



RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

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Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project Reaches Key Milestone

FAA Approval Keeps Project on Track for Construction

Richmond, Va., April 25, 2005 – The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has issued a Record of Decision for the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project – an important milestone on the project’s path to starting construction next year.

The Record of Decision states that the entire 23-mile project is in compliance with all existing environmental and aeronautical regulations. In its review of the project’s final environmental impact statement, the FAA found the proposal “consistent with existing plans of public agencies for the development of the area surrounding the airport.”

FAA’s involvement in the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project is mainly focused on segments of the rail line that will be built along the median of the airport access highway, run on a portion of airport property, use airport property for a new rail maintenance facility, and include an underground station at Washington Dulles International Airport. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the federal agency slated to fund 50 percent of the project cost, issued its Record of Decision in March 2005.

“The FAA’s Record of Decision is an important step on the way to an exciting new transportation option for the corridor,” said Karen Rae, director of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT). “It completes the environmental process, underscores the quality of the project, and brings us that much closer to breaking ground on an investment that will help shape the future of the entire region.”

Completion of Preliminary Engineering for Phase 1 is scheduled for the end of this year. Phase 1 construction - from the existing East Falls Church station on Metro’s Orange Line through Tysons Corner and into Reston- is expected to begin at the end of 2006. Construction of Phase 2 to Dulles International Airport and Loudoun County could begin as early as 2010. All dates are subject to federal funding and approvals.

About the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project

The Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project is a partnership led by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT). Project partners include the Federal Transit Administration, Federal Aviation Administration, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, Fairfax County, Town of Herndon, Loudoun County, Virginia Department of Transportation, and Dulles Transit Partners, LLC.

The project will provide seamless access to the existing Metrorail system with a one-seat ride to downtown Washington, D.C. With the equivalent capacity of four highway lanes on the Dulles Toll road, the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project will play a key role in helping to manage the growth of congestion for drivers and transit riders alike.

For additional information, visit www.dullesmetro.com.

About DRPT

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

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