements that could be undertaken during the project construction phase that would be beneficial to the BWP (for example, removal of invasive species, fencing, etc.)?

Patuxent Research Refuge (PRR)

1. As the project impacts PRR along its boundary with the BWP, does PRR have guidelines for wildlife access and mobility adjacent to roadways?
2. Are there specific mitigations that could be implemented (noise barriers, vegetation, etc.) that would help address FWS concerns related to the PRR mission?
3. Are there any lessons learned from other projects (for example, transmission lines in PRR) that could be provided?

US Department of Agriculture

1. Has there been any progress on the 22 buildings planned for demolition (based on the EA from January 2020), and specifically 14 buildings located on the proposed TMF BARC West site?
2. Is there a timeline and long-term plan for the other buildings planned for demolition that can be provided?
3. Concerning laydown areas, does BARC have requirements for laydown areas that are preferred? Are there typical laydown areas that have been used for the other construction projects on BARC?
4. Can you provide an update and timeline on any proposed solar farms on BARC property?
5. Can you provide utility mapping for the BARC site so we can assess how to avoid or mitigate impacts?
6. You mentioned that utilities service “will require a more extensive impact to BARC lands than identified to bring the upgraded utilities to the site which are non-existent.” Can you outline the other impacts that are not mentioned in the DEIS?
7. Do you have tolerance levels that can be shared for noise and vibration regarding animals and instrumentation, locational concerns, and preferred mitigation?
8. Regarding EMF and EMI, can you identify where in BARC this is an issue and what specifically are the concerns for animals and instrumentation (i.e. tolerance levels)?

9. Can you share tree clearing and reforestation plans or guidelines that have been used for other development projects suggested on BARC (e.g. Bureau of Engraving and Printing facility; Solar panel project, etc.)?

US Department of Labor

1. Given that the BWRR preferred alignment does not include a TMF along MD-198, does your agency have any issues with the BWRR preferred alignment?

Ft Meade / NSA

1. Specific concerns and comments from NSA have not been shared with BWRR for security reasons. Could an unclassified discussion be arranged with BWRR to review and address potential concerns?
2. Concerning viaduct and portal sections on NSA:
 - a. Can you clarify specific impacts / concerns regarding your ability to “sustain and support our partner commands and tenant agencies”?
 - b. Can you describe the clearance processes by which current maintenance / service personnel access the facility?
 - c. Are there improvements that could be coordinated with Fort Meade that support long-range plans of the facility?

NASA

1. NASA’s concerns about light, EMF, noise and vibration appear to apply primarily to the BARC East TMF. Would these concerns be satisfied if the BARC West (or another, non-BARC East TMF) were chosen?
2. Can you provide specific tolerance levels (for EMF, noise and vibration, light, etc.) so we can address these during construction and operation? Do these tolerance levels include the radius/distance from the source?
3. NASA comments mention the effects on the GSFC campus from alignment J. Can you provide a list/itemization of those effects?

US Secret Service

1. To address potential Electromagnetic Frequency and Interference, can you share specific concerns and / or tolerance levels?

2. Do you have guidelines for noise impacts and visual access to sensitive areas that we could use for potential project design?
3. To address USSS security and firing range operations, can you explain the clearance processes by which current maintenance / service personnel are permitted access to secure areas during construction and operations?
4. Can USSS provide additional information on the site master plan that might be impacted by the project?

US Army Corps of Engineers

1. Can you detail the specific wetlands impacts that were not addressed in the DEIS by the NEPA team that should be addressed in the FEIS?
2. Can you outline specific issues with the BARC West TMF that would conflict with designating it as a Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative (LEDPA)?

From: Bill Scott
Sent: Wed, 21 May 2025 17:22:40 +0000
To: Osterhues, Marlys (FRA); Michael Dowd; Ian Rainey;
[(b)(6)] [(b)(6)] jthorne
Cc: Fields, Kyle (FRA); Nissenbaum, Paul (FRA); Perez-Arrieta, Stephanie (FRA);
Karunaratne, Lahiru (FRA); Bratcher, Brandon (FRA); Peternith, Andrew (FRA); Mohammed, Faris (FRA);
Bill Scott
Subject: RE: Scheduling of Interagency Meeting with Land-owning Agencies - Target Meeting Date of June 16th

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Regards,
Bill Scott
President and Chief Operating Officer

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Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 7:12 PM
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[(b)(6)] [(b)(6)] [(b)(6)]
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We request that BWRR submit questions for the agencies by **June 1st** to ensure a well-organized and productive meeting. We appreciate your time and will provide further updates as soon as possible.

Regards – Marlys



INFORMATION MEMORANDUM TO THE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF COUNSEL

TO: Drew Feeley, Deputy Administrator, FRA and Kyle Fields, Chief Counsel

FROM: Marlys Osterhues, Director, Office of Environmental Program Management

DATE: **May 23, 2025**

SUBJECT: SCMAGLEV Interagency Meeting with Project Sponsor

OVERVIEW

- On April 28th, FRA met with representatives of the Northeast Maglev (TNEM) and Baltimore Washington Rapid Rail (BWRR), to discuss the proposed superconducting magnetic levitation train system (SCMAGLEV) connecting Washington, DC, and Baltimore, MD. FRA agreed to a meeting with BWRR and all land-owning agencies.
- On May 16th, FRA reached out to the agencies and USACE and BWRR to confirm the meeting date. The meeting is scheduled for June 23rd.
 - Agencies include NASA, DOI (NPS, FWS, USGS), NSA, DoD (USACE, Fort Meade), USDA, USSS and DOL.
 - FRA also asked to confirm agency contacts since staff may have left since we last reached out in October 2024.
 - FRA offered to host individual pre-meetings with agencies to brief new staff and non-career leadership.
- On May 16th, FRA notified BWRR and MDOT, requesting that questions for the agencies be provided in advance by June 1st.
- On May 21st, BWRR requested individual meetings with each agency. FRA intends to reject this request.

SCOPE OF JUNE 2025 INTERAGENCY MEETING

The purpose of the interagency meeting is to provide BWRR with another opportunity to discuss agencies' concerns with the proposal. FRA has previously provided BWRR with agencies' comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS); FRA shared BWRR's responses with the agencies; BWRR has participated in agency meetings; FRA provided BWRR with a report from the interagency coordination effort conducted last summer.

The meeting is an opportunity for BWRR to understand whether additional technical analysis or mitigation measures can address the agencies' concerns to facilitate the approvals (e.g., USACE Clean Water Act permit) required for the project, whether design changes are needed to minimize adverse effects to agency resources, and whether there are any agency resources that must be avoided. Understanding the scope of additional work (e.g., analyses, or design changes) is critical to inform the scope of any additional environmental analysis required for the project. BWRR should use the information from the interagency meeting to develop its proposal for advancing this project. However, based on BWRR's responses to date, FRA expects BWRR to attempt to rebut the agencies' concerns.



BWRR's REQUEST FOR INDIVIDUAL AGENCY MEETINGS

FRA intends to deny BWRR's request for individual agency meetings. BWRR asserts that individual meetings will allow BWRR to better address each agency's concerns. To date, BWRR has not provided FRA with any information as to how BWRR intends to address any agency concerns. As such, individual meetings would only protract the process out several months and are unlikely to facilitate resolution of any agency concerns. As noted above, BWRR has known about the agencies' concerns since publication of the DEIS in 2021 and has made no progress in addressing the agencies' concerns. The collective interagency meeting is the most expeditious option for BWRR to gather information from the agencies to understand the breadth and scope additional effort needed to obtain the necessary approvals to advance this project.

Prior to the interagency meeting, FRA staff will try to schedule a pre-meet with the agencies and invite FRA and agency non-career leadership. This meeting could be held on June 16.

FRA's 2024 EFFORTS TO VALIDATE AGENCY CONCERNS

- Between June and September 2024, FRA hosted a series of meetings with individual Federal Agencies with property that would be directly impacted by project. On September 5, 2024, FRA and MDOT held an interagency virtual meeting. More than 40 individuals representing eight agencies attended.
- On October 22, 2024, FRA provided all land-owning agencies a report titled *Post-DEIS Comment Period Agency Coordination Summary* that summarized FRA observations from the summer 2024 conversations. BWRR was provided a copy of that document at the same time.
- On October 28, 2024, FRA and MDOT met with BWRR to discuss the report. FRA emphasized the substantive nature of collective agency concerns and reiterated that concerns have been known to BWRR since 2021. FRA noted that most concerns were not NEPA issues but regarding impacts to their missions. FRA shared that agencies want to know what BWRR will do from an engineering perspective to avoid or minimize impacts. Given the breadth of agency concerns, as well as the cumulative nature, FRA characterized as potentially insurmountable challenges. FRA stated our willingness to facilitate an interagency meeting and did not prohibit BWRR from meeting directly with agencies.

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

- Prior to the release of the DEIS in 2021, BWRR met individually with several agencies.
- The Executive Summary of the DEIS documented the agencies concerns and "critical feedback", committing to further coordination to further understand the potential impacts *on Federal property*".
- The SCMAGLEV Project has been "paused" twice since this award was obligated. The most recent pause has lasted over three years and is ongoing.
- The project is already facing cost overruns at this early pre-construction phase. This does not give USDOT reassurance that this project can be implemented within a reasonable schedule and on budget. Over the last three years, the project sponsor has not demonstrated a commitment to advancing this project, aside from requesting additional federal dollars.
- USDOT Secretary Sean Duffy and FRA Chief Counsel, Kyle Fields met with TNEM on April 8, 2025. USDOT raised concerns about the lack of project progress, high cost of construction, lack of available construction funding and overreliance on federal grant funds.

