

MCA Transportation Committee Report

February 24, 2005

The Transportation Committee will meet at the Dulles Rail Project offices on March 9, 2005 at 9 am to receive a briefing on the status of the rail project and a tour of the project offices. The address is 1595 Spring Hill Road, Suite 600, which is on the Vienna side of Route 7 near the Sheraton Premier at the western end of Tysons Corner. This briefing and tour is in lieu of the February meeting of the committee. The Transportation Committee has agreed to hold a joint meeting with the Planning & Zoning Committee to hear a presentation on the Tysons Corner Center mixed use rezoning request. No date has been set for that meeting, but it should be in March or April.

The US Department of Transportation and its Federal Transit Administration announced in early February that the Dulles Rail Project has been placed on the Recommended list for new starts based on a review of the merits of the project. This step qualifies the project of one of 14 nationally that can receive federal funds for new starts construction, and is a major step forward for the project.

As has been covered in the news media, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) voted unanimously on February 17 to raise the tolls on the Dulles toll road by 25 cents at the main toll plaza and exit ramps to finance the Dulles rail Phase one project which will extend Metro rail through Tysons Corner and to Wiehle Avenue in Reston. It is anticipated that another toll increase would occur in about 2010 to finance Phase two, rail to Dulles Airport and Loudoun County. The CTB action, although widely discussed in the EIS process as a possible financing tool, was taken with only about two weeks notice to the public. We decided that since there would not be an MCA Board meeting to discuss the matter by the time of the vote that we would not try to present a resolution on the issue.

Dan Alcorn
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Co-chairs