



PRESS RELEASE

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Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project Advances

The Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project has advanced another important step towards groundbreaking. The release of the Hill International reports by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) yesterday provides the results of several risk analysis workshops that were conducted over the last few months. The information in these reports will be used by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (Airports Authority) to prepare an amended request to enter final design of Phase 1.

"We are confident that the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, the project manager, will work closely with FTA to achieve the cost adjustments necessary to receive federal approval," said Dulles Corridor Rail Association Chairman Ken Plum. "The project partners, Fairfax County, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Agency (WMATA), and the Commonwealth, are all equally committed to supporting this risk assessment process with the result of approval for final design and moving forward to a full funding grant agreement."

The Hill reports evaluate the completeness, consistency, and adequacy of the definition of the project's scope; determine if the project cost estimates reflect correct quantity data; evaluate the development and level of detail in the project schedule; and evaluate the adequacy of project costs contingencies to absorb increases in cost due to scope or schedule changes.

"The Dulles Metrorail project has been through a lengthy environmental review process and received a final Record of Decision in the fall of 2006," Plum noted. "Preliminary design has been under way for several years. A contract was signed with Dulles Transit Partners in March 2007, and in June 2007, the Airports Authority negotiated funding agreements with Fairfax and Loudoun counties and WMATA."

"Both Loudoun and Fairfax counties have taken major steps to prepare for rail. Fairfax County changed its Comprehensive Plan to define transit-oriented development (TOD), and approved two major TOD project in Tysons Corner and changes to encourage TOD at the stations in the Dulles corridor. Studies are under way to develop an urban design plan for Tysons Corner and an access management plan in Reston. Loudoun County has also approved two TOD projects.

"We urge the FTA to work closely with the project team so that approval to enter final design will be given expeditiously and construction can proceed next year," Plum said. "This project is critical to the future of the Washington region and the Commonwealth of Virginia. It has the support of the public and our local, state, and congressional representatives. We need Dulles rail now!"