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For Immediate Release
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DCRA Applauds Board Action Scheduling Hearing on Dulles Rail Tax District Petition

During its regularly scheduled board meeting today, October 27, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors received a petition from **LEADER** (The Landowners Economic Alliance for the Dulles Extension of Rail), the organization comprised of landowners in the Fairfax segment of the Dulles Corridor to create a tax district to fund the Fairfax County share of the Dulles Metrorail extension.

The petition, which has been signed by owners of a minimum of 51 percent of the assessed value of property in the corridor, requests that the Board create a Dulles Rail Transportation Improvement District to fund the Fairfax County share of the cost of extending Metrorail from West Falls Church to Route 772 in Loudoun County.

In accordance with state law, the County Board fixed a date for a public hearing on the question of creating the proposed district for December 8, 2003. It also directed that a copy of the petition and notice of public hearing be delivered to the Town Council of Herndon as soon as possible, along with a request that the Town Council promptly take such steps as are required by law to permit property located within the Town and the proposed district to be included in such a district.

At today's Slip Ramp Opening Ceremony, Governor Mark Warner referred to the submission of the petition and celebrated the efforts to move forward today with short-term improvements while preparing the way for the longer-term rail extension. The Governor applauded the partnership that was making rail happen. He noted that finally, we are at the point where rail can become a reality: because of the efforts of our congressional delegation to get federal funding for rail; because the county was contributing its funding share (tax district); and because the state was also partnering with its share of funds.

Dulles Corridor Rail Association (DCRA) Chairman Delegate Kenneth R. Plum heralded the submission of the petition to the Fairfax County Board as a key milestone for the project. "This demonstrates the important commitment of the development community to a positive vision of the future for Northern Virginia and the Commonwealth, not just Fairfax County. We look forward to working with our congressional delegation during the reauthorization of the surface transportation act to secure the federal funding commitment for the first phase of the project to Wiehle Avenue."

DCRA Vice Chairman Vince Callahan said, "I commend the private sector for the leadership they are showing by their willingness to help fund this critically important infrastructure element. The rail extension is key to the future of our economy and the continued growth of Washington Dulles International Airport."