



For Immediate Release

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Airports Authority Board Approves Toll Rate Increases on Dulles Toll Road

Plan Follows Funding Decisions Made by Project Partners

Today, at its monthly meeting, the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Board of Directors voted to approve a set of toll rate increases on the Dulles Toll Road that includes an increase of twenty-five cents at the Main Toll Plaza of the toll road and twenty-five cents at the ramps, which will take effect on January 1, 2010.

This action came after the Board's review of public comments that had been submitted on the toll rate increases which had been proposed in July 2009 to support construction of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project and improvements to the Dulles Toll Road. Some of these comments were made at the three public hearings which had been held in the Dulles Corridor on the proposed increases; other comments were submitted online.

The formal public comment period began on August 14 and ended September 14. All the comments, along with the response by the Airports Authority staff, are posted on the Airports Authority website at http://www.mwaa.com/file/toll_recommendation.pdf

An important factor in the Board's decision is the commitment that the Airports Authority has made to construct the Metrorail Project through the Dulles Corridor. That commitment is contained in agreements with the Commonwealth of Virginia and local governments in Northern Virginia, and is based in substantial part on the parties' agreement that funding for the Metrorail Project is to come from Dulles Toll Road revenues, as well as contributions by the federal government, the Commonwealth, Fairfax and Loudoun Counties, and the Airports Authority.

Under its agreement with the Commonwealth, the Airports Authority has assumed the responsibility to operate and improve the Dulles Toll Road for a 50-year period, to construct the Metrorail Project, and to use revenues from the Toll Road to help finance construction of the rail project, as well as improvements to the Toll Road and the Dulles Corridor. For more information about the Dulles Rail Project and the Dulles Toll Road, please visit the website at www.mwaa.com

The Board approved an incremental increase in toll rates over a period of three years. In addition to the increases that will be effective on January 1, 2010, an additional increase of 25 cents at the Main Toll Plaza will occur on January 1, 2011, and another 25 cent increase at the Main Toll Plaza on January 1, 2012. There will not be any increases at the ramp areas in 2011 or 2012.

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