From: Osterhues, Marlys (FRA)
Sent: Wed, 28 May 2025 21:26:55 +0000
To: Bill Scott; Michael Dowd; Ian Rainey; [(b)(6)]
Cc: Fields, Kyle (FRA); Nissenbaum, Paul (FRA); Perez-Arrieta, Stephanie (FRA); Karunaratne, Lahiru (FRA); Bratcher, Brandon (FRA); Peternith, Andrew (FRA); Mohammed, Faris (FRA); Van Nostrand, Christopher (FRA); Davis, Wynne (FRA); jthorne; [(b)(6)]
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President and Chief Operating Officer

(b)(6)



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Regards – Marlys

From: Osterhues, Marlys (FRA)
Sent: Wed, 14 May 2025 23:12:07 +0000
To: Michael Dowd; [(b)(6)] [(b)(6)]
[(b)(6)] [(b)(6)] [(b)(6)]
Cc: Fields, Kyle (FRA); Nissenbaum, Paul (FRA); Perez-Arrieta, Stephanie (FRA); Karunaratne, Lahiru (FRA); Bratcher, Brandon (FRA); Peternith, Andrew (FRA); Mohammed, Faris (FRA)
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Regards – Marlys

SCM INTERAGENCY MEETING - JUNE 23, 2025
Draft Notes

ATTENDEES WHO IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES ON TEAMS

- Jeffrey Williams, NSA
- Howard Weiss NSA
- Hilee Fisher - USDA
- April Sparkman, USACE Baltimore District
- Meghan Rief, USSS
- John Nelson, DOI
- Samantha Biddle, Maryland DOT
- Irene Romero, NASA
- Kelly Lyles, MTA
- Lindsey David, USDA ARS
- Noah Kahn, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Jacqueline Thorne MDOT
- Eliza Voigt, NPS
- Evan Hoffman, NASA
- Bill Scott BWRR
- Dan Cornish, DOL
- Jan McGarry, NASA
- David Baer, USDA
- Andrew Peternith, FRA
- Eric Siddle - ESC for DOL
- John Houston USDA ARS
- Jeff Dorman, NASA/GSFC
- Arelys Colon-Garcia (NSA)
- Scott Vandegrift, USDA OSEC
- Tammy Stidham - NPS
- Andrew Tittler, DOI Solicitor
- MaryAnn Moore (NSA)
- Le Ann Blomberg, USDA-ARS
- Joseph DaVia, US Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District
- David Sultan - NSA
- Brian Peterson USDA-ARS
- Alexandra Peet, NASA/GSFC
- Michele Whelley, MEDCO
- Hannah Thomas- NPS NACE
- Nicole Hutchinson, U.S. Secret Service
- Tarik Adams- USFWS- Patuxent Research Refuge,
- Ray Li- USFWS- CBFO
- Abiola Akin-Ajayi, NASA
- William "Bill" Johnson (NSA)
- Kevin Vaeth (NSA)
- Jay M NSA
- Valincia Darby, DOI
- Kibby Powell, Secret Service
- Jeff Archambault, DOD

MEETING NOTES

Kyle Fields (Federal Railroad Administration [FRA]) - gave introduction - goals: identify obstacles, constructive conversation.

Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail (BWRR) laid out their preferred alternative.

- BWRR noted Baltimore to Washington DC is first step of broader vision re: DC to NYC.
- BWRR recapped background, previous milestones re: DEIS (Jan. 2021).
 - BWRR noted they are aiming for FD/Design in seven years.
 - BWRR noted early target to avoid impacts to homes.
 - BWRR illustrated tunnel vs. viaduct guideway.
 - BWRR noted small at-grade nexus along corridor (re: wildlife crossings etc.)

((National Aeronautics and Space Administration [NASA] Impacts))

- BWRR noted tunnel portal cut-and-cover on NASA property.
 - BWRR cited 7/18/24 NASA meeting re: negotiating tunnel portal and Alignment J
- NASA noted BARC Airstrip East TMF option was showstopper.
- NASA reiterated research impacts.
- NASA doesn't "hold grievance with tunnel portal with Alignment J."
- NASA noted sensitivity for Explorer Road impacts (roadway was just reconstructed).

((U.S. Department of Agriculture / Beltsville Agricultural Research Center Impacts))

- BWRR discussed TMF/MOW/turnout ramp.
 - BWRR noted TMF would be 180 acres.
 - BWRR mentioned "some flexibility" re: size, parking facility)
- BWRR asked if there are ways to shift the facility to lessen impacts - or improvements as compensatory mitigation.
- BWRR asked if USDA ADEIS comments were addressed post-ADEIS (appendices are new for DEIS)
- FRA asked USDA to weigh in.
- USDA (Scott Vandegrift, Le Ann Blomberg) noted vibration impacts.
- USDA noted wells, water towers, utilities (water, sewer).

((U.S. Secret Service Impacts))

- BWRR discussed shooting range.
 - BWRR Mentioned current Master Plan.
- USSS (Kibby Powell) mentioned re: Master Plan, outdoor ranges.
- USSS noted willingness to sit down and negotiate.
- USSS discussed EMF testing.
- USSS argues their biggest concerns are impact to ranges, training venues (high use facilities)
 - USSS confirmed there's no plan to relocate ranges.

((Department of Interior – National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Impacts))

- BWRR noted viaduct height varies.
- BWRR discussed LOD, varying distance from BWP.
- BWRR noted 24 acres of impacts in Refuge.

- BWRR asked about Parkway expansion plans, beneficial (comp. mitigation?) re: invasive species, fencing, etc.

((National Park Service Impacts))

- NPS reacted "welcom(ing) further discussion" and noting past submission of "a lot of comments and questions" during DEIS process.
- NPS noted L'Enfant plan impacts, Greenbelt Park as well as BWP.
- Re: BWP
 - NPS (Tammy Stidham) noted boring is preferred other than cut-and-cover.
 - FRA asked about 495 impacts, background.
 - NPS stated the 495 project originally proposed new interchange at 495/295 with new ramps, etc... (80-90 acres)
 - NPS notes the 495 project ended up abandoning that part of the project

((U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/Patuxent Refuge Impacts))

- FWS (John Nelson) said FWS is happy to come to the table to look at 2021 comments to work / address / mitigate.

((Department of Labor/DC Impacts))

- BWRR noted small impact in BWRR-preferred alternative.
 - BWRR noted only a big impact if MD198 TMF is chosen.

((Department of Defense/National Security Agency/Ft. Meade Impacts))

- BWRR noted impacts to Cryptologic Museum, etc...
 - BWRR stated they "welcome (an) unclassified discussion."
- BWRR asked about improvements that could be beneficial to NSA/Ft. Meade
- NSA noted "a number of physical and security concerns..."
- NSA mentioned "tons of infrastructure" in this area as a concern...
- NSA also expanded on EMF, vibration concerns...
 - NSA: "geologic vibration will really negatively impact facility"
 - NSA noted they are creating an (\$10B) East Campus
 - NSA campus involves building eight new buildings near north tunnel site.
- NSA noted security issues and "negative impact."
 - NSA discussed DOD anti-terrorism standards.
 - NSA stated the viaduct would be in violation of those standards (encroachment)
- NSA reiterated line-of-sight concerns.
 - NSA noted guideway is an opportunity for adversaries.
- NSA asked BWRR why BWP east alignment was chosen vs. west alignment.
 - BWRR noted the west side has more residential impacts.
 - BWRR argued issues on west are harder to mitigate.
- BWRR asked NSA if west side of BWP would alleviate concerns.
- NSA responded no – there are still operational concerns... (eg vibration)

((USACE Permitting))

- BWRR argued the USACE comments are resolvable.
- USACE (Joe DaVia) reiterated LEDPA requirement for their agency.
 - USACE defined "Least Environmental Damaging Practicable Alternative."

- USACE noted the land has to be "available" in LEDPA regs.
- USACE asked if any of these alternatives are available?

WRAP-UP and NEXT STEPS

- FRA noted there's still an exceptional amount of work to be done.
- FRA noted the project has been around a while "because it has significant hurdles..."
- FRA cautioned against committing bandwidth for academic exercises.
- FRA (Kyle?) asked BWRR where construction funding is coming from.
- FRA asked where the capacity to handle the workload will come if the project is moved off pause.
- BWRR argued for them to engage agencies directly (as a means for saving agencies from academic exercises...)
- BWRR noted "this is not an academic exercise" in their eyes.
- BWRR reiterated they believe the project is feasible.

- FRA cautioned against viewing today's meeting as a "kick-off" to a greater effort.
- FRA stated it would hard for the agency to continue to support a project with national security concerns, among others.
 - FRA: "It's very difficult for us to see a path forward."
 - FRA: "At this point FRA is not in a position to support the project"
 - FRA: "Ball's in (BWRR's) court"...
 - FRA pushed for BWRR to only engage / approach FRA re: unpausing if they have worked out all the issues with the agencies.
 - FRA noted a need to protect agency staff time.
- BWRR argued for "engagement plan" to try and resolve agency issues.

- USDA-ARS (Le Ann Blomberg) asked about the need for congressional approval (re: land exchange).
 - BWRR mentioned easements.

- NASA (Becky Pike) noted the agency is slashing staff.
 - NASA also noted that, in a time of cuts, the administration is prioritizing upgrades at their GGAO site.
 - NASA reiterated critically important nature of GPS operations at the GGAO.

SCMAGLEV Interagency Meeting with BWRR

June 23, 2025

1-2:30 pm ET

USDOT Headquarters, Conference Room W30-302
and Virtual via MS Teams

Purpose of meeting:

Opportunity for Baltimore Washington Rapid Rail (BWRR) to discuss its proposed preferred alternative in the DEIS, its impact on land-owning agencies, and to ask clarifying questions around agencies' concerns with the proposed Superconducting Magnetic Levitation Train System (SCMAGLEV) proposal.

