



Press Release

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Preliminary Engineering Completed on Phase 1 of Dulles Project Contractor Submits New Cost Estimate

Vienna, VA, March 22, 2006 - The Commonwealth's private-sector contractor, Dulles Transit Partners, LLC, has completed preliminary engineering for Phase 1 of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project, including an updated cost estimate of \$2.0 billion. Phase 1 will extend Metrorail from the Orange Line near Falls Church to Tysons Corner and Reston.

The new estimate reflects increases in the projected costs of materials and property needed to build the Metrorail extension. It also reflects scope and project reductions, including several pedestrian and station access facilities that have been recommended for elimination in order to lower the cost and meet the cost/benefit criteria established by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) will spend the next 30 days reviewing Dulles Transit Partners' proposed cost estimate and developing an independent cost estimate for comparison and submittal to FTA.

The independent cost estimate is an important element of FTA's criteria to determine eligibility for federal funding. FTA's 2006 New Starts Report published in February marked the first time that the project has been included in the President's budget.

"We will continue to work diligently with our project partners to develop this project at a cost level that will allow us to advance into final design and construction," said Sam Carnaggio, project director for DRPT. The project is expected to enter final design this fall, with construction of Phase 1 scheduled to begin in 2007. Completion of preliminary engineering represents 30% of final design.

About the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project

The Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project is a partnership led by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation. Project partners include the Federal Transit Administration, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, Fairfax County, the Town of Herndon, Loudoun County, the Virginia Department of Transportation and Dulles Transit Partners, LLC. For more information, visit www.dullesmetro.com.

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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 commuter services, DRPT focuses on congestion relief, economic development and mobility. We help people and businesses find the smartest distance between two points. Visit us at <http://www.drpt.virginia.gov> .

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