

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2003 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-8-2003

Proposed by Council Member Knotts

Introduced by Council Members Knotts, Shapiro, Dean, Exum, Dernoga,
Harrington and Peters

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction March 18, 2003

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Proposed Rail Transit Line Across the Woodrow Wilson Bridge

3 For the purpose of establishing the Prince George's County Council's position and support
4 regarding funding of rail transit across the Woodrow Wilson Bridge from the Oxon Hill area to
5 downtown Alexandria, Virginia.

6 WHEREAS, the Joint Signature Letter on State Transportation Priorities dated December
7 14, 2001 from the County Council, County Executive and Prince George's County
8 Transportation Oversight Committee to the Secretary of the Maryland Department of
9 Transportation (MDOT) identified construction funding for the extension of rail transit from
10 Branch Avenue to Alexandria as one of the County's top transit priorities; and

11 WHEREAS, preliminary study of the proposed Woodrow Wilson Bridge Rail Transit Line
12 has been included in the 2025 Transit Service Expansion Plan and annual Project Development
13 Program of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA); and

14 WHEREAS, the proposed Woodrow Wilson Bridge Rail Transit Line will provide a needed
15 connection for rail transit between Prince George's County and northern Virginia; and

16 WHEREAS, the proposed Woodrow Wilson Bridge Rail Transit Line will relieve
17 congestion on the new Woodrow Wilson Bridge, as well as I-95, a major north-south
18 thoroughfare for interstate travel, and the Capital Beltway; and

19 WHEREAS, the proposed Woodrow Wilson Bridge Rail Transit Line will provide access to
20 the proposed National Harbor development via the region's transit system, support economic
21 development in South County, encourage interstate commerce between Maryland and Virginia;

1 encourage Smart Growth development by promoting the revitalization of Oxon Hill and other
2 business and residential communities through which it passes, and provide much improved
3 access for lower-income residents who are most in need of transit facilities; and

4 WHEREAS, the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Rail Transit Line will potentially include seven
5 stations in Prince George's County and northern Virginia, including National Harbor and Oxon
6 Hill; and

7 WHEREAS, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) in the annual Project
8 Development Program of WMATA, will consider and analyze prospective station locations and
9 connecting alignments in cooperation with MDOT, Prince George's County, and the Maryland-
10 National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC); and

11 WHEREAS, a Preferred Alternative will be selected as the basis for more detailed
12 engineering, right-of-way acquisition and construction as funding becomes available; and

13 WHEREAS, construction of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Rail Transit Line has been
14 estimated to cost between \$1.2 billion and \$1.5 billion; and

15 WHEREAS, Federal funding would be a major source of construction funding and the up-
16 coming surface transportation reauthorization legislation will play an important role in
17 maintaining steady progress toward construction of the proposed Woodrow Wilson Bridge Rail
18 Transit Line, and

19 WHEREAS, Congress will approve the next Federal surface transportation reauthorization
20 bill in 2003; and

21 WHEREAS, the proposed Woodrow Wilson Bridge Rail Transit Line Project must be
22 included in the surface transportation reauthorization bill to receive necessary Federal
23 appropriations, and for completion of activities leading up to and including construction; and

24 WHEREAS, the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Rail Transit Line is consistent with the new
25 General Plan for Prince George's County; and

26 WHEREAS, pursuant to the Governor's recommendation of October 21, 2001, the
27 Woodrow Wilson Bridge Rail Transit Line segment from Branch Avenue to Alexandria will be
28 added to the transportation master plan in Prince George's County.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
30 County, Maryland, that the County Council hereby urges that WMATA and MDOT proceed
31 diligently to complete the environmental studies, design, land acquisition and construction of the

1 Woodrow Wilson Bridge Rail Transit Line from Branch Avenue to Alexandria and that the
2 United States Senators and Representatives support the earmarking of the Federal authorization
3 for the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Rail Transit Line; and that the Governor and General Assembly
4 provide the State financial support on an expedited basis.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon the effective date of this resolution it shall be
6 transmitted by the Clerk of the Council to the Governor, General Assembly, Maryland
7 Congressional Delegation, Council of Governments/Transportation Planning Board, MDOT,
8 WMATA, M-NCPPC and Department of Public Works and Transportation.

Adopted this 18th day of March, 2003.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Peter A. Shapiro
Chair

ATTEST:

Redis C. Floyd
Clerk of the Council