To: Chairman Milde and the VRE Operations Board

From: Doug Allen

Date: April 18, 2014

Re: Authorization to Issue a Request for Proposals for Consultant Services for the Gainesville-Haymarket Extension

Recommendation:

The VRE Operations Board is being asked to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for planning and engineering consultant services for the proposed VRE Gainesville-Haymarket extension.

Background:

The VRE System Plan, adopted by the VRE Operations Board in January 2014, recommends extending VRE service to the Gainesville-Haymarket area of Prince William County to provide commuter rail transit service to this underserved area of the I-66 travel corridor and improve regional travel choice and mobility.

Prior planning activities for the extension have included the 2005 VRE Gainesville-Haymarket Implementation Plan which documented the steps necessary to implement the extension and provided initial capital and operating cost estimates, and the 2009 VRE Gainesville-Haymarket Alternatives Analysis which evaluated several extension operating scenarios and recommended the project move forward for more detailed analysis.

While it is intended the new study will build upon the work completed in the prior studies, a significant amount of time has passed since they were completed. The new study will include the following planning and engineering activities to advance the project development for the extension: update the ridership forecasts, identify potential station locations, refine the operating plan, confirm the necessary railroad
infrastructure requirements, update capital and operating cost estimates, and the
initiation of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) scoping. The impact of the
extension on system-wide operating and financial capacity will also be assessed.

It is expected the study will take about 15 to 18 months to complete. The study will
be conducted in close coordination with key stakeholders (e.g., Norfolk-Southern,
Prince William County, the Town of Haymarket, etc.). Outreach meetings with other
regional stakeholders, VRE riders and the general public will also be held throughout
the study to solicit their input.

**Fiscal Impact:**

Funding, through the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA), is
included in the adopted VRE FY2015 capital budget for planning and project
development activities for the Gainesville-Haymarket extension.
Virginia Railway Express
Operations Board

Resolution
8E-04-2014

Authorization to Issue a Request for Proposals for Consultant Services for the Gainesville-Haymarket Extension

WHEREAS, the VRE System Plan recommends extending VRE service to the Gainesville-Haymarket area of Prince William County to improve regional travel choice and mobility; and,

WHEREAS, prior planning studies for the extension that developed preliminary ridership forecasts, operating concepts, and capital and operating cost estimates require updating; and,

WHEREAS, the potential benefits and impacts of the extension on VRE system-wide operating and financial capacity must also be assessed; and,

WHEREAS, the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) has allocated funding to conduct additional study to advance project development for the extension.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the VRE Operations Board authorizes the Chief Executive Officer to issue a Request for Proposals for planning and engineering consultant services for the proposed VRE Gainesville-Haymarket extension.

Approved this 18th day of April 2014

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Paul Milde
Chairman

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Gary Skinner
Secretary