



Committee for Dulles

**STATEMENT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR DULLES IN SUPPORT OF BUILD
ALTERNATIVE 3 – WASHINGTON DULLES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
NEW RUNWAY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

DEIS PUBLIC HEARINGS – FAA/MWAA—FEBRUARY 22-23, 2005

The Committee for Dulles is the oldest member-sponsored organization promoting the growth of Washington Dulles International Airport and its environs. The Committee for Dulles will celebrate its 40th anniversary next year. The Committee is proud of the historic role it has played as a catalyst in transforming Dulles Airport from its early days as a little-used “white elephant” into one of the world’s busiest air travel facilities.

In the last few years, Dulles has experienced unprecedented growth in passenger traffic and air operations. Forecasts predict this upward trend will continue without abatement. To accommodate future demand, it has now become imperative to build 2 new runways to avert chronic delay and congestion. Dulles is one of the few existing airports capable of such expansion, a fact that underscores the wisdom of its original design. The Committee for Dulles is pleased to add its voice to the many citizens advocating these critical infrastructure improvements.

The Committee for Dulles specifically endorses Build Alternative 3 from among the options described in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and recommends its adoption as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA). Build Alternative 3 is projected to generate more than \$2 billion in new economic activity and create approximately 18,000 new jobs in the vicinity of Dulles. Far-sighted land use policies adopted decades ago by neighboring local jurisdictions insure Alternative 3 can be accomplished without adverse noise impacts. Only a handful of local residents live outside the estimated 60 Dnl noise contour, and none reside outside the 65 Dnl contour. The DEIS has identified only minor environmental impacts from the project, and each of these are easily mitigated.

The DEIS is a thorough, well-crafted document and serves as an exemplar in the federal environmental review process. The Committee for Dulles calls upon the FAA to move expeditiously toward a Final EIS to identify Alternative 3 as the LPA and to qualify this project consisting of two runways, associated taxiways and navigational aids for federal funding. We respectfully request the LPA avoid imposing any use limitations or conditions that would impede the most efficient utilization of these new runways. The Committee for Dulles also supports modifications to the East Coast airspace corridors so that maximum benefit may be reaped from this significant expansion of aircraft capacity within in the Boston-Washington metroplex.

Once the improvements described in Alternative 3 are placed into service, Dulles will be well positioned to accommodate travel demand well into the new century. The Committee for Dulles advocates this goal be achieved at the earliest possible opportunity.

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