Agenda

1. Welcoming Remarks (FRA) 5 minutes
2. Introductions (All) 10 minutes
3. Brief Summary of 2024 Coordination efforts and hand-off to BWRR (FRA) 5 minutes
4. Preferred Alignment discussion (BWRR) 60 minutes
 - Overview of preferred alternative alignment with mapping and discussion points around each agency comments with follow up questions.
 - Q&A
5. Wrap-up and Next Steps (FRA) 10 minutes

Attendance List
SCMAGLEV Interagency Meeting with BWRR
June 23, 2025

Name (Last, First)	Email	Agency	Attendance
Dowd, Michael	(b)(6)	BWRR	In-person
Rainey, Ian	(b)(6)	BWRR	In-person
Rogers, Wayne	(b)(6)	BWRR	In-person
Hirschberg, Jeff	(b)(6)	BWRR	Virtual
Scott, Bill	(b)(6)	BWRR	Virtual
Brady, Chris	(b)(6)	BWRR/USJIA	In-person
Deck, Wiley	(b)(6)	BWRR/USJIA	In-person
Coleman, J.C.	(b)(6)	DOD	In-person
Archambault, Jeff		DOD	Virtual
Darby, Valencia	(b)(6)	DOI	Virtual
Horan, Julia	(b)(6)	DOI	Virtual
Tittler, Andrew	(b)(6)	DOI	Virtual
Hagan, Damon	(b)(6)	DOI	Virtual
Nelson, John	(b)(6)	DOI	Virtual
Adams, Tarik	(b)(6)	DOI/FWS	Virtual
Kahn, Noah	(b)(6)	DOI/FWS	Virtual
Li, Ray	(b)(6)	DOI/FWS	Virtual
Hammig, Laurel	(b)(6)	DOI/NPS	Virtual
Milton, Mikaila	(b)(6)	DOI/NPS	Virtual
Stidham, Tammy	(b)(6)	DOI/NPS	Virtual
Thomas, Hannah	(b)(6)	DOI/NPS	Virtual
Voigt, Eliza	(b)(6)	DOI/NPS	Virtual
Bowron, Jessica	(b)(6)	DOI/NPS	Virtual
Gorder, Joel	(b)(6)	DOI/NPS	Virtual
HeeJung, Chun	(b)(6)	DOL	Virtual
Powell, Craig	(b)(6)	DOL	Virtual
Siddle, Eric	(b)(6)	DOL	Virtual
Basta, Kyrollos	(b)(6)	DOL	Virtual
Cornish, Dan	(b)(6)	DOL	Virtual
Shaffer, Matt	(b)(6)	Fort Meade	Virtual
Stafford, Aimee	(b)(6)	Fort Meade	Virtual
Bratcher, Brandon	(b)(6)	FRA	Virtual
Feeley, Drew	(b)(6)	FRA	In-person
Fields, Kyle	(b)(6)	FRA	In-person
Karunaratne, Lahiru	(b)(6)	FRA	In-person
MacWhorter, Kevin	(b)(6)	FRA	In-person
Nissenbaum, Paul	(b)(6)	FRA	In-person

Attendance List
SCMAGLEV Interagency Meeting with BWRR
June 23, 2025

Name (Last, First)	Email	Agency	Attendance
Osterhues, Marlys	(b)(6)	FRA	In-person
Perez-Arrieta, Stephanie	(b)(6)	FRA	In-person
Schultz, John	(b)(6)	FRA	In-person
Van Nostrand, Christopher	(b)(6)	FRA	In-person
Peternith, Andrew	(b)(6)	FRA	Virtual
Anderson, Kevin		MD Governor's Office	Virtual
Thomas, JT	(b)(6)	MDOT	In-person
Thorne, Jacqueline	(b)(6)	MDOT	Virtual
Biddle, Samantha	(b)(6)	MDOT	Virtual
Whelley, Michele	(b)(6)	MEDCO	Virtual
Lyles, Kelly	(b)(6)	MTA	Virtual
Dorman, Jeffrey	(b)(6)	NASA	Virtual
Finch, Kimberly	(b)(6)	NASA	Virtual
McGarry, Jan	(b)(6)	NASA	Virtual
Peet, Alexandra	(b)(6)	NASA	Virtual
Perry, Michael	(b)(6)	NASA	Virtual
Romero, Irene	(b)(6)	NASA	Virtual
Akin-Ajayi, Abiola	(b)(6)	NASA	Virtual
Hoffman, Evan	(b)(6)	NASA	Virtual
Pike, Becky	(b)(6)	NASA	Virtual
Kelsey, Chris		NSA	In-person
Weiss, Howard		NSA	Virtual
Williams, Jeffery		NSA	Virtual
Moore, MaryAnn		NSA	Virtual
Sultan, David		NSA	Virtual
Johnson, William "Bill"		NSA	Virtual
Vaeth, Kevin		NSA	Virtual
M, Jay		NSA	Virtual
Colon-Garcia, Arellys		NSA	Virtual
Szakal, Eric		NSA	Virtual
Toney, Michael	(b)(6)	OST	In-person
DaVia, Joseph	(b)(6)	USACE	Virtual
Sparkman, April	(b)(6)	USACE	Virtual
Baer, David	(b)(6)	USDA	Virtual
Blomberg, Leann	(b)(6)	USDA	Virtual
Fisher, Halee	(b)(6)	USDA	Virtual
Houston, John	(b)(6)	USDA	Virtual

Attendance List
SCMAGLEV Interagency Meeting with BWRR
June 23, 2025

Name (Last, First)	Email	Agency	Attendance
Peterson, Brian	(b)(6)	USDA	Virtual
Vandegrift, Scott	(b)(6)	USDA	Virtual
Grant, Arthur	(b)(6)	USDA	Virtual
Lindsey, David	(b)(6)	USDA	Virtual
Hutchinson, Nicole	(b)(6)	USSS	Virtual
Neulander, Mark	(b)(6)	USSS	Virtual
Rief, Meghan	(b)(6)	USSS	Virtual
Noyes, Michael	(b)(6)	USSS	Virtual
Powell, Kibby	(b)(6)	USSS	Virtual
Stitt, Laura	(b)(6)	USSS	Virtual

From: Wayne Rogers
Sent: Mon, 30 Jun 2025 15:50:24 +0000
To: Toney, Michael (OST); Boykin, Dejah CTR (FRA); Bratcher, Brandon (FRA); Feeley, Drew (FRA); Fields, Kyle (FRA); Huggins, Ricky (FRA); [(b)(6)] Karunaratne, Lahiru (FRA); MacWhorter, Kevin (FRA); Mathis, Shayla CTR (FRA); Nissenbaum, Paul (FRA); Osterhues, Marlys (FRA); Perez-Arrieta, Stephanie (FRA); Peternith, Andrew (FRA); Richardson, Shannette (FRA); Schultz, John (FRA); Van Nostrand, Christopher (FRA)
Cc: [(b)(6)]
Subject: Thanks

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [(b)(6)] [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Department of Transportation (DOT). Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks for convening and participating in the June 23 all agency meeting for the SCMAGLEV project. Although the comments of NSA were challenging, we thought all of the other agencies evidenced a willingness to find a path forward and none of the other comments rose to the level of a deal killer. With respect to NSA, we believe with engagement a solution can be found. The issue of security has been addressed for sensitive US government facilities around the world, including embassies and military installations.

We are prepared to undertake that engagement and are working to resolve all of the various agency's concerns. We appreciate the support of USDOT/FRA as we work through the process to advance this very important project and transform travel on the Northeast Corridor.

