

Airports Authority Board Selects Design-Build Delivery System for Phase 2 of Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project

On May 2, 2009, the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (Airports Authority) Board of Directors (Board) approved the plan recommended by Airports Authority management for proceeding with the 11.5 - mile Phase 2 of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project.

The Airports Authority will begin the process by contracting with an architectural/engineering firm to perform preliminary engineering for Phase 2.

When preliminary engineering is completed, the Airports Authority will use a competitively-bid design-build delivery system to contract for construction of the 11.5 - mile Phase 2 segment.

The Airports Authority will issue a Request for Qualifications to identify architectural and engineering (A/E) firms interested in competing for a contract to perform preliminary engineering. The contract is expected to be awarded by the end of 2009.

Further definition of project elements, the estimated cost, the project completion schedule and technical issues for Phase 2 will be completed during preliminary engineering.

Preliminary engineering is expected to be completed by 2011. Next, the Airports Authority will initiate a competitive procurement process to select a design-build contractor by issuing a Request for Proposals. Prices proposed by firms submitting proposals will be a major evaluation factor in determining the successful bidder.

Design-build system was evaluated among other project delivery systems to determine which method best meets the Airports Authority's goals for the project. The design-build system will enable the Airports Authority to:

- Meet an estimated date for completion of the project in December 2016.
- Provide business opportunities, including subcontracting.
- Obtain lower price proposals through the use of full and open competition.
- Provide high quality facilities that meet or exceed industry and operator standards.
- Obtain a balance in allocating project risks between the Airports authority and the design-build contractor.

Throughout the development of this project, the Airports Authority will work closely with its partners and stake-holders to develop a system that meets the need for rail transportation in the Dulles Corridor. These partners and stakeholders include: Fairfax County, Loudoun County, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, the Virginia Department of Transportation and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transit.