

# Rail Enhancement Fund

## Roanoke Region Intermodal Facility Site Evaluation and Selection Process

November 15, 2006

# Project Background

- ❑ On December 15, 2005, the CTB allocated \$53.42M in Rail Enhancement Fund Projects
- ❑ Of these funds, \$22.35M was allocated to the Heartland Corridor – Virginia Components project
- ❑ As part of the Heartland Corridor Grant, NS proposes to construct an intermodal facility in the Roanoke Region
- ❑ DRPT has developed an Intermodal Facility Site Evaluation and Selection Process to evaluate proposed sites and determine the best location for investment of REF funds

# DRPT Site Solicitation Process

- ❑ On October 6, 2006, DRPT notified NS of the criteria for a qualified site for the intermodal facility. The criteria for the facility are:
  - Must be close to Interstate I-81 with reasonable access and egress
  - Must be located on the Heartland Corridor line between Walton on the west and the Shenandoah line connection on the east
  - Must not create additional grade separations, particularly in congested urban areas
  - Should be a minimum of 65 acres and flat topography
  - Should seek to minimize associated roadway costs that might be engendered or necessitated
  - Should seek to be well-configured into the rail-operating perspective to avoid degrading rail traffic, add to efficiency of intermodal operation, and result in relative facility development or facility delivery costs

# DRPT Site Solicitation Process (2)

- ❑ On October 18, 2006, DRPT solicited proposals from the Grantee and localities that lie along the rail line within the geographic boundaries of the search area
- ❑ The solicitation process ended on November 1, 2006, with one deadline extension granted for a submission from the City of Salem

# Site Evaluation Process

- DRPT will work collectively with state agencies and NS to evaluate the sites submitted. This initiative is expected to require a 45-day review period and include:
  - Initial site proposal review by DRPT for fatal flaws based on the criteria as established by DRPT for Rail Enhancement Funding
  - Site proposal review with respective agencies as determined by DRPT, in coordination with the OAG
  - Existing road impact evaluation and road need analysis as conducted by VDOT
  - Site review for ancillary developable land for future distribution center growth opportunities as conducted by VPA
  - Site proposal reviews for practical application and interface as provided by NS

# Public Involvement

- Public comments on proposed sites will be received during the 45-day evaluation period
- Public involvement for the site review will follow existing state program requirements
- Responses to public comments will be issued upon completion of the review period
- DRPT will consider public comments as part of the decision making process once the DRPT site evaluation process is completed

# Final Site Determination

- ❑ Final site determination by DRPT will include the review and consideration of the Commonwealth's criteria, site preferences submitted by localities and NS, public comments received, and site compatibility with NS operational requirements.



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