

AGENDA ITEM 9-D
ACTION ITEM

TO: CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN AND THE VRE OPERATIONS BOARD

FROM: DALE ZEHNER

DATE: JUNE 19, 2009

**RE: AUTHORIZATION TO AMEND MATCHING POLICY FOR
PROJECTS FUNDED WITH GRANTS**

RECOMMENDATION:

The VRE Operations Board is being asked to amend the matching policy so that grant funds received by or on behalf of local jurisdictions for parking and station projects will be fully matched by the local jurisdiction in which the project is located. Grant funds include federal, state and local funds, including regional CMAQ and RSTP allocations if the state discontinues matching. Match can be provided in the form of cash, property or other in-kind contributions.

BACKGROUND:

On June 18, 2004, the VRE Operations Board adopted a policy stating that earmarks received by or on behalf of local jurisdictions for parking projects would be matched by the local jurisdiction in which the parking project is located. This policy was adopted to formalize the historical practice of jurisdictions providing matching funds and has worked without incident since implementation.

As VRE expands its pursuit of grant funds beyond parking projects, a request was made by jurisdictional staff to also expand the matching policy to include station improvements within each respective jurisdiction.

Grant funds include federal, state and local funds, including regional CMAQ and RSTP allocations if the state discontinues matching. Match can be provided in the form of cash, property or other in-kind contributions, providing it is acceptable

to the granting agency. This policy is intended to level the playing field for jurisdictional participation and will apply to station expansions including platform extensions, second platforms, canopy extensions and new stations. Periodic station maintenance, such as station painting or repairs, will not be subject to this policy.

This policy is not intended to apply to projects already underway or that are currently funded. The policy will not preclude VRE from managing a project on behalf of the jurisdictions, affect MOUs regarding ownership, operations and maintenance, apply to system projects for which grant funds are sought, preclude VRE pursuit of project funding that does not require match, or prevent a jurisdiction from making an Operations Board request to apply another matching method to a specific project.

VRE will continue to prioritize projects through the Strategic Planning effort and encourage jurisdictional support of these priorities. VRE staff will also continue to work with jurisdictional staff to obtain grants through application preparation, the provision of data and coordination with legislative offices.

This policy amendment was discussed at the June VCC meeting and both jurisdictional and Commission staff participated and provided input.

FISCAL IMPACT: No fiscal impact on VRE funds.



Virginia Railway Express

MATCHING POLICY FOR GRANT FUNDS OBTAINED BY OR ON BEHALF OF VRE JURISDICTIONS FOR PARKING AND STATION PROJECTS

June 18, 2004

Amended June 19, 2009 to include stations in addition to parking

Policy: Grant funds received by or on behalf of local jurisdictions for parking and station projects will be fully matched by the local jurisdiction in which the parking or station project is located. Grant funds include federal, state and local funds, including regional CMAQ and RSTP allocations, if the state discontinues matching. Match can be provided in the form of cash, property or other in-kind contributions acceptable to the granting agency.

This policy is intended to:

- Apply to parking expansion projects and leases
- Apply to station projects including platform extensions, second platforms, canopy extensions and new stations
- Formalize the current practice
- Level the playing field for jurisdictional participation
- Ensure that projects are implemented in a prioritized and coordinated fashion

This policy is not intended to:

- Preclude VRE from managing the respective projects on behalf of the jurisdictions
- Affect MOUs regarding ownership, operations and maintenance
- Apply to system projects for which grant funds are sought (equipment, yard improvements, etc)
- Preclude VRE pursuit of project funding that does not require match
- Apply to periodic station maintenance, such as station painting or repairs
- Apply to projects underway or currently funded
- Prevent a jurisdiction from making an Operations Board request to apply another matching method for a specific project

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FROM: DALE ZEHNER
DATE: JUNE 19, 2009
RE: AUTHORIZATION TO AMEND MATCHING POLICY FOR
PROJECTS FUNDED WITH GRANTS

RESOLUTION
9D-06-2009
OF THE
VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS
OPERATIONS BOARD

WHEREAS, the majority of VRE capital program discretionary funding is being absorbed by system projects such as fleet and yard improvements; and,

WHEREAS, VRE staff have been working with jurisdictional staff to secure funding outside of the VRE formula program for station and parking projects; and,

WHEREAS, on June 18, 2004, the VRE Operations Board adopted a policy stating that earmarks received by or on behalf of local jurisdictions for parking projects would be matched by the local jurisdiction in which the parking project is located; and,

WHEREAS, as VRE expands its pursuit of grant funds beyond parking projects, a request was made by jurisdictional staff to also expand the matching policy to include station improvements within each respective jurisdiction; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the VRE Operations Board amends the matching policy so that grants received by or on behalf of local jurisdictions for parking and station projects will be fully matched by the local jurisdiction in which the project is located; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, grant funds include federal, state and local funds, including regional CMAQ and RSTP allocations if the state discontinues matching; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, match can be provided in the form of cash, property or other in-kind contributions.