Wayne Rogers
Chairman/CEO

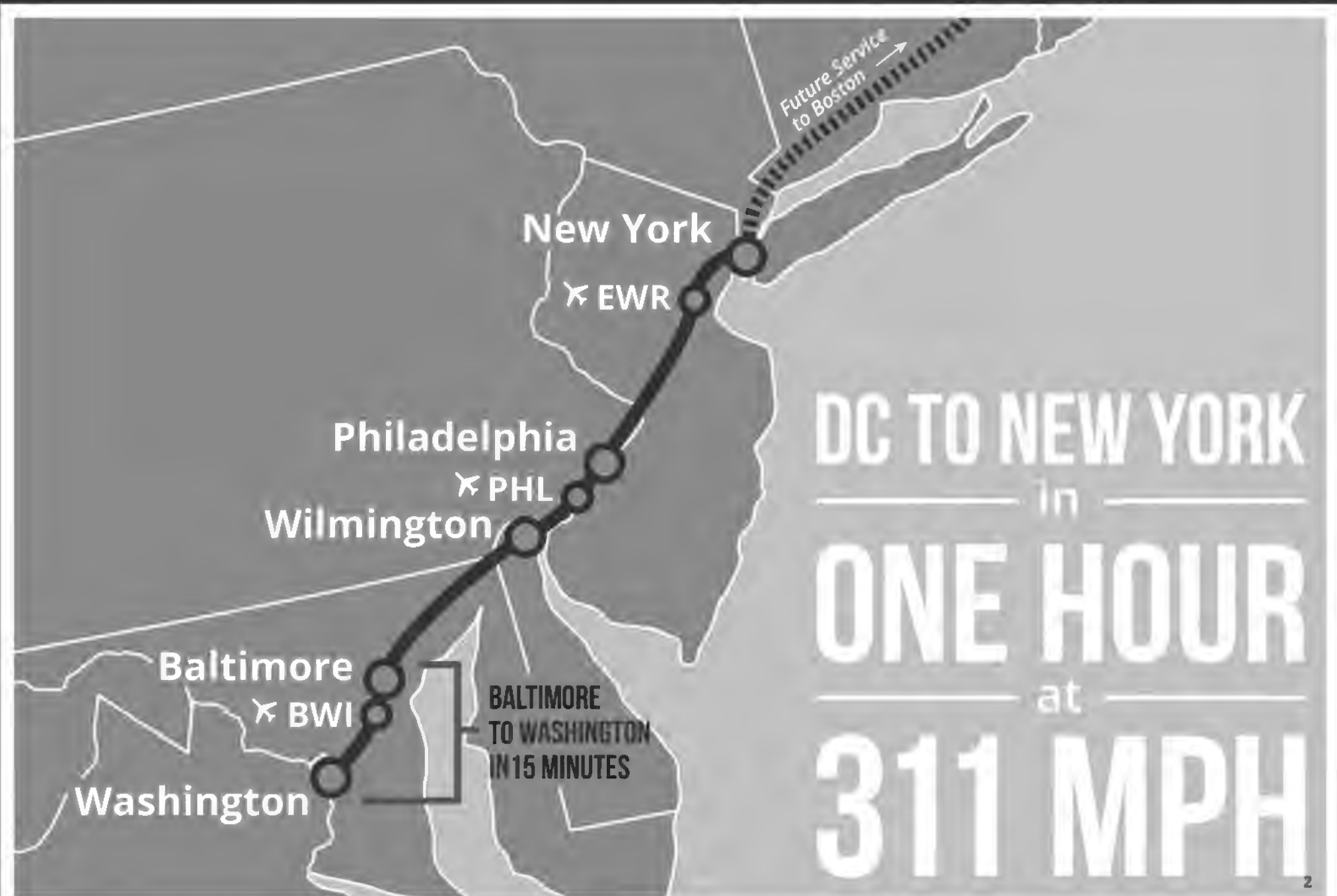


BWRR
BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON
RAPID RAIL

Superconducting Maglev

PROJECT BRIEFING | June 23, 2025 | FRA Inter-Agency Meeting

Our Vision: Innovation, Opportunity, Green Transportation



Baltimore-Washington Project Schedule

EIS/Permitting Completion

Draft EIS published January 2021
Final EIS (Completion date TBD)

Final Design/Construction Start

Approximately 7-10 years
Duration depends on selected alternative

Revenue Service Begins

Proposed Route Alternatives

70% of Alignment
in Deep Tunnel

No Homes Taken



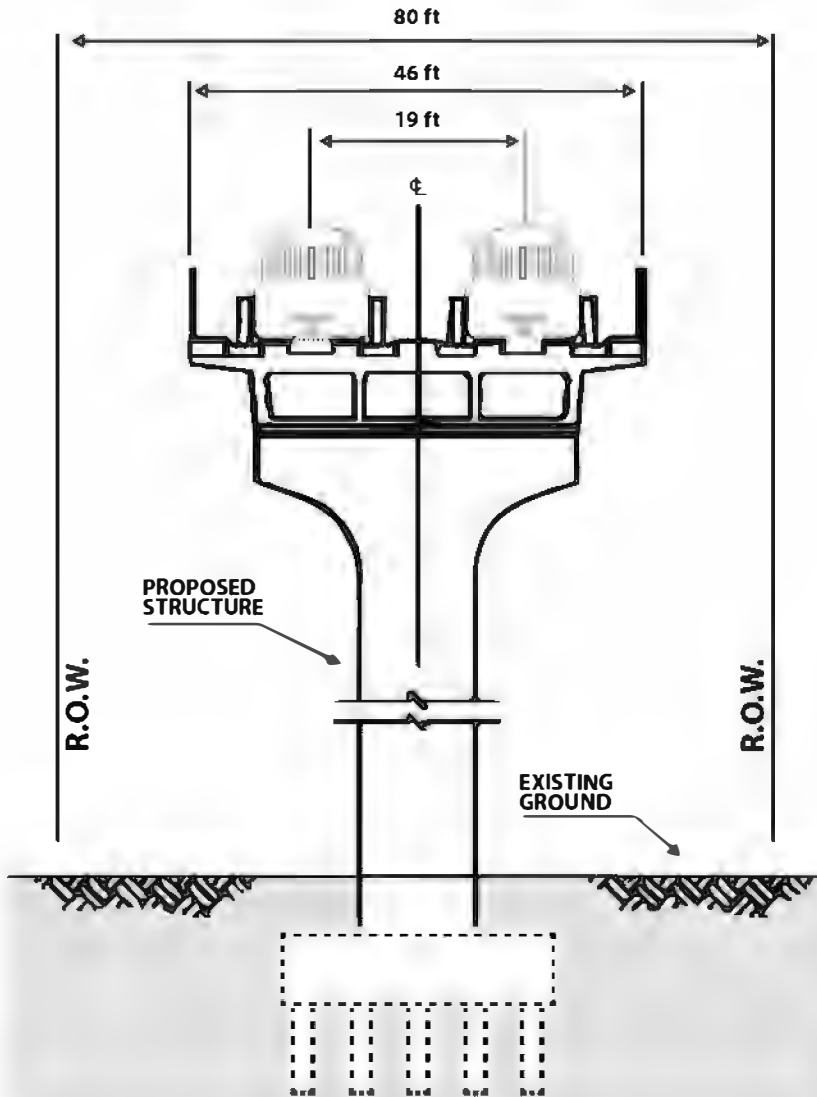
Proposed Route Alternatives

- BW Parkway East
- BW Parkway West
- - - Tunnel Section

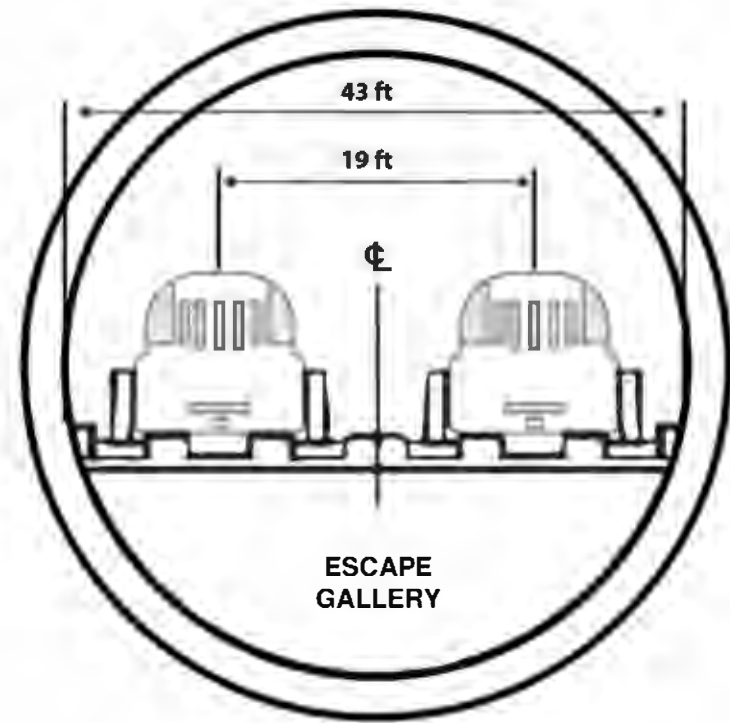
Drawings are for illustrative purposes only and not to scale

Typical Cross Sections

30% of Alignment Typical Viaduct Section



70% of Alignment Typical Tunnel Section



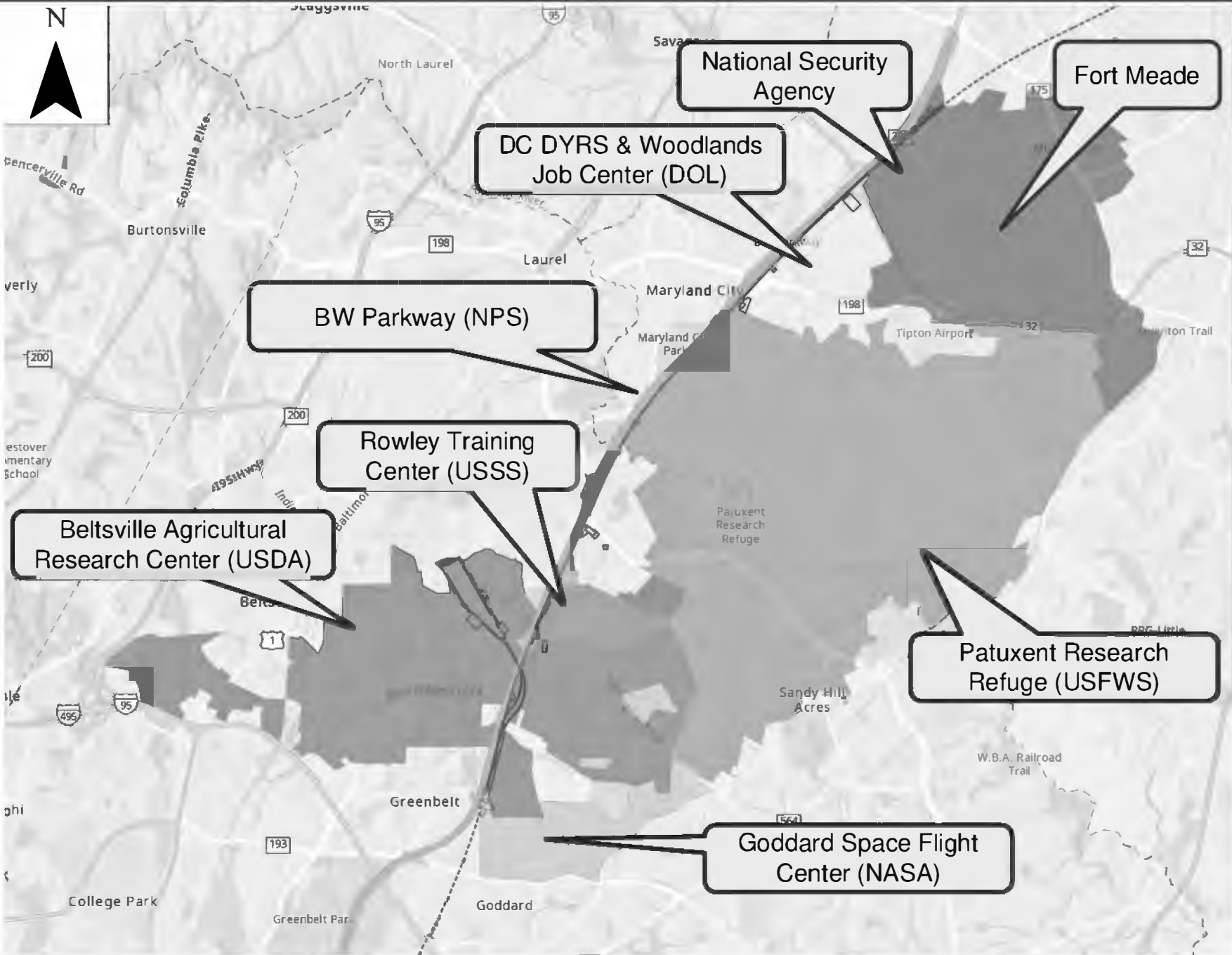
*All dimensions are approximate and subject to change
Percentages based on current J (East) alignment*

