



Board of Supervisors Opts In to Silver Line Metro Project

This morning, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors voted to opt in to the Silver Line Metro Project on a 5-4 vote. I was pleased to join the majority in supporting rail to Loudoun. With our decision, Phase II will move forward.

Today is a historic day for Loudoun. The Silver Line on its own will not solve all of our traffic problems or be solely responsible for our economic development. But it will allow us to take a quantum leap forward in both of those areas. Our rail stations at Route 772 and 606 will provide commuters with a new, high capacity east-west link that will not be subject to highway congestion. It is very likely that Metro will spur commercial development around the stations, bringing jobs and improving access to the talent pool across the region for employers. From the beginning, I took an objective and critical look at this project. It is by no means perfect. There remain legitimate concerns which we will continue to work on. But at the end of the day, Loudoun County will be getting \$570 million worth of rail for \$270 million and major concerns about the cost of the Dulles Airport station and about union preferences in the contract were addressed by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority.

The Board also moved forward with a funding mechanism that excludes almost all existing residential properties. The business community spoke loudly and with a united voice in favor of Metro and is willing to pay most of the costs. Loudoun has been planning for Metro expenditures since 2004, and all indications are that opting in to Metro will improve our standing with key credit agencies. I am confident that Metro is affordable, and will generate revenue for the county.

I appreciate the feedback I have received from all of you on this issue. Over 90% of those who contacted me by email urged me to vote yes, and I received similar feedback at my Town Hall and HOA meetings. I received messages of support from the HOA Boards of South Riding, Stone Ridge, Kirkpatrick Farms and Brambleton. While I know that there this a strong vocal minority who didn't support moving forward, I think that history will prove this to be the right decision for our county.

Over the coming years, the Board will be working on a comprehensive transit plan that will take advantage of our rail stations. We will also continue to focus on completing our missing road links and working with our funding partners to make sure we have access to Metro stations. In many ways, today's vote means our work is just beginning.

I look forward to continuing to serve you. As always, if I may be of assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Supervisor Matt Letourneau

Dulles District

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