

AGENDA ITEM 9-D
ACTION ITEM

TO: CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN AND THE VRE OPERATIONS BOARD

FROM: DALE ZEHNER

DATE: AUGUST 21, 2009

RE: AUTHORIZATION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING HIGH SPEED RAIL PROJECT

RECOMMENDATION:

The VRE Operations Board is being asked to adopt a resolution supporting the high speed rail project from Arkendale and Powell's Creek.

BACKGROUND:

The Commonwealth of Virginia has applied for funding for rail infrastructure improvements between Arkendale and Powell's Creek under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) high speed rail program. Nationwide, the ARRA program will provide \$8 billion in federal funding to support high speed and intercity passenger rail projects.

The Operations Board is being asked to endorse the Commonwealth's application for a \$72 million project which includes construction of the 11 miles of third track from Arkendale to Powell's Creek, currently under design by VRE. Work on the design and environmental analysis is approximately 30% complete. Because of the project's status, it was proposed by the Commonwealth for Round 1 funding under Track 1 as a ready to go project.

Track 1 includes ready to go projects, Track 2 includes corridor development programs, Track 3 includes planning initiatives and Track 4 includes ready to go projects for which applicants offer at least 50 percent non-federal funding. Round 1 grant awards are expected to be announced in fall 2009.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no VRE fiscal impact associated with this action.

TO: CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN AND THE VRE OPERATIONS BOARD
FROM: DALE ZEHNER
DATE: AUGUST 21, 2009
RE: AUTHORIZATION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING HIGH SPEED RAIL PROJECT

**RESOLUTION
9D-08-2009
OF THE
VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS
OPERATIONS BOARD**

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia has applied for \$72 million in funding for rail infrastructure improvements between Arkendale and Powell's Creek under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act High Speed Rail Program; and,

WHEREAS, the project includes construction of the 11 miles of third track from Arkendale to Powell's Creek; and,

WHEREAS, because of the project's status, it was proposed by the Commonwealth for Round 1 funding under Track 1 as a ready to go project; and,

WHEREAS, the provision of high speed rail service in the Washington to Richmond corridor will offer reduced traffic congestion along the I-95 corridor, improve air quality and offer significant economic opportunities; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the VRE Operations Board supports the extension of high speed rail service from Washington to Richmond and encourages the preparation and submission of an application by the Commonwealth of Virginia for funding of this important infrastructure; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the VRE Operations Board encourages the Federal Railroad Administration to approve the Commonwealth of Virginia's funding application to construct a third track from Arkendale to Powell's Creek.