Project Sponsor – Preferred Alternative

- DEIS identifies 13 alternatives (12 plus a No-Build alternative)
- DEIS does not identify a preferred alternative but does note the sponsor's preferred alternative
- Of the 12 build alternatives, the sponsor's preferred is highlighted in green below
- Note there is only one station option in DC and one at BWI Airport

Alignment	Baltimore Station	Trainset Maintenance Facility (TMF)
BW Parkway East	Cherry Hill	BARC East
BW Parkway West	Camden Yards	BARC West
		MD-198

Sponsor Preferred Alternative - Overview



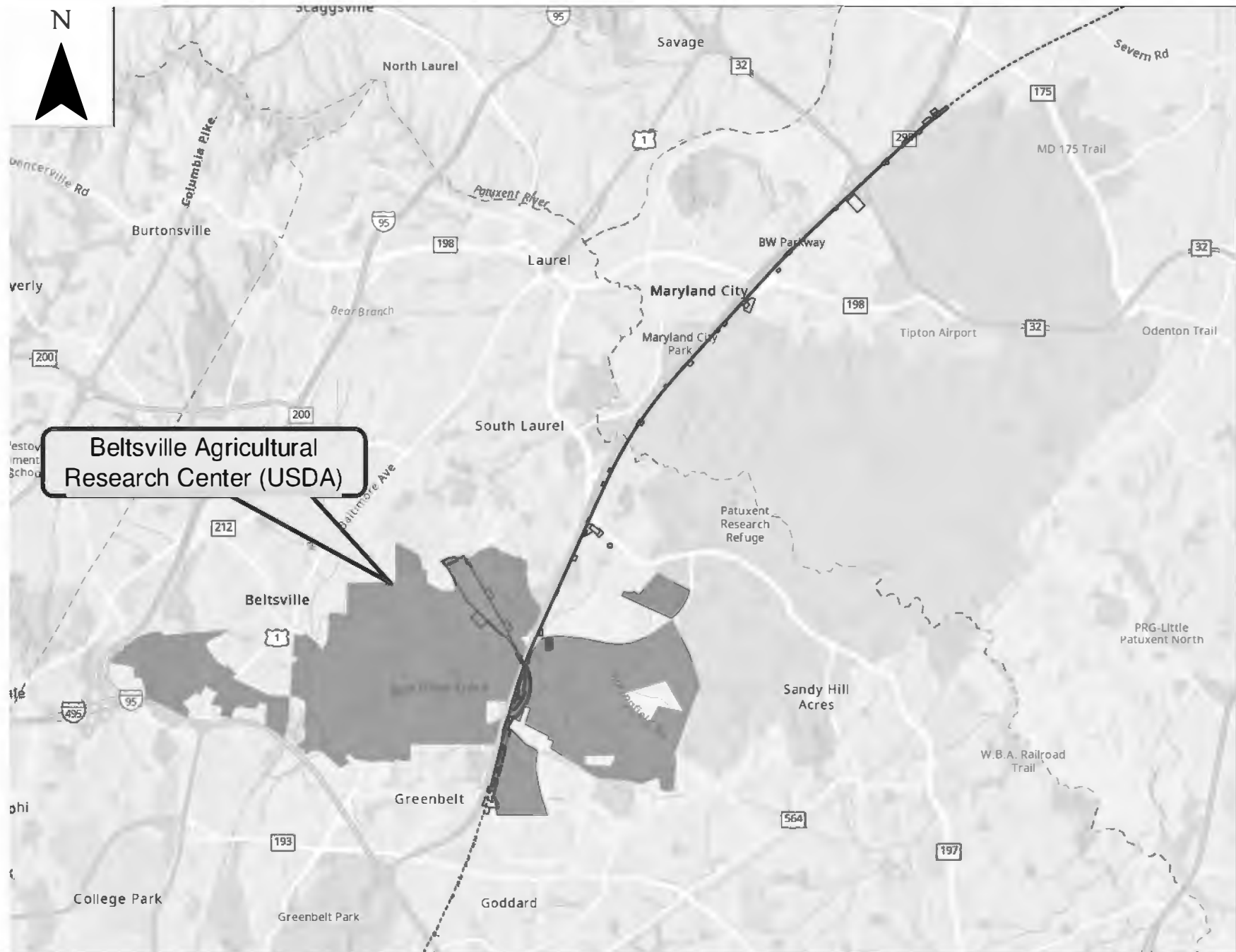
NASA – Detailed View



NASA – Discussion

- The preferred alternative appears to address many of NASA’s concerns related to the Goddard Geophysical and Astronomical Observatory (GGAO).
- We recognize that the preferred alternative alignment & portal impacts the Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) campus at Explorer Road.
- FRA’s June 18, 2024 meeting notes state that, “NASA didn’t hold grievance with tunnel portal with Alignment J. NASA is willing to come to the table and negotiate.”
- We request an opportunity to discuss these impacts further to identify a mutually agreeable path forward.

