



For Immediate Release
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Contact: Office of Public Affairs, 703-417-8370

Airports Authority Board Approves Next Steps in Toll Road and Rail Agreement

Today at its monthly meeting, the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Board of Directors approved several critical agreements relating to construction of an extension of the Metro system from West Falls Church station through Tyson's Corner to Wiehle Avenue. In addition, key measures to enable the Airports Authority to assume operation of the Dulles Toll Road and manage the construction of rail through the rest of the Dulles Corridor to Dulles Airport into Loudoun County were approved.

The resolutions approved by the Board included the authorization for the Airports Authority to enter into a contract with the Dulles Transit Partners to construct Phase I of the rail project; the approval of several required intergovernmental agreements with Fairfax and Loudoun Counties, the Commonwealth of Virginia and WMATA; the establishment of a Dulles Corridor Enterprise Fund which will be responsible for the activities related to the rail project and the operation, maintenance and improvement of the Dulles Toll Road over the next fifty years; and the selection of the firm of Carter & Burgess, Inc. to provide program management support services for the rail project.

Said Chairman Mame Reiley, "Today, the Airports Authority Board gave its approval to what will likely be the northern Virginia region's most significant transportation improvement project over the next decade. I am proud of the role that the Board and the Airports Authority have been able to play in bringing this project to this point. I want to thank the Authority staff for their tireless work over the past year with our partners at the federal, state, and local level that has enabled us to reach the next phase in this important project that will help address the critical transportation needs of our region. We also greatly appreciate the confidence Governor Timothy Kaine has shown in us and the tremendous cooperation we have received from Virginia Secretary of Transportation Pierce Homer. The Airports Authority had one overarching goal throughout this extensive process -- to work with all the partners to ensure that the entire Dulles Corridor will be developed in a way that will serve the people who live and work in Northern Virginia and the entire Metropolitan Washington Region. The successful completion of this project will bring benefits and significant access improvements to Washington Dulles International Airport well into the future."

James E. Bennett, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Airports Authority thanked the Board for their guidance and support. "The commitment of our Board to this project is a reflection of the long history of community involvement of the Airports Authority. We have always operated with the clear understanding that the success of our airports and the economic and transportation benefits they bring to the region is greatly enhanced by the support of our government and business leaders. We look forward to continuing this cooperative working relationship with those leaders and the community through this project which will bring its share of challenges and eventual rewards."

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