MINUTES

VRE Operations Board Meeting
PRTC Headquarters – Prince William County, Virginia
June 20, 2014

Members Present

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sharon Bulova (NVTC)*</td>
<td>Fairfax County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maureen Caddigan (PRTC)</td>
<td>Prince William County</td>
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<td>John Cook (NVTC)</td>
<td>Fairfax County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wally Covington (PRTC)</td>
<td>Prince William County</td>
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<td>John D. Jenkins (PRTC)</td>
<td>Prince William County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matt Kelly (PRTC)</td>
<td>City of Fredericksburg</td>
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<td>Paul Milde (PRTC)</td>
<td>Stafford County</td>
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<td>Suhas Naddoni (PRTC)</td>
<td>City of Manassas Park</td>
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<td>Gary Skinner (PRTC)</td>
<td>Spotsylvania County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paul Smedberg (NVTC)</td>
<td>City of Alexandria</td>
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<td>J. Walter Tejada (NVTC)</td>
<td>Arlington County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jonathan Way (PRTC)</td>
<td>City of Manassas</td>
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Members Absent

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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Mitchell</td>
<td>DRPT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bob Thomas (PRTC)</td>
<td>Stafford County</td>
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Alternates Present

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<tr>
<td>Meg Bohmke (PRTC)</td>
<td>Stafford County</td>
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<td>Kevin Page</td>
<td>DRPT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marc Aveni (PRTC)</td>
<td>City of Manassas</td>
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<td>Brad Ellis (PRTC)</td>
<td>City of Fredericksburg</td>
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<td>Jay Fisette (NVTC)</td>
<td>Arlington County</td>
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<td>Frank C. Jones (PRTC)</td>
<td>City of Manassas Park</td>
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<td>Tim Lovain (NVTC)</td>
<td>City of Alexandria</td>
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<td>Michael C. May (PRTC)</td>
<td>Prince William County</td>
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<td>Jeff McKay (NVTC)</td>
<td>Fairfax County</td>
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<td>Martin E. Nohe (PRTC)</td>
<td>Prince William County</td>
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<td>Paul Trampe (PRTC)</td>
<td>Spotsylvania County</td>
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Staff and General Public

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Doug Allen – VRE</td>
<td>Bryan Jungwirth – VRE</td>
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<td>Gregg Baxter – Keolis</td>
<td>Ann King – VRE</td>
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<td>Donna Boxer – VRE</td>
<td>Mike Lake – Fairfax County</td>
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<td>Rich Dalton – VRE</td>
<td>Lezlie Lamb – VRE</td>
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<td>Ashleigh de la Torre – Bombardier</td>
<td>Bob Leibrandt – Prince William County</td>
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<td>John Duque – VRE</td>
<td>Jillian Linnell – NVTC Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patrick Durany - Prince William County</td>
<td>Betsy Massey – PRTC Staff</td>
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<td>Rhonda Gilchrest – NVTC staff</td>
<td>Steve Maclsaac – VRE legal counsel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Al Harf – PRTC staff</td>
<td>Aimee Perron Seibert – The Hillbridge Group</td>
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<td>Chris Henry – VRE</td>
<td>Lynn Rivers – Arlington County</td>
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<td>Tom Hickey – VRE</td>
<td>Scott Schenk – Free Lance Star</td>
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<td>Gerri Hill – VRE</td>
<td>Brett Shorter – VRE</td>
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<td>Christine Hoffner – VRE</td>
<td>Joe Swartz – VRE</td>
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<td>Pierre Holloman – Alexandria</td>
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* Delineates arrival following the commencement of the Board meeting. Notation of exact arrival time is included in the body of the minutes.
Chairman Milde called the meeting to order at 9:33 A.M. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call was taken.

**Approval of the Agenda – 3**

Chairman Milde stated that the Agenda was amended to remove Agenda Item #9E “Authorization to Award Purchase Order for Multi-Function Copier Lease Agreement.”

