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## **Airports Authority Offers Plan to Bring Rail to Loudoun and Operate the Dulles Toll Road**

Today the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority announced its proposal to operate the Dulles Toll Road and oversee the construction of a rail line through the Dulles Corridor to Fairfax and Loudoun Counties.

Under the proposal, the Airports Authority would invest all the revenues generated from the Toll Road into road and rail projects in the Dulles Corridor. It would also sell bonds to fund construction of rail to Loudoun County and improvements to the Toll Road.

James E Bennett, President/CEO of the Airports Authority, said, "The Airports Authority has played an integral role in the development of the Dulles Corridor. The existence of Washington Dulles International Airport is the catalyst that has led to the development of much of northern Virginia. We believe that the economic future of this Corridor and the future success of the Airport depend on a viable road and mass transit network. This will only happen if there is an investment in both improving the Dulles Toll Road and complementing that Road with rail to Loudoun County."

"Today, we are presenting our plan to accomplish this investment in the future of our region. We believe that the Toll Road is a valuable asset that can provide major transportation benefits for the residents and the businesses in the corridor. It is important that all the revenues of the Toll Road continue to remain in the corridor and to be used for transportation improvements in the public interest, particularly expedited rail to Dulles. The Toll Road, and the revenue it generates from the citizens, must be preserved for the public and safeguarded as a valued asset for the corridor well into the future."

The Airports Authority Board of Directors held a special meeting today and approved a resolution to send a proposal for the operation of the Dulles Toll Road and the construction of rail in the Corridor to the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Commonwealth, through the Virginia Department of Transportation, currently operates the Dulles Toll Road, which is located on Airports Authority property, under an easement for the land. That easement would be returned to the Airports Authority and in return, the Airports Authority would take over the state's role in operating the Toll Road and construct the rail extension to Loudoun County.

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In the last year, the Commonwealth of Virginia has received proposals from private companies for the operation of the Dulles Toll Road. After considering the impact of this type of private arrangement on the future of the Dulles Corridor and the Airport, the Board of Directors of the Airports Authority authorized the development of an alternative proposal. The public policy goal of the Authority's alternative proposal is to ensure that the Dulles Toll Road will continue to be operated in a manner that will both maximize improvements to the Road and ensure that all the revenues earned on the Toll Road can be invested in the Dulles Corridor and support rail in that Corridor.