To: Chairman Milde and the VRE Operations Board

From: Doug Allen

Date: March 21, 2014

Re: Authorization to Execute a Force Account Agreement with CSX for the Alexandria King Street Pedestrian Tunnel Project

Recommendation:

The VRE Operations Board is being asked to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to execute a force account agreement with CSX Transportation for the Alexandria King Street Pedestrian Tunnel project in an amount of $227,091, plus a 10% contingency of $22,709, for a total amount not to exceed $249,800.

Background:

In September of 2008, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) completed a pedestrian circulation analysis that identified general options to improve pedestrian traffic around the VRE/Amtrak and Metrorail King Street stations. One opportunity identified was the construction of a new tunnel from the VRE/Amtrak station directly to the Metrorail station. This project would improve ADA access, eliminate the at-grade track crossing, and upgrade the eastern VRE/Amtrak platform. Railroad capacity and operational flexibility would also be improved by allowing passenger trains to use the eastern tracks.
VRE, Amtrak, WMATA, and the City of Alexandria all supported the project and VRE subsequently sought and received project funding from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) for design and construction of the project. Funding was approved via the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Rail Crossing and Rail Safety program, which is administered through VDOT. VRE also sought and received funding through NVTA.

In May of 2012, the Operations Board approved the issuance of a task order that would complete a feasibility study and make recommendations regarding final design. The feasibility study was completed in January 2013.

In December of 2013, the Operations Board approved the issuance of a task order that will complete the final design and provide construction management. The first major task in the design process is to complete environmental field work to determine subsurface conditions, provided for under a previously approved task order.

The authorization being sought through this action will allow CSX Transportation to provide engineering and design review services as well as flagging services during the environmental field work. This effort is necessary to refine the engineering and project cost estimates.

**Project Budget:**

The current VRE project budget is estimated at $11,099,860. As the design efforts progress, specifically the tunneling method and coordination of all construction activity required, VRE will refine the estimated costs.

**Fiscal Impact:**

Funds for the project are included in VRE’s Capital Improvement Program. Grant funds are provided by VDOT through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Rail Crossing and Rail Safety program. Funding is also provided by NVTA. No local match is required. As such, $8,721,865 is being provided by VDOT and $1,300,000 is being provided by NVTA for a total of $10,021,865. Additional funds will be secured, if required, prior to commencement of project construction. No VRE funds are being allocated for this project at this time.
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WHEREAS, VRE sought and received funding from the Virginia Department of Transportation and Northern Virginia Transportation Authority for design and construction of the King Street Station pedestrian tunnel project; and,

WHEREAS, the project will improve ADA access, eliminate the at-grade track crossing, upgrade the eastern VRE/Amtrak platform, and improve capacity and operational flexibility; and,

WHEREAS, on May 18, 2012, the Operations Board approved the issuance of a task order for a feasibility study and the study was completed in January of 2013; and,

WHEREAS, on December 20, 2013, the Operations Board approved the issuance of a task order that will complete the final design and provide construction management; and,

WHEREAS, this authorization will allow CSX Transportation to provide engineering and design review services as well as flagging services during the environmental field work.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the VRE Operations Board does hereby authorize the Chief Executive Officer to execute a force account agreement with CSX Transportation to provide engineering, design review and flagging services for the Alexandria King Street Pedestrian Tunnel project in an amount of $227,091, plus a 10% contingency of $22,709, for a total amount not to exceed $249,800.

Approved this 21st day of March 2014

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Paul Milde
Chairman

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Gary Skinner
Secretary