Mr. Covington moved, with a second by Mr. Cook, to approve the Amended Agenda. The vote in favor was cast by Board Members Bohmke, Caddigan, Cook, Covington, Jenkins, Kelly, Milde, Naddoni, Page, Skinner, Smedberg, Tejada and Way.

**Approval of the Minutes of the May 16, 2014 Operations Board Meeting – 4**

Mr. Kelly moved approval of the minutes and Ms. Caddigan seconded. The vote in favor was cast by Board Members Caddigan, Cook, Covington, Jenkins, Kelly, Milde, Naddoni, Skinner, Smedberg, Tejada and Way. Ms. Bohmke and Mr. Page abstained.

**Chairman’s Comments – 5**

Chairman Milde welcomed Megan Bohmke, the alternate from Stafford County. He reminded the Board that the Operations Board will meet on July 18th but will not meet in August. He also announced that the Capital Committee will not be meeting today. He reported that the Commonwealth Transportation Board approved the final Six-Year Improvement Plan (SYIP) and the recommended funding for all VRE applications were included in the final version.

Chairman Milde asked Mr. Cook to provide an update on the VRE Management Audit. Mr. Cook reported that interviews with the consultant, Parsons Brinkerhoff, will continue for the next few weeks. If any Board Member has not had an interview and would like to participate, they should contact Joe Swartz today.

[Ms. Bulova arrived at 9:36 A.M.]

**Chief Executive Officer’s Report – 6**

Mr. Allen reported that overall On-Time Performance (OTP) was at 85 percent for the month of May. This is mainly due to the freight rail congestion caused by the road collapse on CSX track near Baltimore. OTP numbers recovered once CSX freight traffic returned to normal service.

Mr. Allen announced that at the APTA Rail Conference, VRE received the Gold Award for APTA’s annual Rail Safety and Security Awards in recognition of VRE’s joint emergency
drill with first responders at Accotink Bridge. He stated that this award is especially meaningful since VRE takes safety very seriously and is its number one priority. Mr. Cook asked for talking points about the award for the jurisdictions to share the news. He stated that this is of particular interest to Fairfax County as the simulated training exercise occurred in Fairfax County and county personnel and emergency responders participated in the event.

Mr. Allen reported that he attended the 100th anniversary and rededication celebration of the Manassas Train Depot. The next day, June 6th, the Manassas Railway Festival was held, which included VRE excursion trains. VRE ran the Operation Life Saver train/rail safety public service ads on the overhead screens while passengers waited for the trains.

Mr. Allen gave a progress report on ticket sales for the Firecracker Trains on July 4th. For the Fredericksburg Line, VRE has sold 70 percent of the available tickets; Manassas line is at 30 percent. Mr. Cook asked about how the service is being promoted. Mr. Henry gave an overview of how VRE is informing passengers, including daily Train Talk notices, conductor announcements, Facebook, Twitter, and contacting radio stations and other local magazines.

Mr. Cook asked staff to provide information on this special service so that the jurisdictions can also promote it. Ms. Bulova observed that marketing has been primarily focused on VRE riders and she would like to see more promotion to the general public since one advantage to providing this holiday service is to reach out to the larger community. She also asked staff to provide Board Members with the service information for them to promote it as well.

Mr. Way commended VRE for the positive variance of $3.7 million in the FY 2014 budget. He is not sure how these cost savings were accomplished, but congratulated staff on this remarkable achievement.

VRE Riders’ and Public Comment – 7

There were no comments.

Closed Session – 8

Mr. Skinner moved, with a second by Mr. Smedberg, the following motion:

Pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (Sections 2.2-3711A (6) (7) and (29) of the Code of Virginia); the VRE Operations Board authorizes a Closed Session for the purpose of discussing one matter involving the expenditure of public funds for train operations where competition and bargaining is involved and where discussion in public would adversely affect VRE’s financial interests and its bargaining position and negotiating strategy.
The vote in favor was cast by Board Members Bohmke, Bulova, Caddigan, Cook, Covington, Jenkins, Kelly, Milde, Naddoni, Page, Skinner, Smedberg, Tejada and Way.

