

Governor Kaine Announces Aerial Option for Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project, Press Release, 2006

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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
Office of the Governor

Timothy M. Kaine
Governor

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GOVERNOR KAINES ANNOUNCES DECISION TO ADVANCE AERIAL OPTION FOR DULLES CORRIDOR METRORAIL PROJECT

RICHMOND - Governor Timothy M. Kaine today announced the Commonwealth will move forward on an existing aerial alignment for the Tysons Corner portion of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project. The announcement came after Governor Kaine met in Washington with Federal Transit Administration Administrator James Simpson and U.S. Senators John Warner and George Allen and Representatives Frank Wolf, Tom Davis, and Jim Moran.

“The good news is that this critical project is moving ahead with the unanimous bi-partisan support of the congressional delegation and our local partners,” Governor Kaine said. “We carefully reviewed the tunnel option at Tysons, and I share the belief of many of our project partners that a tunnel alignment would be the best option.” “However, too many unanswered questions remain about cost and timing. These uncertainties cannot be allowed to jeopardize this critical project.”

The Congressional Delegation and the Federal Transit Administration both expressed strong support for moving the project forward. The Dulles Corridor Metrorail project will improve mobility options in one of the most congested corridors in the Commonwealth.

The following are statements supporting Governor Kaine’s decision to move the project forward from the Congressional Delegation:

Representative Frank Wolf - “This is the most important transportation project in Northern Virginia and it is critically important that it move forward quickly to provide relief to commuters and keep traffic moving, giving working families more time to spend together rather than sitting in traffic. I appreciate the governor's leadership on this project.”

Citation: Dulles Metro Rail Press Release, attached to email from Alfonso Lopez, Sept. 6, 2006, 3:18pm, Leighty.pst, Email Records from the Office of the Governor (Kaine: 2006-2010), Library of Virginia

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Senator John Warner - "I support the Governor's decision to continue the Dulles Rail project on its current path. Successive Governors and the Congressional Delegation have worked hard for a number of years to bring this project to where it is today and I look forward to the day when rail to Tysons Corner and the Dulles Airport can help alleviate the traffic congestion in Northern Virginia."

Senator George Allen - "The decision to proceed with the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project to Tyson's Corner will greatly benefit the many commuters in Northern Virginia. This project is the result of hard work by many Virginians and I am pleased to see it moving forward. I support the Governor's decision in this matter as I continue working to make Virginia a better place to live, learn, work, and raise a family."

Representative Tom Davis - "I have fully supported Governor Kaine throughout this process. I stand by his decision that this is the best way to bring relief to Northern Virginians, and will continue to assist this project however necessary."

Representative Jim Moran - "The Governor had a tough business decision to make. While we both favored a tunnel through Tysons Corner, the threat of further delays and increased cost put the federal matching funds at too great a risk. I applaud Governor Kaine for giving the tunnel proposal a full, fair and professional vetting."

Next steps include the submission of an updated request with the Federal Transit Administration to enter the final design stage, followed by a request to FTA for a Full Funding Grant Agreement. Phase I Project construction is currently estimated for completion in 2012.

The Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project is a partnership led by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation. Project partners include the Federal Transit Administration, Federal Aviation Administration, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, Fairfax County, the Town of Herndon, Loudoun County, Virginia Department of Transportation, and Dulles Transit Partners, LLC.

The project will provide seamless access to the regional Metrorail system with a one-seat ride to downtown Washington, D.C. With the equivalent peak capacity of four highway lanes on the Dulles Toll road, the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project will play a key role in helping to manage the growth of congestion for drivers and transit riders alike.

For additional information, visit www.dullesmetro.com.

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