

**REPORT OF THE  
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF RAIL AND  
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

**DESIRABILITY AND FEASIBILITY  
OF BUS SERVICE IN THE  
HERNDON/RESTON AREA**

**TO THE GOVERNOR AND  
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA**



**HOUSE DOCUMENT NO. 70**

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
RICHMOND  
2000**





## COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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January 10, 2000

The Honorable James S. Gilmore, III  
Members, General Assembly of Virginia

Dear Governor Gilmore:

House Joint Resolution Number 757 in 1999 requests the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation to study the desirability and feasibility of daily bus service between Centreville and Tyson's Corner, the Vienna Metro station, the Herndon/Reston area, and destinations along the Dulles Airport Corridor.

I am pleased to present the actions of this agency in response to this request of the 1999 Virginia General Assembly. Briefly, DRPT staff, working with transit staff in Fairfax County, Virginia, identified opportunities to provide the necessary focus of effort on this important commuting pattern in Northern Virginia at minimal cost. DRPT will continue to work with Fairfax County in fulfilling the charge of the Assembly in assuring appropriate focus on the transit commuting needs from Centreville, Virginia especially to the Dulles Corridor and to the Vienna Metrorail station.

As always, I am ready to address any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leo J. Bevon".

Leo J. Bevon

Enclosure



## **PREFACE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

HJR 757 of the 1999 Session of the Virginia General Assembly requested the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation to study the desirability and feasibility of daily bus service between Centreville and Tyson's Corner, the Vienna Metro station, the Herndon/Reston area, and destinations along the Dulles Airport Corridor.

### **STUDY MEMBERS**

Gary Kuykendall, Projects Director for Northern Virginia of DRPT, received the assignment to respond to HJR 757. He worked with staff of Fairfax County, Virginia, which wholly encompasses the proposed study area, to devise an effective approach to address the request.

Fairfax County employees who helped evaluate an effective response include Robert O'Neill - County Administrator, Young Ho Chang - Director, Department of Transportation, Andy Szakos - Chief, Transit Operations Division, and Leonard Wolfenstein - Head, Planning Analysis and Special Projects Section.

At the suggestion of Fairfax County staff, we also coordinated with Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) staff, including Rick Stevens - Director of Business Planning and Development, and Shiva Pant - Government Relations Officer - Virginia.

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

Gary Kuykendall of VDRPT prepared this report.

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND REPORT**

### **PURPOSE**

This report describes the response to HJR 757 of the 1999 Session of the Virginia General Assembly.

### **BACKGROUND**

HJR 757 requested the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation to "study the desirability and feasibility of daily bus service between Centreville and Tyson's Corner, the Vienna Metro station, the Herndon/Reston area, and destinations along the Dulles Airport Corridor."

### **REPORT**

Due to timing, staffing, and other constraints, DRPT discussed how to proceed with Fairfax County staff. Initially we hoped to use information from the recently completed I-66 Major Investment Study as a source of material for a report. Early contacts with County staff identified an intra-county need to update their bus plans. Soon we identified the potential to coordinate that effort with The Metro Washington Regional Bus Study. WMATA will conduct the regional bus study, beginning in February 2000, with involvement from all local jurisdictions.

DRPT should receive findings and recommendations from the WMATA Regional Bus Study in sufficient time to prepare a more thorough report to the Governor and the 2001 Session of the General Assembly.

### **PLAN FOR STUDY COMPLETION AND NEXT STEPS**

Please refer to Appendix B and C regarding completion efforts.

Appendix B refers to recent correspondence between DRPT and Fairfax County Office of Transportation regarding HJR 757.

Appendix C provides information on The Metro Washington Regional Bus Study.

Following a request for help from Fairfax County, DRPT can take the next steps to support this effort as a part of The Metro Washington Regional Bus Study.



## **APPENDIX A:**

### **HJR 757 of the 1999 General Assembly**

(Copied from the web page <http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?991+sum+HJ757>)

#### **HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 757**

Requesting the Department of Rail and Public Transportation to study the desirability and feasibility of daily bus service between Centreville and Tyson's Corner, the Vienna Metro station, the Herndon/Reston area, and destinations along the Dulles Airport Corridor.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 7, 1999

Agreed to by the Senate, February 18, 1999

WHEREAS, the economic health of Northern Virginia is vital to the health of the Commonwealth as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the economic health of Northern Virginia is threatened by strangulation in traffic gridlock; and

WHEREAS, even if infinite resources were available for construction of additional highways, it is doubtful whether enough highways could be built to cure traffic congestion in the region; and

WHEREAS, greater availability and use of public transportation offers the possibility of some relief from congestion and offers it at a cost that could be less than that of providing equal relief by building more highways; and

WHEREAS, changes in commuting patterns make it necessary not only to provide more public transportation but to provide more of it between suburban population and business centers rather than between the suburbs and the inner city; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Department of Rail and Public Transportation be requested to study the desirability and feasibility of daily bus service between Centreville and Tyson's Corner, the Vienna Metro station, the Herndon/Reston area, and destinations along the Dulles Airport Corridor.

The Department shall complete its work in time to submit its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the 2000 Session of the General Assembly as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents.

## **APPENDIX B:**

### **Recent Correspondence Between DRPT And Fairfax County Office of Transportation Regarding HJR 757**

" If Fairfax County can initiate the bus plan update this fiscal year, pending Commonwealth Transportation Board approval DRPT can make \$100,000 available through our Technical Assistance program to initiate this effort. Fairfax County may apply next year for FY2001 Technical Assistance funding to continue this important effort. I understand Fairfax County is currently assessing this need while also working with WMATA to initiate their new regional bus planning effort and this may impact the county's decision on how to proceed. Let us know how we may help in moving both efforts forward."

For a copy of the complete letter and replies to date from Fairfax County, please contact:

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## **APPENDIX C:**

### **The Metro Washington Regional Bus Study**

The study should initiate in February, 2000, is being managed by the Business Planning and Development Division of WMATA, will take approximately 18 months to conduct, and covers the entire WMATA Compact region. Fairfax County Office of Transportation staff will participate in conducting the study.

The final product will be specific needs identified and suggestions for bus route development.

Additional detail in terms of data collection, data analysis, and the specificity of recommendations can be acquired.

For more information on this study, you may contact:

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