



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Secretary of Transportation

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Secretary of Transportation

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Secretary of Transportation Announces Tunnel Review Panel for Dulles Metrorail Project

~ Independent panel to be led by the American Society of Civil Engineers ~

RICHMOND – Secretary Pierce R. Homer today announced the formation the Dulles Metrorail Tunnel Review Panel to conduct an independent evaluation of a tunnel alternative for the Tysons Corner area. The panel, to be formed and led by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), will consider the cost, schedule and other project implications of the tunneling option.

“We are pleased to announce this independent effort,” said Secretary Homer. “It is critical that all the project partners have the best possible information to make this very important decision for the future of the region.”

“As a leading professional engineering organization with a strong commitment to protecting public health, safety and welfare, ASCE is uniquely qualified to provide this support to the Commonwealth of Virginia,” said Patrick J. Natale, P.E., F.ASCE, CAE. “We are honored to have been asked to play a leading role in this effort.”

The panel members will be announced in the coming days and work over a 60-day period to develop an executive briefing on the tunnel proposal. The panel will have complete access to all project documents and support assistance from all project partners, including the Department of Rail and Public Transportation, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority and the Dulles Transit Partners.

“We believe that an independent panel lead by the ASCE will achieve the best evaluation,” said Deputy Secretary Scott Kasprowicz, who will lead the Commonwealth’s participation in the review. “We are fully supportive of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors’ request for an independent evaluation.”

Founded in 1852, the American Society of Civil Engineers represents more than 139,000 civil engineers worldwide and is America's oldest national engineering society. For more information, visit www.asce.org.