USDA - Overview Map



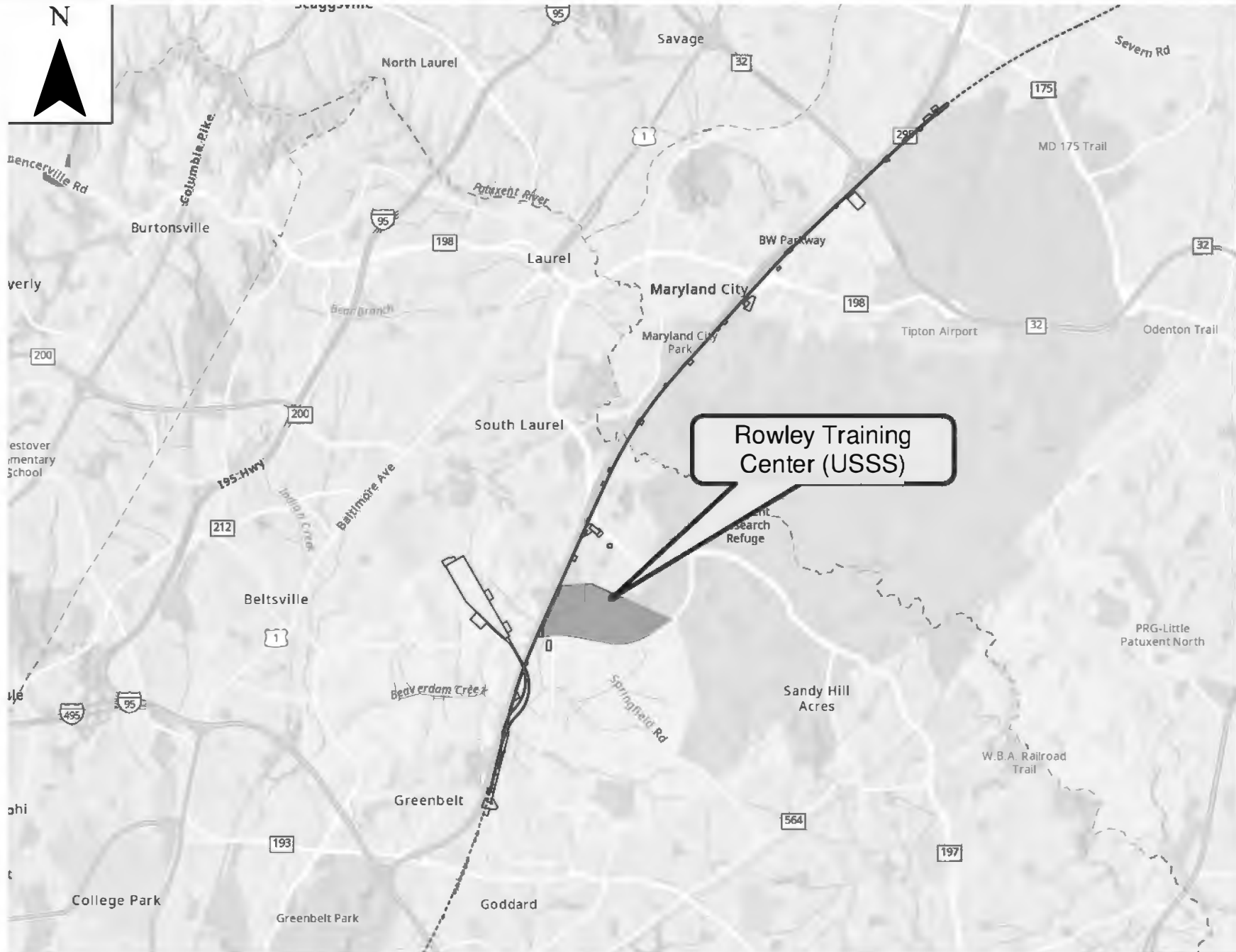
USDA – Detailed View



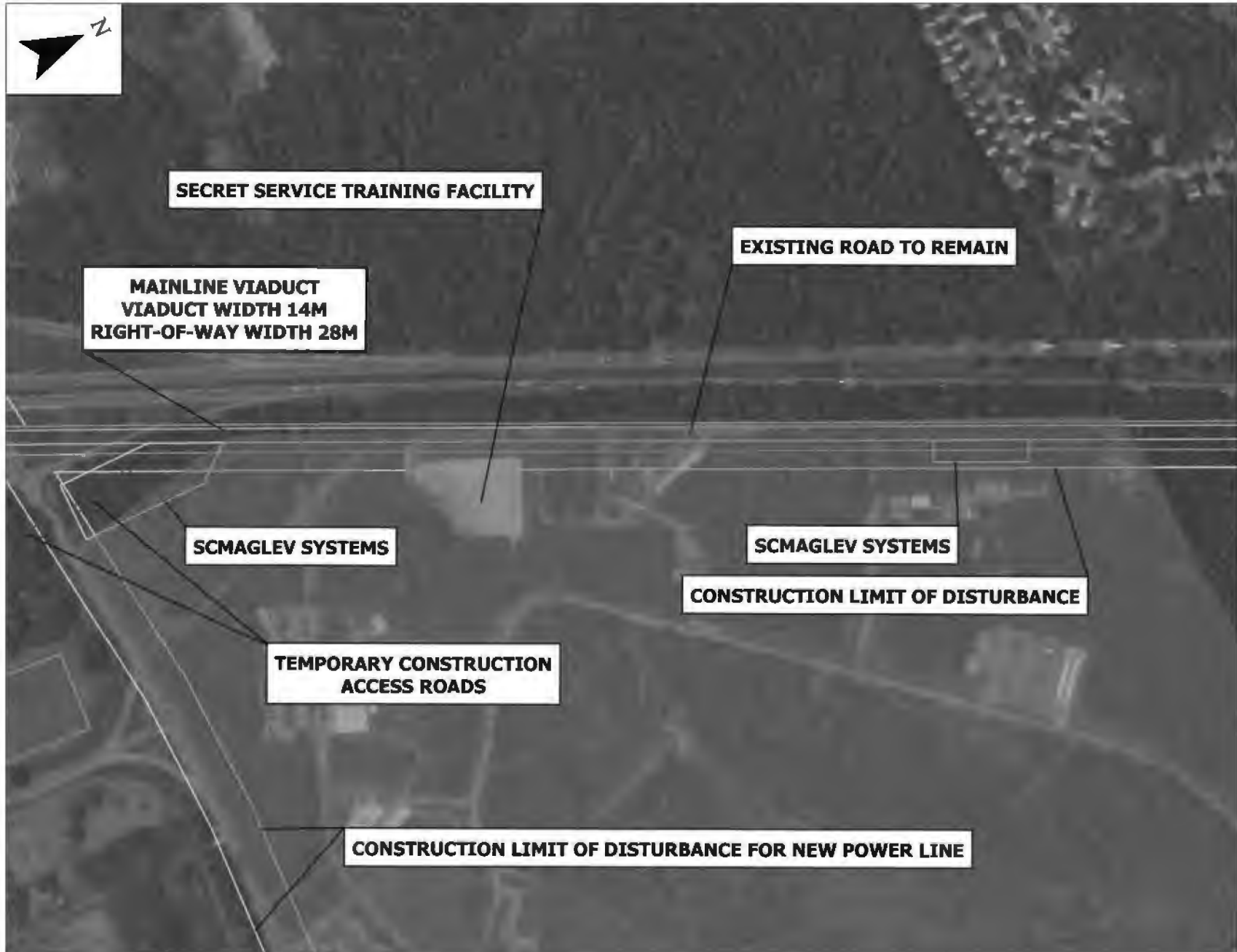
USDA – Discussion

- We understand that USDA has concerns with the BARC West TMF preferred alternative.
- Are there any minor modifications to the TMF preferred alternative (for example, shifting the location) that would lessen impacts?
- Are there improvements that could be undertaken during the TMF construction phase that would be beneficial to BARC (for example, removal of abandoned structures)?
- Are there any benefits from other potential projects (BEP, solar panels, other) that could be helpful to include if they don't move forward?
- Extensive additional project information was included in the DEIS appendices after USDA comments were submitted. Has this information addressed any of your concerns?

