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Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project Scores “Recommended” Rating Through FTA New Starts Program

Project is one of only 14 recommended programs in the country

RICHMOND, Va., February 8, 2005— The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today announced that the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project is one of only 14 projects recommended in its FY 2006 New Starts report. This is the first time that Metrorail to Dulles has been recommended in this report, and it is the only FTA-recommended project in the tri-state area of Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

In a press conference, Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta pointed out that the New Starts process is one of the most rigorous financial planning, project development and engineering processes in government. About 15 percent of 287 projects authorized in TEA-21 have succeeded so far. Of 27 projects evaluated for this report, two were highly recommended, 12 were recommended, eight were not recommended and five were not rated.

The long-awaited Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project received FTA approval to enter Preliminary Engineering (PE) in June 2004. When fully implemented, the project would provide Metrorail access to the region's major activity centers in Maryland, the District of Columbia and Virginia including, among others, FedEx Field, the National Zoo, the U.S. Capitol, Tysons Corner and Washington Dulles International Airport.

Since the project is still in the PE phase, a full funding grant agreement was not expected in the FTA's FY 06 report. Only projects that are entering a design/build phase at the time of the report are normally eligible for a full funding grant agreement. Karen Rae, director of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, said, "We remain committed to the project schedule. By this time next year we should have completed the PE phase, and at that time we could be recommended for a full funding grant agreement."

The project has already received \$58 million from FTA for its PE phase, which began in October 2004 and should be completed by the end of 2005. In addition, Metrorail to Dulles continues to receive strong Congressional support, where \$186.5 million has already been appropriated.

FTA's report lists the project as "Northern Virginia, VA, Dulles Corridor Extension to Wiehle Ave, HRT (PE)". The 11 miles from near East Falls Church through Tysons Corner to Wiehle Avenue in

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Reston represent Phase 1 of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project. Phase 2 would further extend Metrorail service for 12 more miles from Wiehle Avenue through Dulles International Airport to Route 772 in Loudoun County. The total estimated project cost is \$3.5 billion.

Subject to funding and federal approvals, construction could begin as early as 2006 with estimated completion of Phase 1 in 2011 and Phase 2 in 2015.

The Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project will advance as a partnership led by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), 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.

For additional information, visit www.dullesmetro.com.

About DRPT

The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) 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. Visit us at www.drpt.virginia.gov.

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