Press Release

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Public Hearing on Dulles Rail Design Refinements Scheduled

Environmental Assessment of Changes in Tysons Corner Now Available

Vienna, Va., February 27, 2006 –An environmental review of proposed design changes to the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project was released to the public today.

The document, the Preliminary Engineering Design Refinements Environmental Assessment, was prepared by the Federal Transit Administration (the FTA), the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

The assessment contains information on the project's recent design changes, primarily in the Tysons Corner area. Those changes have been made during the preliminary engineering on the first phase of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project. The assessment, required by the FTA after changes to the approved Final Environmental Impact Statement were made, describes potential environmental effects that could result from those changes.

A public hearing on the assessment will be held on Tuesday, March 28 at Kilmer Middle School, 8100 Wolftrap Road, Vienna. Those needing special assistance at the hearing should call 703-288-7100.

The scope of the hearing will be limited to the changes made to the previously approved EIS, according to Sam Carnaggio, Project Director. Individuals and organizations will have **three (3)** minutes to present their statements.

Comments may be made at the hearing or submitted in writing to Karl Rohrer, Deputy Project Director, Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project, 1595 Spring Hill Road, Suite 600, Vienna Va. 22182. Comments may be submitted via email to eacomments@dullesmetro.com. Written comments must be received by April 11. All correspondence should include the writer's name, address and organization affiliation.

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After the public hearing and the close of the comment period, a report will be prepared to formally document and respond to comments received at the hearing and during the comment period. Following its publication, FTA will review the findings of the assessment and responses to comments and will make its formal National Environmental Policy Act determination on the preliminary engineering design refinements.

Copies of the Environmental Assessment can be downloaded from the project's Web site, www.dullesmetro.com and will available for public view at the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project office at 1595 Spring Hill Road, Suite 600, Vienna, Va. 22182 and at the offices of Fairfax County supervisors Catherine Hudgins, D-Hunter Mill District; Joan DuBois, R-Dranesville District, Linda Smyth, D-Providence District and Board Chairman Gerald Connolly. It also will be available at the offices of Loudoun County Board Chairman Scott York and Dulles District Supervisor Steve Snow.

The assessment will also be available at the following libraries: the Ashburn Library, the Dolley Madison Library, the Eastern Loudoun Regional Library, the Mary Riley Styles Library, the Great Falls Community Library, the Herndon Fortnightly, the Patrick Henry Library, the Reston Regional Library, the Sterling Library and the Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library.

Copies of the assessment have been sent to the United Motor Coach Association, the Amalgamated Transit Union, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Locals 246 and 922, the Greater Washington Board of Trade and the Federal City Council.

About the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project

The Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project is a new 23-mile Metrorail line branching off the Orange Line after the East Falls Church Metrorail Station. The project is being built in two phases. Phase 1 has five stations, four in Tysons Corner and one at Wiehle Avenue on the eastern edge of Reston. Phase 2 has six stations, including Dulles Airport and ending at Route 772 in eastern Loudoun County.

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.

The new Metrorail line will provide seamless access to the regional Metrorail system from the Dulles Corridor with a one-seat ride to downtown Washington. The project will play a key role in helping to manage the growth of congestion for drivers and transit riders in the busy corridor.

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 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 http://www.drpt.virginia.gov .