Secret Service – Overview Map



Secret Service – Detailed View



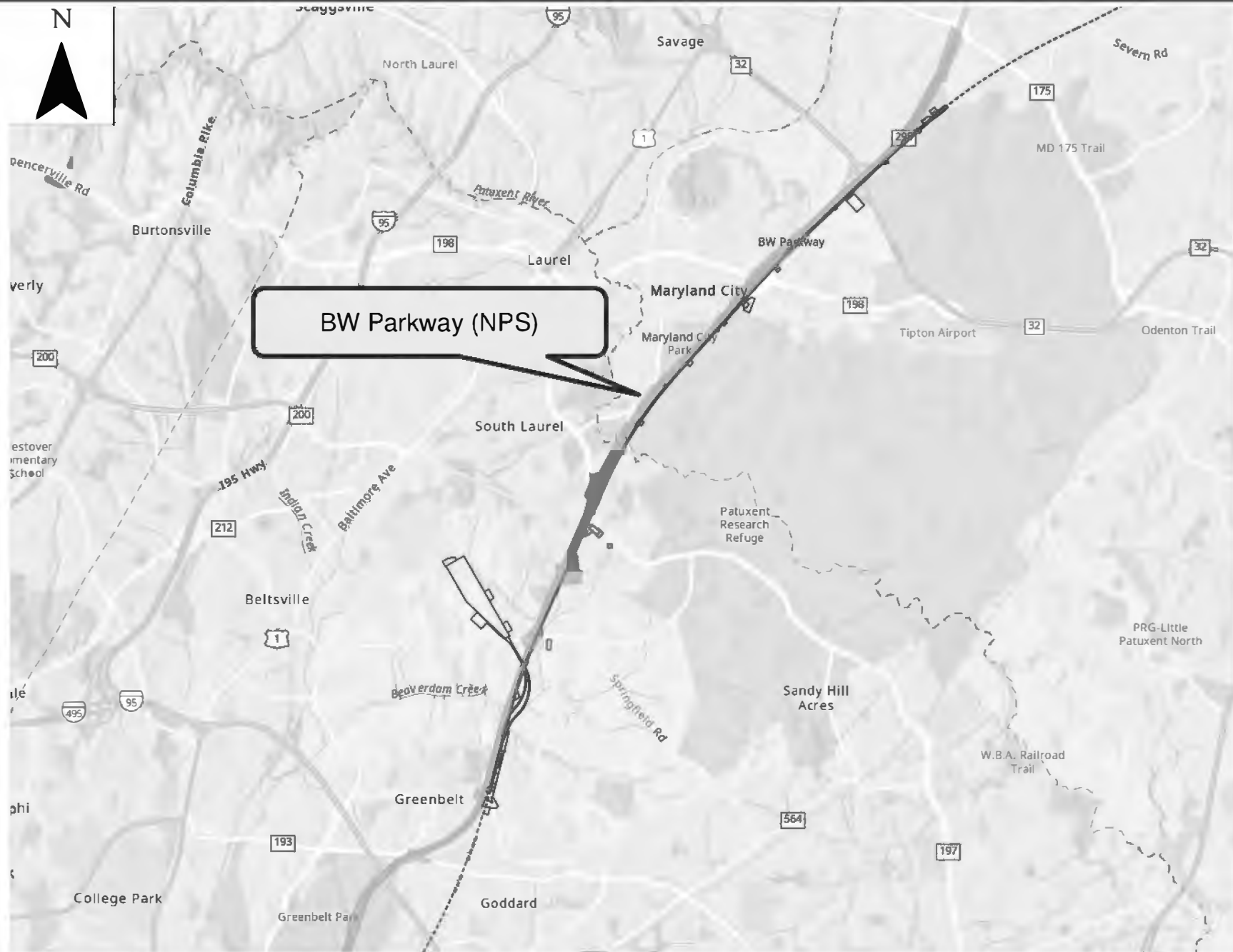
Secret Service – Detailed View



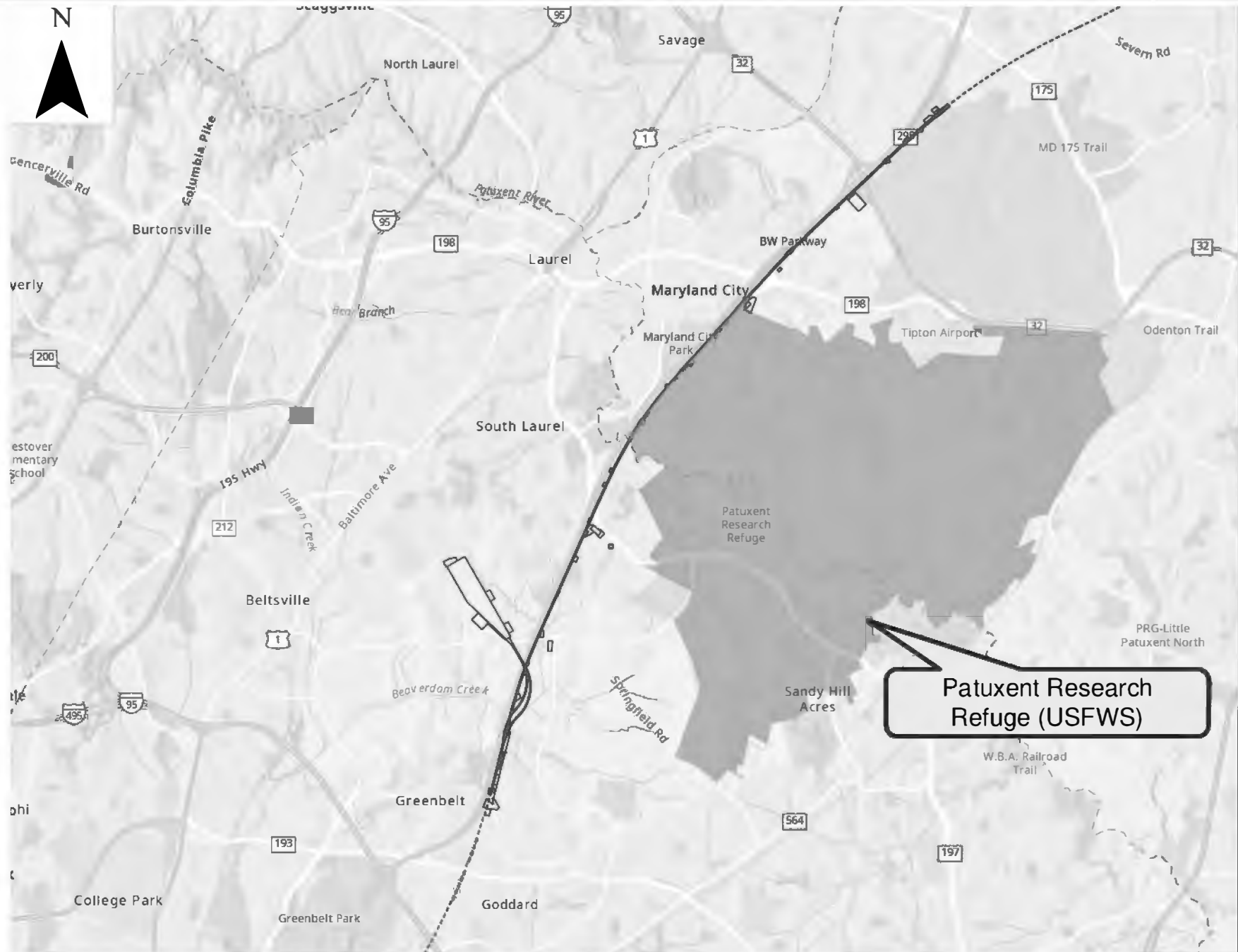
Secret Service – Discussion

- We are aware that USSS has prepared a new Master Plan for the site; however, much of the publicly available version appears to be redacted.
 - Is there a process by which we discuss any redacted information as it relates to the alignment and potential impacts?
- We would like to understand if USSS anticipates any additional significant impacts that would be caused by the SCMAGLEV project if the Master Plan is enacted.
- We welcome an opportunity to further discuss project design and potential mitigations at the USSS site.

NPS – Overview Map



FWS - Overview Map



NPS – Detailed View 1



NPS – Detailed View 2



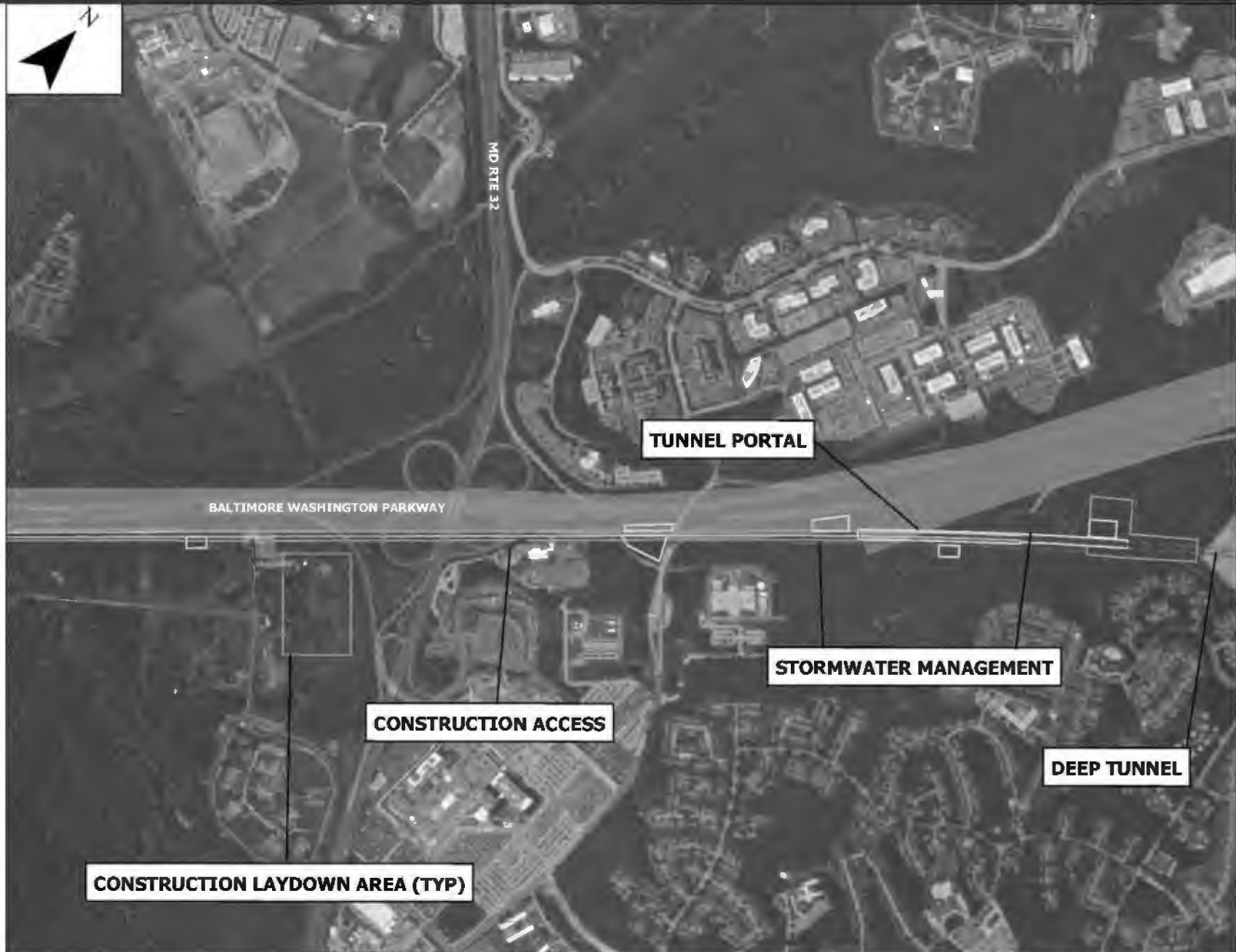
NPS – Detailed View 3



NPS – Detailed View 4



NPS – Detailed View 5



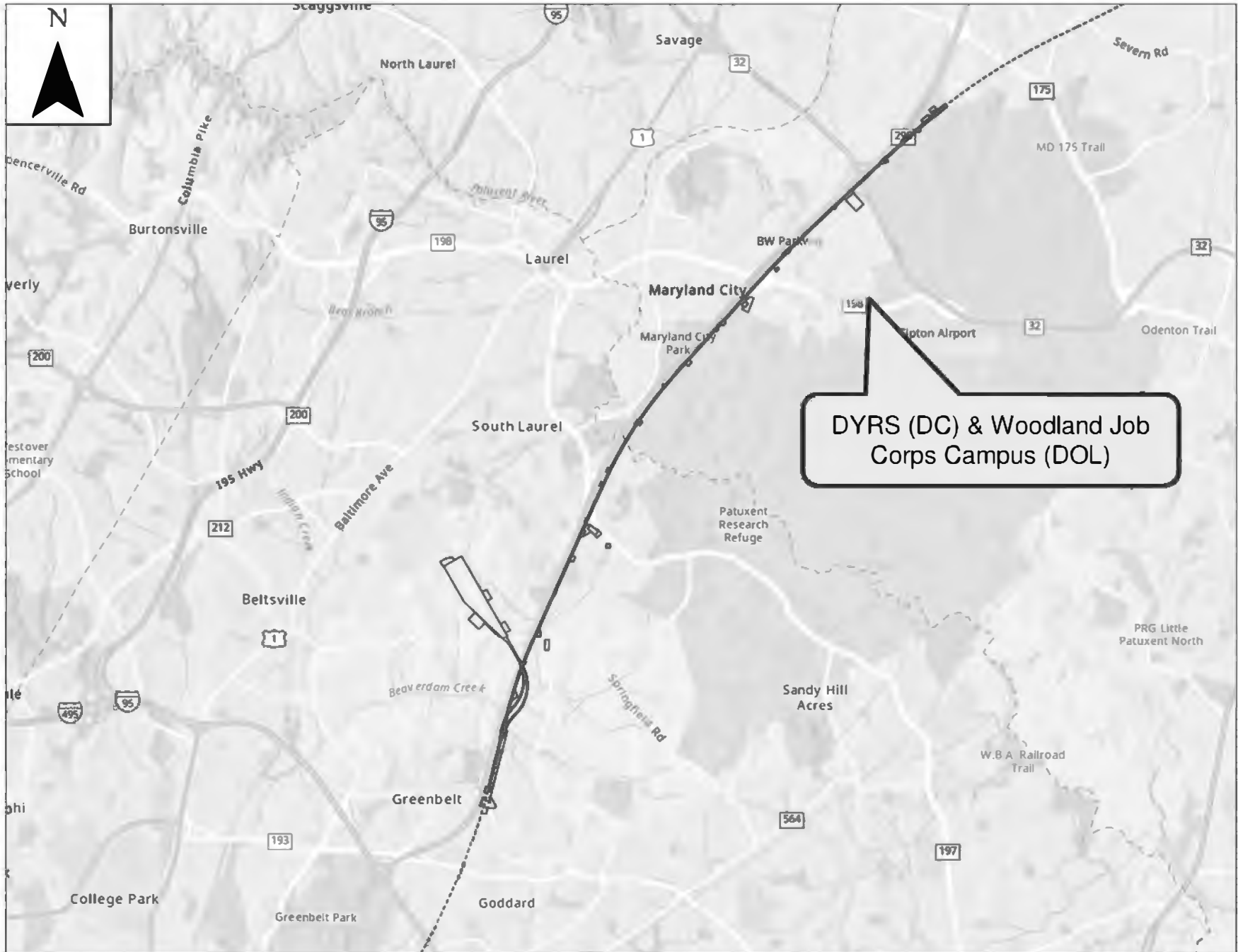
FWS – Detailed View



NPS / FWS – Discussion

- We understand that NPS and USFWS have concerns with the preferred alternative's impacts on the BW Parkway and the Patuxent Research Refuge.
- Are there improvements that could be undertaken during the construction phase that would be beneficial to the Parkway or PRR (for example, removal of invasive species, fencing, etc.)?
- Does NPS have a long-term plan for BWP expansion or maintenance that the SCMAGLEV project should consider?
- Are there any lessons learned from other projects (for example, transmission lines in PRR) that could be helpful?

DOL - Overview Map



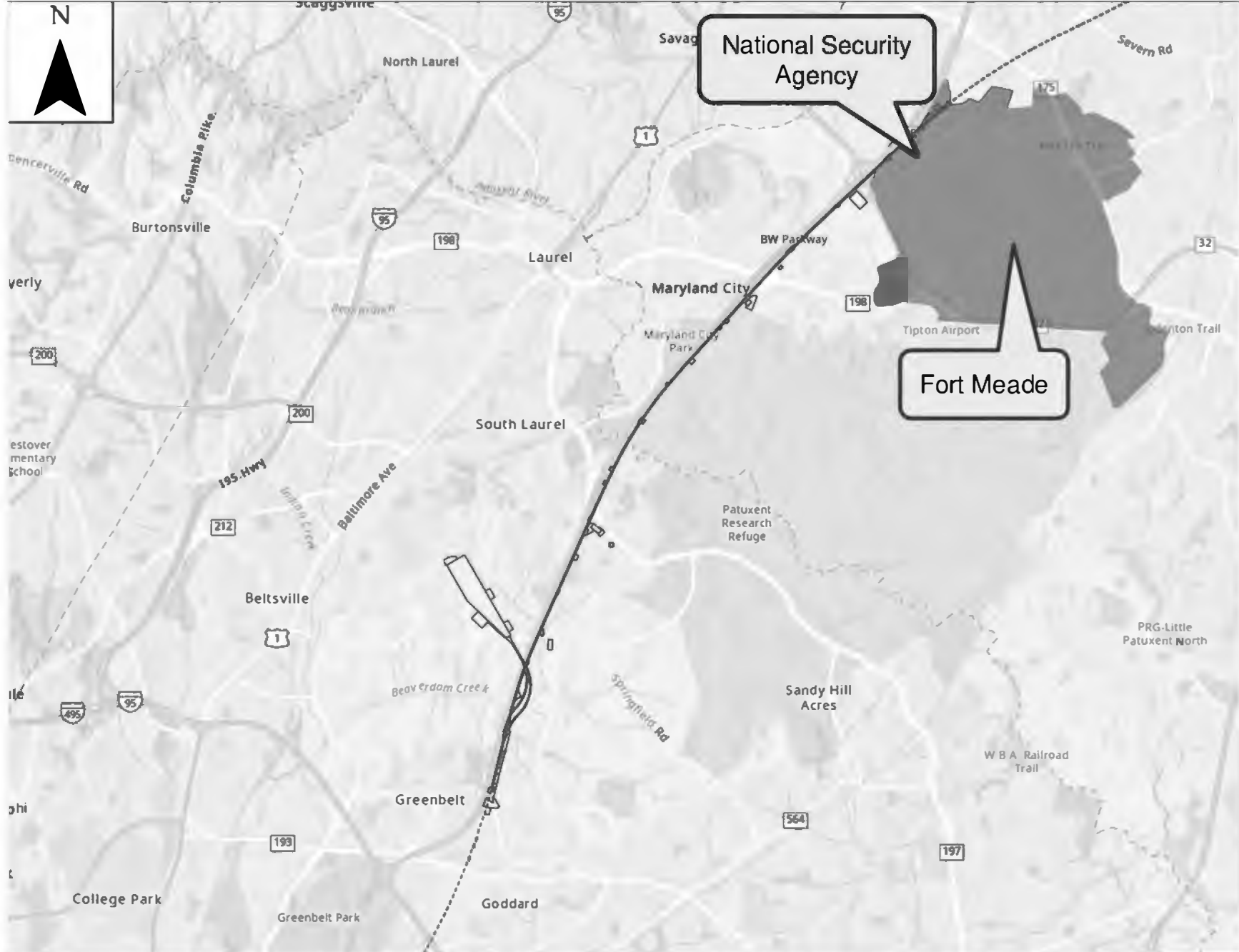
DOL – Detailed View



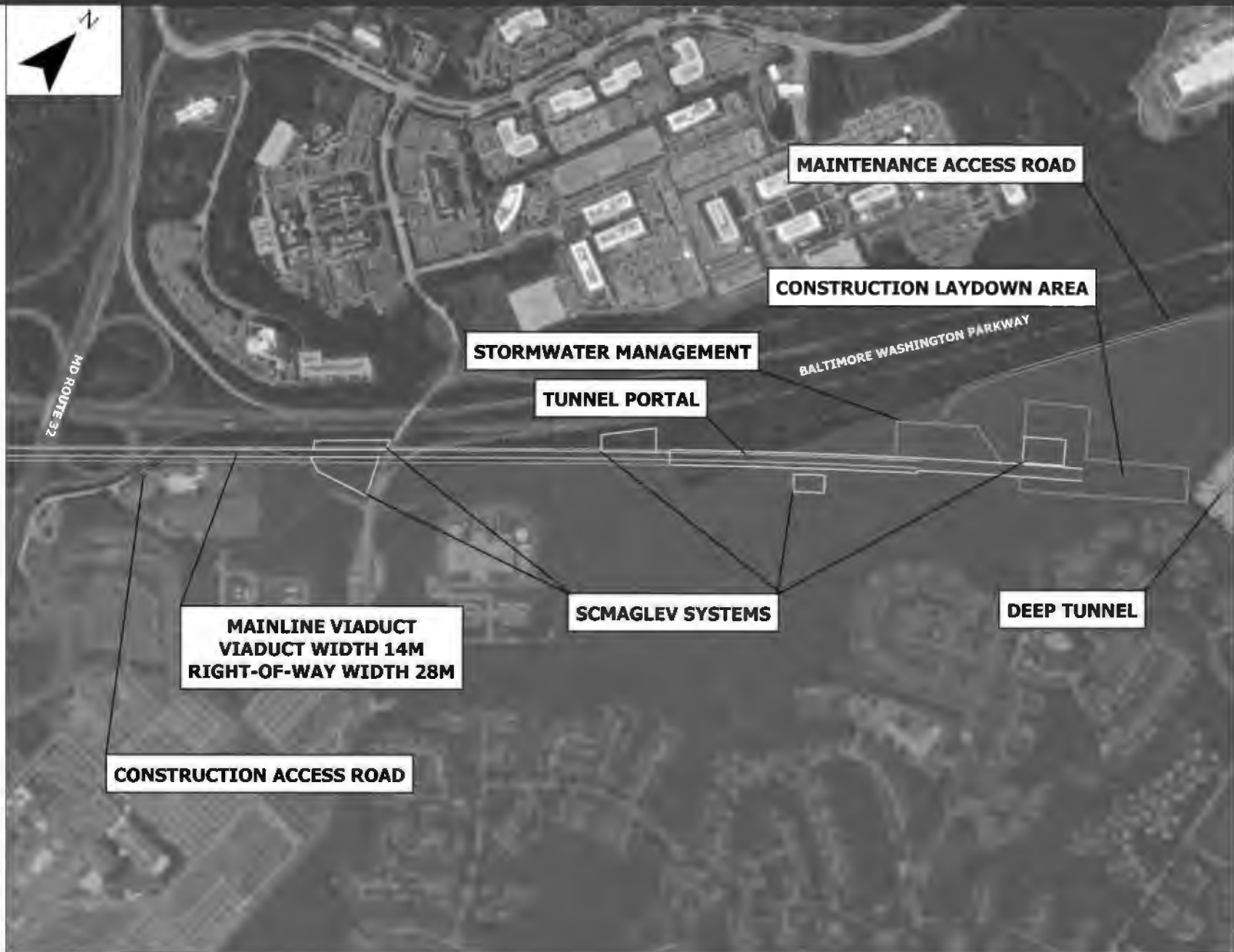
DOL – Discussion

- A TMF at 198 was the only option that directly impacted the Department of Labor at its Woodland Job Training Center.
- The preferred alternative does not impact the Woodland campus.
- Does DOL have other concerns related to the preferred alternative?

NSA / Fort Meade - Overview Map



NSA / Fort Meade – Detailed View



NSA / Fort Meade – Discussion

- We understand certain comments cannot be shared with the Project Sponsor however, we would welcome an unclassified discussion to better understand NSA / Fort Meade concerns and consider how they could be addressed.
- There was previous mention of moving the Cryptologic Museum. Is there an update that can be provided?
- Are there improvements that could be undertaken during the project construction phase that would be beneficial to NSA/Fort Meade (for example: upgrades to base residential community housing and /or facilities?)

USACE

- Based on USACE's DEIS comments, we understand there are still concerns regarding certain project planning decisions (for example: eliminating the Patapsco TMF and adopting 16 car trainsets). We propose further discussions on these issues.
- Additional USACE discussions (for example, regarding the practicability of the project), may best be addressed after other agency discussions have occurred.

Next Steps

- BWRR requests individual follow-on meetings with federal land-owning agencies to:
 - Discuss respective concerns in greater detail
 - Address and resolve concerns where possible
 - Determine if there are possible modifications to the preferred alternative that would help address or mitigate concerns
 - Determine if there are improvements to federal properties that could be realized as part of the construction of the SCMAGLEV project



BWRR

BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON
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Thank You

Wayne Rogers
Bill Scott
Ian Rainey
Mike Dowd

