Dulles Corridor Advisory Committee Meeting of December 10, 2009 Minutes

The meeting of the Dulles Corridor Advisory Committee (DCAC) was called to order at 1:05 p.m. at the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Office, 1593-1595 Spring Hill Road, Vienna, Virginia, Second Floor, Conference Room 606, by the Chairman of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority's (Airports Authority) Board of Directors H.R. Crawford.

The following members were in attendance: Mr. Crawford; Mr. James Bennett, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Airports Authority; Virginia Secretary of the Transportation Pierce Homer; Chairman of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Scott K. York; and Loudoun County Administrator Tim Hemstreet. Richard Stevens of Fairfax County arrived at 1:10 p.m.; J. Douglas Koelemay of the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) arrived at 1:17 p.m.; and Chairman of the Fairfax Board of Supervisors Sharon Bulova arrived at 1:42.

The first item of business was a discussion of the Dulles Toll rate increase process. Mr. Phil Sunderland, General Counsel of the Airports Authority, briefed the DCAC on the Airports Authority's toll rate increase, including the number of hearings, attendance at the hearings, the public comment period, the number of public comments and the nature of the comments.

Mr. Pat Nowakowski, Executive Director of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project, then provided an update of the Dulles Metrorail Project. (Mr. Nowakowski's PowerPoint presentation is attached to these minutes.)

Secretary Homer asked Mr. Nowakowski about the testing of the pier foundations near the West Falls Church Metro Station and whether the plan has been submitted to the Department of Transportation (DOT). Mr. Nowakowski responded that a plan had been submitted to Federal Transit Administration and that the FTA has indicated that the plan is likely to be accepted.

Mr. Andy Rountree, the Airports Authority's Deputy Chief Financial Officer, then provided a financial update on the Authority's Dulles Corridor Enterprise Fund. (Mr. Rountree's PowerPoint presentation is attached.)

Chairman Bulova said that the Fairfax Board of Supervisors had a briefing on Wednesday, December 9, on the Dulles Corridor Enterprise. She commented that she felt it is important for the county "to be at the table."

Chairman York commented that the DCAC should review, probably in the fall of 2010, year (2010)-to-date Dulles Toll Road financial data that would inform committee members regarding the continued need for the toll increase that is scheduled for January 1, 2011. Chairman York also noted that efforts were ongoing within Loudoun County to decide the final location for the Route 606 Metrorail station. Mr. Bennett noted that the

Airports Authority is about to begin the preliminary engineering for Phase 2 of the Metrorail Project, and stressed the critical importance that final decisions regarding station locations and rail line alignments, as well as aerial development and new toll road ramps, be reached in the very near future.

Chairman York disclosed that representatives of Fairfax and Loudoun counties had recently addressed the subject of potential development along Route 28 and in the Herndon area, and the traffic that this development could generate. He reported that there is some concern that the existing access between Route 28 and the Dulles Toll Road could prove inadequate to handle the increased traffic from this development, causing the same of this traffic to take alternative routes along local roadways. He asked that the Airports Authority review the adequacy of the existing access facilities to the Dulles Toll Road from Route 28. Mr. Bennett stated that Bill Lebegern of the Airports Authority would follow up with Fairfax and Loudoun Counties on this matter.

Chairman Bulova brought up the issue of funding on the Fairfax Connector program and said that the county will need \$6 Million to cover the funding in these tight economic times. Mr. Crawford responded that he would take Fairfax County's concern to the Airports Authority's Board of Directors. Secretary Homer commented that the Fairfax Connector bus service should only be needed until Metrorail service begins along the Dulles Corridor.

CTB Member Koelemay reflected on the financial market's response to the recent 2009 Dulles Toll Road Revenue Bonds. Mr. Rountree stated that the success of future toll road bonds would be greatly affected by the revenue produced as a result of the upcoming toll rate increases and how that revenue compares with earlier projections of revenue.

Chairman York commented on improvements at Dulles Airport. He also introduced the new Loudoun County Administrator, Tim Hemstreet.

Chairman Bulova announced the recent developments in the establishment of a tax district in Fairfax County that would assist the county in contributing to the construction of Phase 2 of the Metrorail Project.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm.