To:    Chairman Milde and the VRE Operations Board

From:  Doug Allen

Date:  July 18, 2014

Re:    General Engineering Consulting Contracts

The purpose of this item is to discuss the need for additional authorization on the present General Engineering Consulting (GEC) contract.

VRE uses General Engineering Consulting (GEC) contracts to provide on-call engineering, planning, environmental and construction support services. VRE has found the use of GEC contracts to be very beneficial and more efficient than completing numerous, separate procurements of tasks of a limited duration or needed in a timely manner. GEC contracts also help VRE maintain smaller, consistent staffing levels by supplying access to specialized skills and expertise as an extension of staff on an as-needed basis.

VRE has used a succession of GEC contracts over the years, each awarded to multiple firms in order to promote competition and allow tasks to be assigned based on their areas of expertise and qualifications. The VRE Operations board approved the current GEC contract (GEC-VI) in March 2013, for a period of up to five years or an accumulative value of $5,000,000. Each firm is typically invited to submit a proposal for a new task order and the winning firm is determined on the basis of best value following review by an internal selection panel consisting of three members of VRE staff. GEC-VI was awarded to five consulting firms: AECOM, Gannett Fleming, Michael Baker Associates, Parsons Brinkerhoff, and STV/Ralph Whitehead.

GEC VI is rapidly approaching its $5,000,000 authorization limit after only 16 months of activity. As of May 2014, about $4,400,000 (87 percent) of the current authorization for GEC-VI had been allocated to 21 task order assignments (see Exhibit A). With the addition of task orders currently pending, the present authorization of GEC-VI is expected to be fully committed by the end of September.
Preparations have begun on a new GEC but that will not be in place before the end of December 2014. Procurement and legal counsel advise that it is permissible to amend the existing GEC-VI while we proceed with a new procurement.

Therefore, VRE proposes the following actions to maintain work program progress:

1. Request authorization at the September meeting of the Operations Board to issue a Request for Proposals for a new GEC-VII with the intention of returning by the December meeting with a recommendation for award.

2. Request authorization at the September meeting of the Operations Board to expand the authorization limit of the present GEC-VI by $500,000 to sustain progress until GEC-VII is awarded.

3. Conduct a review with GEC-VI firms and other interested parties to determine how VRE can better structure and manage work through GEC versus other methods of procurement.
Exhibit A
GEC-VI Task Orders as of May 2014

1. Spotsylvania Station Level Boarding Analysis
2. Peer Agency Operational Cost Review
3. Spotsylvania Station Civil Engineering and Inspection Services
4. Hamilton-Crossroads Third Track Civil Engineering and Inspection Services
5. Transit Asset Management Inventory for Station and Maintenance Facilities
6. FY 2013 Roadway Worker Safety Training
7. Project Management Services
8. VRE System Plan 2040 Development
9. Analysis of Highway Traveler Benefits Derived from VRE Operation
10. VRE System Plan 2040 Public Outreach
11. VRE System Plan 2040 Preliminary Operational Analysis
12. VRE Mobile Ticketing Support
13. Mobile Ticketing Project Oversight
14. On-Call Engineering Support Services
15. Alexandria Pedestrian Tunnel Final Design and Construction Management
16. Lorton Station Construction Engineering and Support Services
17. Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Storm Water Monitoring
18. Alexandria Pedestrian Tunnel Preliminary Geotechnical Surveys
19. National Transit Database Ridership Data Collection
20. On-Call Planning Support Services
21. FY 2014 TIGER Grant Application Technical Support