

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF RAIL AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

DULLES CORRIDOR METRORAIL PROJECT
PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING DESIGN REFINEMENTS
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ABSTRACT

This Environmental Assessment (EA) addresses potential environmental impacts associated with design refinements to the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project (formerly known as the Dulles Corridor Rapid Transit Project). The design refinements, which affect the project's initial construction phase (known as the Extension to Wiehle Avenue), came about as the project proceeded through the preliminary engineering phase of project development. The EA describes modifications that have been made to the project since the publication of the *Dulles Corridor Rapid Transit Project Final Environmental Impact Statement and Section 4(f) Evaluation* (Final EIS) in December 2004 and since the issuance of a Record of Decision for the project by FTA in March 2005. This document presents the anticipated changes in effects from those documented in the Final EIS.

The Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project is proposed to improve mobility and transit accessibility in the rapidly developing and congested Dulles Corridor. The limits of the project extend approximately 23 miles from the vicinity of the West Falls Church Metrorail Station in Fairfax County to the vicinity of Route 772 in Loudoun County. The project would be constructed in two phases. The first phase, the Extension to Wiehle Avenue, would have an alignment length of approximately 11.6 miles and operate from the existing Metrorail Orange Line to Wiehle Avenue in Fairfax County. The second phase, the Extension to Dulles Airport/Route 772, would continue construction and operation of the line to Dulles International Airport and Route 772 in eastern Loudoun County.

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A public hearing on the EA will be held at 7:00 p.m. on March 28, 2006 at Kilmer Middle School, 8100 Wolftrap Road, Vienna, Virginia to provide citizens and agencies an opportunity to comment on the proposed design refinements to the project. Comments on this document may be made orally at the public hearing or submitted in writing. Written comments should be sent to Karl Rohrer, Deputy Project Director, Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project, 1595 Spring Hill Road, Suite 600, Vienna, Virginia 22182. Comments may also be submitted via e-mail to eacommments@dullesmetro.com. All written comments must be received by **April 11, 2006**.

After the public hearing and the close of the comment period, a Public Hearing 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 EA and the responses to comments and will make its formal National Environmental Policy Act determination on the preliminary engineering design refinements.

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