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Governor Kaine Announces Partnership With Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority for Dulles Corridor

Governor Timothy M. Kaine, today announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority to operate the Dulles Toll Road and to complete the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project by constructing rail to Dulles Airport and beyond to Loudoun County.

Said Mame Reiley, Chairman of the Airports Authority, "The decision the Governor announced today will set us on a path to strengthen the vitality of Northern Virginia by addressing our critical transportation needs."

"Today marks a significant point in the history of transportation planning in the Dulles Corridor and access to Dulles Airport," said James E. Bennett, the President and CEO of the Airports Authority. "Our predecessors set the stage nearly 50 years ago for the tremendous development of the Dulles Corridor through their plans to build an international airport and carve out a corridor for ground transportation. Today, we are taking steps to ensure that the next 50 years will benefit from the same careful planning and attention to the transportation needs in the Dulles Corridor and access to the Airport."

He continued, "The Airports Authority looks forward to starting this process-- beginning with an extensive due diligence with the Commonwealth and our local and federal partners on the operational and financial aspects of the Dulles rail project."

Once the due diligence is completed, the Airports Authority will move forward on the operational aspects of the Dulles Toll Road and oversight of the rail construction.

The Airports Authority Dulles Corridor Proposal will:

- Expedite completion of the Dulles Metrorail project in the Corridor to Dulles Airport and beyond to Route 772 in Loudoun County;
- Acquire from the Commonwealth its easements in the Corridor, including the Dulles Toll Road all of which is constructed on them;
- Take all operation responsibility, including toll rate-setting, for the Toll Road;
- Assume all outstanding debt on the Toll Road;
- Take responsibility for the Commonwealth's remaining share of financing for Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Dulles Metrorail project;
- Finance and construct needed improvements to the Toll Road and Dulles Corridor; and
- Retain for transportation uses in the Dulles Corridor all revenue generated by the Toll Road.

For more information on the Airports Authority's proposal and to view the Memorandum of Understanding signed today, please visit www.mwaa.com and click on the "Dulles Corridor Proposal" link on the front page.

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