

## ***Next Steps***

The next phase of the study is to undertake detailed examination of the Amtrak parallel and the "no-build" alternatives. The "no-build" alternative is always carried forward into the next phase of analysis. The "no-build" alternative does not include any additional construction beyond projects in the regional long-range plan for transportation. The findings of these studies will be published in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and submitted to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) this year.

In-depth evaluation of the environmental, historical and socioeconomic features along the Amtrak parallel alternative alignment will be conducted. This evaluation will use both field analysis and existing geographic information systems databases. Special studies will be conducted to look at sensitive design areas such

as heavily developed areas and key natural resource areas. Throughout the preparation of the DEIS, the MTA will work with communities, businesses, and environmental agencies to determine project features.

The Baltimore-Washington corridor is one of two being considered by the FRA for construction of the nation's first Maglev project. The FRA is scheduled to select a single project for construction in Spring, 2003. In addition to the alternatives analysis process, the MTA is coordinating other activities and studies, including preparation of passenger projections and revenue forecasts; estimates of capital and operating costs; identification of benefits; and preparation of a public/private partnership plan for planning, design, construction, financing and operation of the project.

### Timeline for the Environmental Process

FALL 2001	WINTER 2001/02	SPRING 2002	SUMMER 2002	WINTER 2002/03
Scoping meetings with the public and agencies	Public meetings to discuss alternatives	Detailed environmental and engineering		Submit Draft EIS to FRA
Initial environmental and engineering studies	Identify alternatives retained for detailed study		Public meetings to discuss effects of alternatives	Hold Public Hearing on Draft EIS

## ***Contact Information***

The MTA is committed to keeping you informed about the Baltimore-Washington Maglev Project. If you would like additional information, have questions, or would like a Maglev project presentation at your community meeting, please visit our web site or write to the addresses below.

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