The Board entered into Closed Session at 9:50 A.M. and returned to Open Session at 10:53 A.M.

Mr. Skinner moved, with a second by Mr. Cook, the following certification:

The VRE Operations Board certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge and with no individual member dissenting, at the just concluded Closed Session:

1. Only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under Chapter 37, Title 2.2 of the Code of Virginia were discussed; and

2. Only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the Closed Session was convened were heard, discussed or considered.

The vote in favor was cast by Board Members Bohmke, Bulova, Caddigan, Cook, Covington, Jenkins, Kelly, Milde, Naddoni, Page, Skinner, Smedberg, Tejada and Way.

Authorization to Issue a Request for Proposals for Maintenance of Equipment and Equipment Storage and Maintenance Facilities –9A

Mr. Allen explained that Resolution #9A-06-2014 will authorize him to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for maintenance of equipment and equipment storage and maintenance facilities. Upon receipt of the proposals, VRE will return to the VRE Operations Board with a request for authorization to award the contract in an effort to continue the services without interruption. The RFP is planned to be published in July 2014 with proposals due in October 2014. Contract award is anticipated in January 2015 allowing for a five month mobilization and seamless transition period.

Mr. Kelly stated that he supports the changes to the VRE maintenance program and believes it is the way VRE needs to go in long-term. He understands the need to save money where it can but believes this is a decision that should focus on efficiency and more importantly public safety and therefore he will not support the motion. Mr. Skinner agreed.

Mr. Cook moved, with a second by Ms. Bulova, to approve Resolution #9A-06-2014. The vote in favor was cast by Board Members Bohmke, Bulova, Caddigan, Cook, Covington, Jenkins, Milde, Naddoni, Page, Smedberg, Tejada and Way. Mr. Kelly and Mr. Skinner voted no. The vote passed.
Mr. Naddoni left the meeting at 10:54 A.M.

Authorization to issue a Request for Proposals for Fence Installation and Repair Services – 9B

Mr. Allen stated that the VRE Operations Board is being asked to authorize him to issue an RFP for Fence Installation and Repair Services. Throughout the VRE service area, including stations, maintenance and storage facilities and between tracks, VRE utilizes fences to act as barriers to limit encroachment and maintain security perimeters. VRE is often in need of installation, replacement and repair of fences. The scope of this RFP includes installing new fences and the replacement or repair of existing fencing at various locations.

Ms. Caddigan moved, with a second by Mr. Cook, to approve Resolution #9B-06-2014. The vote in favor was cast by Board Members Bohmke, Bulova, Caddigan, Cook, Covington, Jenkins, Kelly, Milde, Page, Skinner, Smedberg, Tejada and Way.

Authorization to Award a Contract for Wheelset Rehabilitation Services – 9C

Mr. Allen reported that Resolution #9C-06-2014 will authorize him to execute a contract for wheelset rehabilitation services with UTCRAS of Morton, Pennsylvania for an amount not to exceed $783,939, plus a 10 percent contingency of $78,394, for a total not to exceed $862,333.

Mr. Allen reported that VRE received one bid by the May 12, 2014 due date. He explained that a second bid was delivered after the due date and therefore, could not be accepted. After review, it was determined that UTCRAS was the lowest responsive-responsible bid. In response to a question from Mr. Smedberg, Mr. Allen explained that the $783,939 is the total contract amount and covers a three year contract period (one base year and two one-year options). Mr. Smedberg expressed his concern about no competition with only one bid being received. Mr. Allen explained the process when only one bid/proposal is received. VRE considers the bid/proposal to determine if the firm can do the work and if the price is fair, and if so, it will be forwarded to the Operations Board for recommendation of award.

