



## **DCRA Statement on Dulles Rail Project Costs**

The Dulles Corridor Rail Association (DCRA) supports strong management by the Commonwealth of Virginia to control the costs of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project. Overall project costs must be kept close to the original estimates unless very persuasive evidence is presented to justify changes. The public and landowners were provided cost numbers that served as the basis for developing the financing plan. Every effort should be made to honor these numbers.

Further, we welcome and stress the vital nature of the value engineering now beginning as well as the peer review of cost estimates by independent engineers commissioned to look for ways to reduce costs without detracting from transportation quality. Value engineering has produced significant cost savings for Virginia road and airport projects; no doubt value engineering will produce savings for this project as well.

Virginia's Public Private Transportation Act is an innovative tool to involve the private sector in producing a transportation project on budget and on time. The Dulles Rail is being built under that Act. DCRA calls on Virginia's managers to see that the Dulles rail project is built on budget and on time.

### Background

Dulles Transit partners' range of estimates and options (\$1.7 to \$2.4 billion) is their estimate at the start of negotiations for a fixed price contract with Virginia to build Phase 1. Support from the federal government, taxing district members, and the public is all predicated on the \$1.5 billion cost for Phase 1 (year of expenditure dollars) as presented in the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

It is just plain common sense that when all is said and done:

1. Costs will be constrained and will come down to acceptable levels (or there will be no project).
2. Fairfax County's Comprehensive Plan calls for higher density transit-oriented development at the transit stations to ensure rail works efficiently.
3. Ridership will be more than projected in the Environmental Impact Statement. The Council of Governments Round 7.0 forecasts, currently under review project significantly increased development in Fairfax and Loudoun counties.