To: Chairman Milde and the VRE Operations Board

From: Doug Allen

Date: July 18, 2014

Re: Authorization to Issue a Request for Proposals for Engineering and Environmental Services for Brooke and Leeland Road Stations

Recommendation:

The VRE Operations Board is being asked to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Engineering and Environmental Services for Brooke and Leeland Road Stations.

Background:

VRE has initiated platform improvement projects at Brooke and Leeland Road Stations in order to improve safety, accommodate ridership growth, and provide more flexibility to railroad operations. The recently approved MOU amendment regarding Potomac Shores Station committed that these stations would enter Preliminary Engineering by September 2014.

Preliminary engineering and environment studies for these stations were to be part of DRPT’s Southeast High Speed Rail Tier II Environmental Impact Statement - Richmond Area to Potomac Segment project, but the Federal Railroad Administration made a determination limiting the amount of work the project could perform at commuter rail stations. DRPT and VRE mutually agreed to transfer the work to VRE in order to keep it on schedule and to amend the pending Rail Enhancement Fund (REF) to include funding for the additional work.

Staff will seek the Operations Board and Commissions’ authorization to sign the multi-year funding agreement for the REF grant in September following that month’s meeting of the Commonwealth Transportation Board. We are requesting
authorization to issue a Request for Proposals at this time in order to enter into preliminary engineering by September 2014.

The platform improvements at both stations will include a new second platform and an extension of the existing platform. Both stations will be initially engineered to a 10 percent level of design in order to accommodate ten-car trains, which is the maximum train length for VRE trains identified in the adopted System Plan 2040. Subsequently, a portion of both station designs sufficient to accommodate eight-car trains (the longest presently operated by VRE) will be engineered to the 30 percent level of design and subjected to environmental scrutiny under the National Environmental Policy Act. This two-step approach to design is intended to ensure that the immediate improvement project does not preclude expansion to the stations’ ultimate configuration at a later date.

The platform improvements will also include up to 600-foot canopies, LED lighting, upgrades to the existing lighting system/electrical components, and an accessible, grade-separated pedestrian connection between the two platforms. Both station designs will be coordinated with adjacent third track project designs and will comply with CSXT standards and allow for future third track clearances and coordination. When complete, engineering and environmental review of both stations will be sufficient to initiate final design.

This authorization will allow for the procurement process to occur in time for entry into Preliminary Engineering by September 2014. Upon receipt and evaluation of the proposals, VRE will return to the Board to seek authorization to award the contract.

**Fiscal Impact:**

Funding is provided through the Commonwealth’s FY 2015 Rail Enhancement Fund with local match provided through in-kind services supplied by the private developer in the design and construction of the Potomac Shores Station.
Virginia Railway Express
Operations Board

Resolution
8B-07-2014

Authorization to Issue a Request for Proposals for Engineering and Environmental Services for Brooke and Leeland Road Stations

WHEREAS, due to current ridership demand along with future growth projections, VRE has initiated platform improvements that will include both the Brooke and Leeland Road stations; and,

WHEREAS, this project will accommodate ridership growth as well as improve safety and provide enhanced flexibility for railroad operations; and,

WHEREAS, the VRE has committed through the Second Amendment to the Corridor Improvement Project Memorandum of Understanding with CSX Transportation and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation that these stations would enter Preliminary Engineering by September 2014; and,

WHEREAS, this authorization and anticipated schedule will allow the design process to begin in September 2014 by initiating field survey and geotechnical evaluations, identifying environmental concerns, and developing design concepts, alternatives, and details.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the VRE Operations Board does hereby authorize the Chief Executive Officer to issue a Request for Proposals for Engineering and Environmental Services for Brooke and Leeland Road Stations.

Approved this 18th day of July 2014

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Paul Milde
Chairman

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Gary Skinner
Secretary