

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

2001 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-20-2001
 Proposed by Council Member Shapiro
 Introduced by Council Members Shapiro and Estepp
 Co-Sponsors _____
 Date of Introduction May 15, 2001

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Proposed Potomac River Bridge Crossings

3 between Montgomery County, Maryland and Fairfax and Loudoun Counties in Virginia

4 For the purpose of advising the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) of the Prince George's
 5 County Council's concerns regarding the proposed Potomac River Bridge Crossings feasibility
 6 Study and requesting participation on the Advisory Panel of elected officials and the panel of
 7 technical experts.

8 WHEREAS, Congress has appropriated \$2 million to the Federal Highway Administration
 9 for the study of potential highway bridge crossings between Montgomery County, Maryland and
 10 Fairfax and Loudoun Counties in Virginia; and

11 WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration has convened an advisory panel of
 12 elected officials and a panel of technical experts from the District of Columbia, the states of
 13 Maryland and Virginia, and the counties of Montgomery, Frederick, Fairfax, and Loudoun to
 14 provide input to and review of the ongoing study; and

15 WHEREAS, U.S. Representatives Constance A. Morella, Albert Russell Wynn, and Steny
 16 H. Hoyer, have expressed "serious reservations about a major new highway crossing the
 17 Potomac River in Montgomery County" and have requested consideration of all alternatives
 18 including "transportation and land use alternatives that will maximize mobility for citizens and
 19 reduce single occupant vehicle use," as well as "the relative priority of an outer bridge project
 20 compared to other regional projects aimed at solving our transportation problems"; and

21 WHEREAS, a new major highway can affect regional development patterns and the
 22 distribution of economic investment; and

1 WHEREAS, the report by the Brookings Institution, "A Region Divided," highlighted the
2 growing imbalance of jobs between the eastern and western halves of the Washington
3 Metropolitan region; and

4 WHEREAS, Prince George's County has existing transportation infrastructure available to
5 support development contiguous to the region's core, including four Metro lines and 13 stations,
6 which can support reverse commutes to jobs located in Prince George's County; and

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
8 County, Maryland, that the County Council expresses its strong interest in the potential long-
9 term economic effects of new Potomac River bridge crossings and connecting major highways
10 and requests that the Federal Highway Administration study include rigorous analysis of the
11 potential effects of a Northern Potomac River Crossing on economic investment and
12 development in Prince George's County as well as the region's core.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council hereby requests that any study
14 include land use and transportation scenarios encompassing the entire Metropolitan region,
15 including Prince George's County, that reinvest in the region's core communities and focuses
16 future development at transportation centers.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council hereby requests that the Federal
18 Highway Administration study give strong consideration to a suburban circumferential Metrorail
19 extension and a Potomac River Crossing South of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge as an alternative
20 for traffic relief on the Beltway and as a means for supporting and stimulating economic
21 investment in Prince George's County and the eastern half of the Washington Metropolitan
22 region.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council requests that Prince George's
24 County be included as a member on the advisory panel of elected officials and on the panel of
25 technical experts, so that the County's interests are fairly represented.

Adopted this 15th day of May, 2001

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Audrey E. Scott
Vice Chairman

ATTEST:

Joyce T. Sweeney
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

DATE: _____ BY: _____
Wayne K. Curry
County Executive