In response to a question from Mr. Smedberg, Mr. Dalton explained in further detail the work that would be covered by this award. Although it is difficult to predict, Mr. Dalton estimated that approximately 10-15 percent of the entire fleet will need wheelsets replaced over the course of one year. Mr. Skinner asked what happens if VRE exceeds the amount of wheelsets listed in the contract. Mr. Dalton explained that there is a contingency and additional funds are available in the budget if more work is needed. Mr. Allen stated that VRE will only pay for the work/parts needed.
Mr. Smedberg moved, with a second by Mr. Skinner, to approve Resolution #9C-06-2014. The vote in favor was cast by Board Members Bohmke, Bulova, Caddigan, Cook, Covington, Jenkins, Kelly, Milde, Page, Skinner, Smedberg, Tejada and Way.

**Authorization to Award a Contract for Interior Cleaning of Passenger Rail Cars – 9D**

Mr. Allen stated that the Operations Board is being asked to authorize him to execute a contract with ServiceMaster Preferred Services of Woodbridge, Virginia for interior cleaning of passenger railcars in the amount of $573,624, plus a 10 percent contingency of $57,362, for a total amount not to exceed $630,986, for a base year and two option years, with the CEO exercising the option years at his discretion.

In response to several questions, Ms. Hill provided an overview of the RFP procurement process for this award. Three proposals were received and the Technical Evaluation Team met and reviewed the proposals. It was determined that the proposal from Service Master Preferred Services was technically compliant and was unanimously selected to be the best value for the project. Mr. Allen explained that this work is for deep cleaning, and not general daily cleaning, so it is somewhat of a specialty service.

Ms. Caddigan moved, with a second by Ms. Bulova, to approve the resolution.

Mr. Tejada asked in general who reviews the bids. Mr. Allen clarified that this is a proposal and not a bid process. He gave a brief overview of the bid and proposal process. When a bid/proposal is received it is reviewed by Gerri Hill and her staff, working with an in-house technical expert to review the bids/proposals. For bids, the lowest responsible bid is selected. For proposals an evaluation team reviews the proposals and ranks them. The top ranked firm is selected. Mr. Tejada asked if firms need to be pre-certified to submit a bid or proposal. Mr. Allen stated that part of the process is to determine if the firm is qualified to do the work, which can sometimes be done by a pre-certification process or can be determined after submission. Mr. Tejada stated that he would like more information about how firms can become qualified, especially for minority businesses. Mr. Allen offered to set up a briefing for any Board Member interested in learning more about the process.

In response to a question from Mr. Way, Ms. Hill explained that this is a RFP process, which is based on evaluation criteria where the firm with the highest score/ranking is selected. Price is only one criterion. Evaluation criteria include capability of performing the work, experience, key personnel and price. Mr. Way expressed his opinion that it seems that this work is not highly technical or precision work. Mr. Allen assured Mr. Way that there is a great deal of variability with this type of work and VRE used the RFP process in order to get the best value as opposed to just the lowest price.

Mr. Smedberg asked if there was variability of the range of price from the two proposals. Ms. Hill stated that she does not have this information in front of her but can provide it to the Board.
Chairman Milde suggested deferring this action until next month so that the Board can receive more information. There were no objections.

Mr. Way asked staff to provide the common standards of a Request for Proposals. Mr. Skinner stated he would like to see the criteria used for selection. Ms. Bohmke stated that she would like information on the evaluation teams.

Mr. Jenkins stated that before discussion of #9G he would like to declare that he owns more than $10,000 in stock in Dominion Resources, the parent company of Dominion Virginia Power. He stated that he feels he is qualified to vote on the matter after making this declaration.

Authorization to Award a Task Order to NV Enterprises for Electrical Service Installation – 9F

Mr. Allen stated that Resolution #9F-0-2014 would authorize him to award a task order under the facilities maintenance contract to NV Enterprises for electrical services associated with the installation of a new electric service at the Broad Run Yard in an amount of $125,000, plus a 10 percent contingency, for a total amount not to exceed $137,500.

