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Alignment Finalized for Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project

Richmond, VA., November 20, 2006 – The Federal Transit Administration has approved the amended Record of Decision (ROD) for the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project, signifying the completion of the planning process and finalizing the project alignment for the entire 23-mile project, including an aerial portion through Tysons Corner.

“This is a major step for this critical transportation project in Northern Virginia,” said Sam Carnaggio, Project Director. “It brings Phase 1 of the project closer to receiving Federal Transit Administration approval to enter final design and locks in our schedule to advance Phase 1 into construction by fall 2007.”

The Final Environmental Impact Statement for the project was completed in December 2004 and included a review of the environmental and transportation impacts of project construction and operations. In March 2005, the FTA issued a Record of Decision. However, subsequent design modifications including the alignment in the Route 7 Corridor, led to an Environmental Assessment and the amended Record of Decision.

“This project cannot be built without federal funding and the risk of losing federal funding increases every day with escalation, changes in commodity prices, and increasing competition for scarce federal dollars,” stated DRPT Director Matthew Tucker. “After 45 years of planning, the time to put a shovel in the ground is now.”

“Dulles rail is the single most important transportation project in the region,” said Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Gerald E. Connolly. “It will provide more than 91,000 passenger trips daily and transform development patterns in the corridor.”

The project has already completed the preliminary engineering for Phase 1 and is now moving forward to secure FTA approval to enter Final Design in spring 2007.

About the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project:

This extension of Metrorail in Northern Virginia will be built in two phases. Phase 1 includes 11 miles from near the East Falls Church Metro Station to Wiehle Avenue on the eastern edge of Reston. Phase 2 will run from Wiehle Avenue west through Reston, Herndon, Dulles International Airport and eastern Loudoun County. Phase 1 is currently scheduled to open in 2012, with Phase 2 to open in 2015. This schedule is subject to federal funding and approvals.

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About DRPT

The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation facilitate the movement of people and goods throughout Virginia. Through rail, public transportation and commuter services, DRPT focuses on congestion relief, economic development and mobility. DRPT's mission is to plan, establish, maintain, improve and promote public transportation services, passenger rail and freight rail transportation systems and transportation demand management strategies that provide efficient mobility and transportation choices to the citizens and businesses of the Commonwealth. For more information, visit www.drpt.virginia.gov.

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