

Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce
A Business Approach to Evaluating the Western Dulles Access Road
June 2, 2014

The Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the construction of a western access road and entrance to Washington Dulles International Airport. Lack of a western access road and entrance is a critical economic development weakness for the Airport which must be urgently addressed. A western access road is also critical to facilitate movement to and from Loudoun's planned Metrorail stations, particularly the planned station at Route 606, from southwestern Loudoun and Prince William County.

The vital need for a western access road to Dulles Airport is a separate and distinct issue from the need to enhance north-south connectivity between Loudoun County and Prince William County through the construction of the North-South Corridor and the Bi-County Parkway.

The Loudoun Chamber strongly urges county and state officials to make their decision on the ultimate alignment of the Dulles Access Road based on the long-term economic development needs of Dulles Airport and Loudoun businesses, as well as the economic and quality of life impact on surrounding communities, including all of Loudoun County.

An informed and rational evaluation of the viability and utility of each alignment option should consider:

1. Maximizing the movement of people, passenger services, and air cargo traffic to Washington Dulles International Airport in a manner consistent with Loudoun County's and the Airport's long-range economic development and transportation interests;
2. Maximizing movement to and from Loudoun's planned Metrorail stations (particular the station at Route 606) in a manner that minimizes congestion as much as possible;
3. Maintenance and further enhancement the aviation and non-aviation development potential of land in the areas adjacent to the alignment and in reasonable proximity to the airport;
4. Ability to achieve these outcomes while minimizing environmental impacts and remaining consistent and in compliance with local, state and Federal environmental requirements; and
5. Ability to achieve the aforementioned goals while balancing the needs of the County and state to be fiscally responsible and accountable stewards of the citizens' resources.

Once an alignment has been determined, the Chamber supports expedited design and construction of the road in a manner that does not impose additional significant burdens on nearby businesses and residents. Further, the Chamber supports a process that properly evaluates and fully compensates property owners for any eminent domain uses connected with construction of the road.