RECOMMENDATION:

The VRE Operations Board is being asked to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to issue a GEC task order to Parsons Brinckerhoff for planning services to prepare a VRE System Plan for an amount not to exceed $150,000.

BACKGROUND:

The VRE Strategic Plan was approved by the Operations Board in May 2004. Much of the Strategic Plan and the expansion opportunities outlined in it continue to be valid as a long-term vision. A Strategic Planning retreat was conducted in July 2011 with the VRE Operations Board that focused on short term planning, service priorities and the identification of aspects of the Strategic Plan that needed to be updated.

In addition, VRE’s Transit Development Plan (TDP) addresses the FY14-19 planning horizon and outlines system needs, consistent with the Strategic Plan, state-of-good-repair initiatives and funding availability and is the planning document supporting the VRE Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).
There have been numerous changes within the VRE service area and operating environment since 2004 that are not addressed in the Strategic Plan or the TDP, including:

- Changes in regional employment patterns, such as the relocations associated with Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) actions, and rising demand for transit service.
- The addition of new regional projects such as the I-495 and I-95 Express lanes.
- Capacity limitations with VRE equipment, mid-day storage and station facilities that constrain the ability to accommodate additional ridership growth.
- Long-term requirements to maintain the state of good repair of the existing system.

The System Plan will address these issues, identify the critical system needs and prioritize the strategies to achieve VRE’s long-term strategic vision over the next 20+ years of VRE service. This contract will provide for consultant services to assist VRE in that effort.

VRE received four proposals from its GEC contractors. After review of the proposals, Parsons Brinckerhoff is being recommended for award of this work. Once a notice to proceed is issued, work is expected to take eight months to complete.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

A budget of $150,000 has been established for this project. Funding for this contract is included in VRE’s FY2013 Operating Budget.
TO: CHAIRMAN SMEDBERG AND THE VRE OPERATIONS BOARD  
FROM: DOUG ALLEN  
DATE: APRIL 19, 2013  
RE: AUTHORIZATION TO ISSUE A TASK ORDER FOR PLANNING SERVICES TO PREPARE A VRE SYSTEM PLAN

RESOLUTION  
9F–04–2013  
OF THE  
VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS OPERATIONS BOARD

WHEREAS, VRE’s Strategic Plan was completed approximately nine years ago and remains largely valid as a long-term vision; and,

WHEREAS, VRE’s Transit Development Plan (TDP) addresses the FY14-19 planning horizon and is the planning document supporting the VRE Capital Improvement Plan (CIP); and,

WHEREAS, there have been a number of changes within the VRE service area and operating environment that are not addressed in the Strategic Plan or TDP; and,

WHEREAS, a system-wide plan is needed to address VRE system needs in a comprehensive manner, identify system priorities, and develop a strategy to achieve them.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the VRE Operations Board authorizes the Chief Executive Officer to issue a GEC task order to Parsons Brinckerhoff for planning services to prepare a VRE System Plan for an amount not to exceed $150,000.

Approved this 19th day of April 2013

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Paul Smedberg  
Chairman

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John Cook  
Secretary