



RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

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Record of Decision Issued for Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project

Entire 23-mile extension clears environmental review

RICHMOND, Va., March 3, 2005— The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has issued a Record of Decision confirming that the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project has met all of the requirements necessary to close out the environmental phase of the project that will bring Metrorail service to Tysons Corner, Dulles Airport and Loudoun County. Information gained through the environmental phase will provide a blueprint to continue to advance this project.

The Record of Decision (ROD), a determination by the federal government that the project has complied with applicable laws and regulations in conducting the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act of 1969) environmental review process, is a legally binding document that represents a formal administrative action to advance the project toward implementation.

Following the recent "Recommended" rating published in their FY 06 New Starts Report to Congress, FTA's decision is a significant milestone for the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project and represents a huge step toward implementation, bringing the project closer to consideration for a federal Full Funding Grant Agreement in the future.

Karen Rae, director of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), said, "The Record of Decision is significant on many levels. In fact it's much more than a review of the environmental impact. The ROD supports the plan to construct the entire Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project."

Beginning in 2000, the project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) involved a thorough review of potential social, environmental and transportation effects of construction and operations of the project. It identified and evaluated alternatives, provided detailed technical analyses and included extensive public involvement. The EIS process also documented decisions made on the scope and definition of the project.

The next steps are to complete Preliminary Engineering for Phase 1, which is currently scheduled for completion by the end of 2005. The project team will then finalize the funding structure by seeking a Full Funding Grant Agreement with FTA, acquire the right-of-way, and begin construction.

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Background on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):

The NEPA environmental review process identifies any actions required to reduce or mitigate anticipated environmental impacts.

It is the culmination of a multi-year environmental review process, whereby FTA has concluded that the potential adverse impacts of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project on the human and natural environment are expected to be minor, given the complexity of the project.

The Final Environmental Impact Statement was published in December 2004.

For more information or to obtain a copy of the Final EIS, visit www.dullestransit.com

Background on the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project:

When fully implemented, the long-awaited Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project will 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.

The 11 miles from near East Falls Church through Tysons Corner to Wiehle Avenue in Reston represent Phase 1 of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project. Phase 2 will 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 for Phase 1 could begin as early as 2006 with estimated completion of Phase 1 in 2011. Construction for Phase 2 could begin as early as 2010 with an estimated completion of 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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