Mr. Allen explained that electric power is currently supplied from an existing electric service adjacent to the service and inspection building by means of an electrical duct bank underneath the yard and storage tracks. NV Enterprises recently found significant damage to this duct bank following a recent power outage. Similar power outages have occurred over recent years, and repairs were made by pulling new wiring through the duct bank. However, the electrical investigation indicates that the damage has increased in severity and pulling wires is no longer an option. VRE is requesting Board approval in the next agenda item to execute an agreement with Dominion Virginia Power for a new electrical service that will reroute the power supply to the affected facilities and will result in the abandonment of the damaged duct bank. The new duct bank will go around the perimeter and will not go under or across the tracks.

Mr. Covington moved, with a second by Mr. Smedberg, to approve Resolution #9F-06-2014. The vote in favor was cast by Board Members Bohmke, Bulova, Caddigan, Cook, Covington, Jenkins, Kelly, Milde, Page, Skinner, Smedberg, Tejada and Way.
Authorization to Award a Sole Source Agreement with Dominion Virginia Power for Electrical Services – 9G

Mr. Allen reported that the VRE Operations Board is being asked to authorize him to execute a sole source agreement with Dominion Virginia Power for the installation of a new electric service at the Broad Run Yard for a total amount not to exceed $118,000. This action is connected to the last action item. VRE has initiated a work request for Dominion Virginia Power and received a preliminary estimate. Resolution #9G-06-2014 would accomplish this.

Mr. Smedberg asked why there is no contingency. Mr. Allen responded that a contingency is not needed because it is a flat fee.

Mr. Covington moved, with a second by Mr. Cook, to approve the resolution. The vote in favor was cast by Board Members Bohmke, Bulova, Caddigan, Cook, Covington, Jenkins, Kelly, Milde, Page, Skinner, Smedberg, Tejada and Way.

Authorization to Sell Six Legacy Gallery Cars – 9H

Mr. Allen stated that Resolution #9H-06-2014 will recommend the Commissions authorize the VRE Chief Executive Officer to sell six Legacy cars and spare parts to Metra of Chicago, Illinois for a total amount of $3,000.

In February 2013, VRE issues a Request for Interest (FRI) to sell the remaining Legacy cars as new passenger cars are placed into service. VRE has received a single proposal from Metra of Chicago, Illinois to purchase six Legacy Gallery cars and spare parts. Mr. Allen stated that VRE staff recommends execution of this sale as no other offers have been received and the cost to dispose of these cars is higher than this proposal. It is estimated that it would cost $50,000 to dismantle the railcars and abate asbestos. The spare parts are unique to this type of car and will become obsolete for use by VRE once the cars are no longer in service. The sales agreement will include no warranties, implied or expressed, and the sale will be considered “as is, where is.” There is no federal, state or local interest remaining in those cars. However, since federal and state funds were used to purchase and renovate these cars, both FTA and the state will be notified of the sale in accordance with grant requirements. Mr. Allen stated that the proceeds of the sale will be placed into the capital reserve and used for the future purchase of rolling stock equipment.

In response to a question from Chairman Milde, Mr. Allen stated that the Legacy railcars were purchased for $1 from Metra in Chicago and then VRE rehabilitated them to put them into revenue service. In response to a question from Mr. Tejada, Mr. Allen stated that Metra plans to put the railcars into revenue service.

Ms. Bulova moved, with a second by Mr. Smedberg, to approve the resolution.
Mr. Way asked if all the Legacy railcars are being replaced with new railcars. Mr. Allen stated that the Legacy cars will be retired as new railcars arrive. VRE received four new railcars last week with four more to be delivered in the next few weeks. VRE had ordered the final seven railcars that will finish the replacement. VRE may still need to use a few Legacy cars as the new train starts on the Fredericksburg Line later in October.

The Board then voted on the motion and it passed. The vote in favor was cast by Board Members Bohmke, Bulova, Caddigan, Cook, Covington, Jenkins, Kelly, Milde, Page, Skinner, Smedberg, Tejada and Way.

