

AGENDA ITEM 9C
ACTION ITEM

TO: CHAIRMAN JENKINS AND THE VRE OPERATIONS BOARD

FROM: DALE ZEHNER

DATE: MARCH 21, 2008

RE: AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE A LICENSE AGREEMENT FOR LEASING TOWER SPACE FOR VHF RADIO COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

RECOMMENDATION:

The VRE Operations Board is being asked to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to execute a five-year license agreement with American Tower Corporation for leasing space on the Fairfax Station Tower Site in the amount of \$138,113.

BACKGROUND:

Currently, both VRE and Amtrak communicate with VRE trains via cell phone. As part of VRE's safety and security planning, a void in that communication process was identified given that cellular systems are easily overwhelmed during times of national crisis. In addition, VRE currently does not have the ability to monitor the radio conversations between train crews and dispatchers when the events of an incident may be unfolding. The need for a two-way radio communication system was subsequently identified.

On June 15, 2007, the VRE Operations Board approved a contract for the installation of the VHF two-way radio communication system. The system requires the utilization of three tower locations: VRE Alexandria Communications headquarters, Leeland Road VRE Station, and Fairfax Station, VA. This authorization allows the use of cell tower space in Fairfax Station. The remaining two locations will be brought forth to the Operations Board for separate action once lease details have been finalized.

The initial lease will last for a term of five years. Upon completion of the first lease term, VRE has the option to renew the lease for three additional periods of five years each.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Funding has been allocated in the FY 2009 -2014 operating budgets.

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RESOLUTION
9C-03-2008
OF THE
VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS
OPERATIONS BOARD

WHEREAS, the need for a two-way radio communication system was identified; and,

WHEREAS, VRE awarded a contract to Bear Communications Corporation to design and construct the two-way radio communication system; and,

WHEREAS, the American Tower Corporation Fairfax Station Tower Site has been identified as a necessary tower location for the system; and,

WHEREAS, VRE and American Tower Corporation have negotiated terms of a license agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the VRE Operations Board authorizes the Chief Executive Officer to execute a five-year license agreement with American Tower Corporation for leasing space on the Fairfax Station Tower Site in the amount of \$138,113.