

Loudoun County Economic Development Commission Metrorail to Loudoun Project Resolution

WHEREAS, a consortium consisting of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, U.S. Department of Transportation, Fairfax County, Loudoun County, and the Commonwealth of Virginia has proposed Phase II of the Silver Line extension of the Regional Metrorail System known as the Metrorail to Loudoun Project (the "Project") as a part of a regional solution to the road and traffic problems plaguing Northern Virginia;

WHEREAS, Phase II of the Project would extend the regional Metrorail system from the end of currently under construction Phase I portion of the Silver Line extension at the planned Wiehle Avenue Metro Station in Reston, extend down the median of the Dulles Access Road to Dulles International Airport with additional stations in Fairfax County (Reston, Herndon, and Rte. 28) and three proposed stations in Loudoun County (Dulles International Airport, Rte. 606, and Rte. 772/Moorefield Station);

WHEREAS, the locations of planned metro stations at Rte. 606 and Rte. 772/Moorefield Station have been designated for Transit Oriented Development (TOD) in Loudoun County's Comprehensive Plan in order to promote and increase economic activity, create higher tax revenue for local government, and ultimately lower the burden of property taxes on Loudoun County residents;

WHEREAS, TOD development serves changing demographics and market preferences, and provides lifestyle choices for Loudoun's increasingly diverse population, and that the type of development around rail stations is typically of higher quality/value;

WHEREAS, it is documented that rail stations produce jobs, and that 54 percent of all regional jobs are within ½ mile of rail stations;

WHEREAS, the increased density of development that will occur at and in the vicinity of Loudoun County's designated TOD areas and therefore allow Loudoun County's western areas to preserve the quality and character that have made Loudoun County such an attractive location for its business community and residents;

WHEREAS, without the completion of Phase II of the Project, Loudoun will not be able to compete for relatively large public sector and, in some cases, corporate clients who will only locate their employees within a specified distance from public transportation;

WHEREAS, the Project will provide employees easier and more efficient access to and from Loudoun businesses including Dulles International Airport;

WHEREAS, the completion of this project to Loudoun County will provide Loudoun County residents a higher quality transportation choice that improves air quality, and allows County residents to be connected both figuratively and literally to the rest of the

Washington Metropolitan area, and that this feature especially improves options for Loudoun's older, younger and disabled travelers;

WHEREAS, at its December 2011 meeting, the Economic Development Commission's members that represent Loudoun's business community identified the Rail to Loudoun Project as the top priority and most important economic development issue for Loudoun County;

WHEREAS, the Economic Development Commission expects the Loudoun Board of Supervisors to exhibit fiscal responsibility and sensibility while planning and proceeding with this important project; and furthermore the Economic Development Commission recognizes that the Commonwealth of Virginia is a right to work state and expects any negotiated agreement to adhere to local and state laws and desires;

WHEREAS, the Loudoun County Economic Development Commission desires to state its emphatic support of the Project and to encourage the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors support of the Project.

NOW THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT:

The Loudoun County Economic Development Commission supports the Metrorail to Loudoun Project to bring the regional rail transit system to Loudoun County and hereby recommends that the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors support the Project to improve transportation by providing choices to the commuter and to enhance economic development in Loudoun County for years to come.