Recommendation that the Commissions Approve an Amendment to the Federal Railroad Administration Financing Agreement – 9I

Mr. Allen stated that the VRE Operations Board is being asked to recommend that the Commissions approve Amendment No. 1 to the Financing Agreement with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for the purchase of rolling stock in order to amend the timeframe for the annual submission of audited financial statements. Resolution #9I-06-2014 would accomplish this.

Mr. Allen explained that the Financing Agreement requires that audited financial statements be provided within 120 days of the end of each fiscal year, which is the end of October. The VRE financial statements are presented to the Operations Board in November and as a result, each year FRA has extended the requirement by 30 days. This year at their annual review of the Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing Loan Program (RRIF), FRA recommended that the Financing Agreement be modified in order to change the requirement from 120 days to within 150 days.

Ms. Bulova moved, with a second by Mr. Smedberg, to approve the resolution. The vote in favor was cast by Board Members Bohmke, Bulova, Caddigan, Cook, Covington, Jenkins, Kelly, Milde, Page, Skinner, Smedberg, Tejada and Way.

Authorization to Execute the Second Amendment to the Corridor Improvement Project MOU Between VRE, DRPT and CSXT for the Addition of the Potomac Shore Station – 9J

Mr. Allen stated that the VRE Operations Board is being asked to recommend that the Commissions authorize him to execute a Second Amendment to the January 31, 2002 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with CSXT and DRPT pertaining to the CSXT Third Mainline Corridor Improvement Project. This proposed amendment will allow the Potomac Shores station to open when it is completed. Resolution #9I-06-2014 would accomplish this.

Mr. Allen explained that the amendment includes a list of projects that need to be completed before VRE can begin service to Potomac Shores station, which is in Prince William County. With the final approval of the SYIP and VRE projects being funded, Mr.
Allen is confident that VRE can commit to the funding of these important projects. Ms. Caddigan explained that the developer, Sun Cal, will design and construct the station facilities. There will be a golf course, Town Center, hotel with conference center, and residential area. Sun Cal also contributed funding towards the work at Brooke and Leeland.

Ms. Caddigan moved, with a second by Mr. Jenkins, to approve Resolution #91-06-2014.

Mr. Allen thanked Mr. Page and Director Mitchell for all their help, as well as NVTA for funding the projects associated with this MOU. Ms. Caddigan stated that she wishes Hilda Barg could be here to hear that the station is moving forward since she worked on this since 2000. She thanked Mr. Allen, Mr. Page, Governor McAuliffe, and CSXT for all cooperating on this to accomplish this MOU. Ms Bulova stated that she will gladly support the motion. She noted that this station (formerly known as the Cherry Hill Station) has been on the VRE map from very early in VRE history.

Mr. Kelly stated that he plans on supporting this motion but added that as VRE expands platforms and other improvements along the Fredericksburg Line, the Fredericksburg Station needs to be expanded and upgraded. The City of Fredericksburg needs VRE’s help with this issue and he hopes that the discussions can occur. Chairman Milde stated that as subpar Mr. Kelly thinks the Fredericksburg Station is, it is a full blown station with two platform sides and does not compare to the parking lot with a one-sided canopy at Brooke and Leeland stations. He reminded the Board that in order to fulfill the requirements of the MOU, certain upgrades need to be made.

The Board then voted on the motion and it passed. The vote in favor was cast by Board Members Bohmke, Bulova, Caddigan, Cook, Covington, Jenkins, Kelly, Milde, Page, Skinner, Smedberg, Tejada and Way.

Recommendation of Amended VRE Master Agreement Regarding Weighted Voting to the Commissions and Participating and Contributing Jurisdictions for Approval – 9K

Mr. Allen reported that the VRE Operations Board is being asked to recommend approval of the proposed amended Master Agreement for the Provision of Commuter Rail Service by the Commission and Participating and Contributing Jurisdictions. The Amendment incorporates the weighted vote requirement as set forth in HB2152, which amended §15.2-407 and 15.2-4512 of the Code of Virginia effective July 1, 2015.

