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## Washington Dulles International Airport Opens New Runway Secretary of Transportation Present for Inaugural First Flight

Over two hundred guests gathered in a new Airport Fire and Rescue Station early this morning to witness the opening of the first new runway in the Washington area in over 46 years when Runway 1L-19R was declared open by US Transportation Secretary Mary Peters for the first flight of an American Airlines plane bound for Los Angeles.

The three existing runways at Dulles dated back to the Airport's 1962 opening. A Master Plan for the Airport called for construction of two additional runways when required by growth of passengers and airlines at Dulles.

In recent years, as aircraft operations at Dulles grew, expanding the current three-runway system became a necessity. The Airports Authority Board of Directors approved the new runway in 2001, and the environmental process began in 2002 with construction starting in 2006 after approval from the Federal Aviation Administration.

The \$355 million fourth runway and its associated projects will support the future development of the Airport and will allow the Air Traffic Controllers more flexibility in directing aircraft operations. Other costs and projects associated with the new runway included the construction of the new Airport Fire and Rescue Station, environmental mitigation, relocation of the National Weather Service facilities, land purchase and radio system expansion. The new runway is a north-south runway 9,400 feet long and 150 feet wide, and it becomes Dulles Airport's fourth runway. The Airport now has three parallel north-south runways and one east-west runway. Plans call for a fifth runway in the future that will run east-west. Dulles Airport has more than 12,000 acres of land which will be developed as future needs are identified.

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority constructed the new runway as part of the ongoing capital development program called d2, or Dulles Development. The d2 program has been in progress since 2001 with nearly \$3 billion dollars invested in airport improvements to date. Completed d2 projects include a new airport traffic control tower, a 15-gate expansion to Concourse B, renovation of the Main Terminal, two new parking garages and roadway improvements. The centerpiece of the d2 program is a new underground airport train system called Aero Train that will transport passengers from the Main Terminal to the concourses. The Aero Train is scheduled to begin operating in 2009. Other d2 projects in the works include the expansion of the International Arrivals Building located in the Main Terminal.

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