



## Committee for Dulles

TO: Virginia Commonwealth Transportation Board

FROM: Committee for Dulles

DATE: February 16, 2005

### **Committee for Dulles Position Statement in Support of the Proposed Toll Increase on the Dulles Toll Road**

The Committee for Dulles is the oldest member-sponsored organization promoting Washington Dulles International Airport. The Committee for Dulles will celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year. Throughout its nearly four decades of work in support of the steady growth of Dulles Airport and its environs, the Committee for Dulles has consistently advocated the development a high-speed rail link between the airport and downtown Washington. As one of the world's premiere air facilities, Dulles deserves surface rail service to the heart of the national capital. At long last this goal of bringing Metro to the airport is within our grasp.

The Committee for Dulles supports the proposed toll increase on the Dulles Toll Road. While under ideal conditions another funding source might be preferable, the fact remains that without the additional toll revenue, Virginia is unable to generate its 25% contribution to the capital cost of the Dulles Metrorail Extension. This fiscal reality is inescapable—without higher tolls there is no state share, without a state share, there is no federal match, and without federal money, there is no project. A modest toll increase is a fair price to pay for transforming an aspiration, 30 years in the making, into reality.

It is always worth acknowledging the role Dulles plays as an economic powerhouse for the region and the State. Without the Airport there would be no Toll Road, no Dulles corridor, no hi-tech community stretching from Tysons to Leesburg. The Airport's brightest days lie in the years ahead as its activity level doubles to reach ultimate design capacity. Rail to Dulles is essential to fulfill this potential. Metrorail service will not only benefit air passengers, but also provide a reliable mode of transportation for the workplace at Dulles. Presently employers at Dulles Airport—whether government or private—are handicapped in the recruitment and retention of employees by the lack of good public transportation. The Metrorail link will cure this deficiency and tap the labor markets of the urban core.

The Committee for Dulles urges the members of the Virginia Commonwealth Transportation Board to move the Dulles Metrorail project one step closer to operation by increasing the tolls on the Dulles Toll Road to 50 cents at the ramps and 75 cents at the main tollgate.

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