Mr. Allen stated that due to the complexity of the process to fully execute an amended Master Agreement, staff recommends that the Board recommend to the Commissions that they forward the amended Master Agreement addressing the requirements of HB2152 to the Participating and Contributing jurisdictions for their approval and execution, and thereafter, the Commissions approve and execute the amended Master Agreement. It is further recommended that the amendment be limited to the statutory requirements that will be effective July 1, 2015.
Mr. Cook moved, with a second by Mr. Skinner, to approve the resolution.

Mr. Kelly stated that since this action is only forwarding it to the Commissions and then onto the jurisdictions, he can support the motion. Mr. Way asked if this amendment will bring VRE into complete compliance with the legislation. Chairman Milde stated that it will. He also stated that he will vote in favor of the motion, but he still has concerns over the weighted vote percentage for Stafford County.

The Board then voted on the motion and it passed. The vote in favor was cast by Board Members Bohmke, Bulova, Caddigan, Cook, Covington, Jenkins, Kelly, Milde, Page, Skinner, Smedberg, Tejada and Way.

Legislative Update – 9B

Mr. Jungwirth gave a brief update on federal legislation. The Senate Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies (THUD), passed its version of the FY 2015 THUD Appropriations Bill. The House passed its version of the FY 2015 THUD Appropriations Bill. The Senate Bill provides $2.163 billion for Capital Investment Grants (New Starts), compared to the $1.691 billion in the House bill. The Senate bill also includes $550 million for TIGER Grants, with the House bill including $100 million. The Senate bill would continue transit formula grants at FY 2014 levels totaling $8.595 billion, which is the same level as the House bill. The Senate bill would nearly double at $36.5 million, including $3 million for TCRP—the amount provided for research and technical assistance programs as compared to the House version. The Senate would also restore the $200 million cut to Amtrak grants proposed by the House and set Amtrak funding at $1.39 billion, which is the amount provided in FY 2014. WMATA would continue to receive $150 million as authorized under separate legislation.

Ms. Aimee Perron Seibert gave a brief update on General Assembly activity. On June 8th Senator Phillip Puckett, a Democrat from Southwest Virginia resigned, which flipped control of the Senate back to the Republicans with a 20-19 split. The legislature must have a budget by June 30th to be able to use rainy day funds to fill the projected $300 million dollar shortfall. A budget bill that stripped all new spending was passed and is awaiting the Governor’s signature. Governor McAuliffe has called a press conference for 11:30 A.M. today. The Senate budget amendment to provided $2 million in project development funding to identify current and future VRE core capacity issues was not included in the budget. Unfortunately the House and Senate budget conferees diverted all $30 million in available TPOF funds toward the budget deficit that has now grown to approximately $1.5 billion. Ms. Perron Seibert stated that VRE will need to play close attention to the economy and future budgets.
In regards to the federal legislation, Mr. Harf asked if the FY 2015 appropriations are an optical allusion because there is no authorization. Mr. Jungwirth agreed and stated that there needs to be an authorization or a continuing resolution to keep funds flowing.

**Operations Board Members’ Time –10**

Mr. Skinner asked staff to provide detailed information on the Firecracker Train Service so he can update his County Board next Tuesday. He also asked about why the VRE Operations Board meets on Fridays, since traffic is so congested on Fridays. Ms. Bulova gave some historical background of why VRE chose to meet on Fridays. Many jurisdictions have Board meetings on Tuesdays, Council of Government meetings are on Wednesdays, Thursday has other transportation meetings, including NVTC, PRTC, NVTA; so that leaves either Monday or Friday.

**Adjournment**

Without objection, Chairman Milde adjourned the meeting at 11:31 A.M.

Approved this 18th day of July, 2014.

_____________________________
Paul Milde
Chairman

_____________________________
Gary Skinner
Secretary

**CERTIFICATION**

This certification hereby acknowledges that the minutes for the June 20, 2014 Virginia Railway Express Operations Board Meeting have been recorded to the best of my ability.

_____________________________
Rhonda Gilchrest