Agenda Item 8-K  
Action Item

To: Chairman Cook and the VRE Operations Board
From: Doug Allen
Date: July 17, 2015
Re: Approval of Submission of VRE Gainesville – Haymarket Extension Project to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for Evaluation under HB2

Recommendation:

The VRE Operations Board is asked to recommend the Commissions approve the submission of the Gainesville-Haymarket Extension Project to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) for evaluation under the House Bill Two (HB2) project scoring process and funding consideration in the FY 2017-2022 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP).

Background:

House Bill Two (HB2), signed into law in 2014, is about investing limited tax dollars in the right projects that meet the most critical transportation needs in Virginia. At the heart of the new law is scoring projects based on an objective process. Once projects are scored, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) use the results in determining which projects to fund as part of the FY17-22 SYIP.

Projects must go through the HB2 process to receive state funding under the new transportation funding formula approved by the General Assembly in February 2015 (HB 1887). The High-Priority Projects Program funds projects of regional or statewide significance that meet a need identified in the VTrans 2040 Multi-modal
Transportation Plan, including highway, transit and rail capacity expansion projects. Local government projects and strategies that address a need for a Corridor of Statewide Significance (COSS), regional network, improvements to promote urban development areas, or safety improvements identified in VTrans 2040 must also go through the HB2 process for funding through the Construction District Grants Program. Local jurisdictions may submit projects at VRE stations (e.g., station or parking expansion projects) for evaluation and scoring in the HB2 process for consideration for a Construction District Grant.

The CTB adopted the HB2 scoring process on June 17, 2015. Candidate Projects must be submitted between August 1 and September 30, 2015. Candidate Projects will be screened and scored from October 1 to December 31, 2015. The CTB will then consider the results of the scoring as they develop the FY17-22 SYIP between January and June 2016.

The VRE Gainesville-Haymarket Extension Project is a capacity expansion project located within the I-66 COSS and qualifies for funding through the High-Priority Projects Program. The project is currently funded through the NEPA/Preliminary Engineering phase of project development with a state Rail Enhancement Fund grant, Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) FY2014 funds and VRE Core Capacity/Project Development funds. NVTA has also allocated $1,000,000 in FY21CMAQ funding for the project. An estimate of the unfunded project costs by phase is listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Cost (in $)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Final Design</td>
<td>$24,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right-of-way Acquisition</td>
<td>$116,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>$264,200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rolling Stock to Support Gainesville-Haymarket Service</td>
<td>$86,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Project Cost</td>
<td>$491,200,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The costs are preliminary estimates. Detailed cost estimates will be developed during the NEPA/Preliminary Engineering study currently underway.

The Operations Board is being asked to recommend the Commissions authorize the VRE Chief Executive Officer to submit the Gainesville-Haymarket Extension Project to the CTB for evaluation under the HB2 scoring process and funding consideration in the FY 2017-2022 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP), to make necessary corrections to project amounts or descriptions, and to execute all project funding agreements that may result from CTB consideration of the project.

**Fiscal Impact:**

The submission of a project list has no fiscal impact. If selected for funding, the funds would allow the VRE Gainesville-Haymarket Extension Project to be completed on an accelerated schedule.
Virginia Railway Express
Operations Board

Resolution
8K-07-2015

Approval of Submission of VRE Gainesville – Haymarket Extension Project to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for Evaluation under HB2

WHEREAS, the passage of House Bill Two (HB2) requires the development of a prioritization process to evaluate candidate projects and directs the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) to develop and use a scoring process for project selection; and,

WHEREAS, the CTB will review the prioritized project list and will use the scoring, along with other information to inform their funding decisions for the Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP); and,

WHEREAS, projects must go through the HB2 process to receive funding under the new transportation funding formula including the High-Priority Projects Program; and,

WHEREAS, the VRE Gainesville-Haymarket Extension Project is a transit/rail capacity expansion project that is eligible for funding through the High-Priority Projects Program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Operations Board recommends that the Commissions authorize the VRE Chief Executive Officer to submit the Gainesville-Haymarket Extension Project to the CTB for evaluation under the HB2 scoring process and funding consideration in the SYIP, to make necessary corrections to project amounts or descriptions, and to execute all project funding agreements that may result from CTB consideration of the project.

Approved this 17th day of July 2015

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John C. Cook
Chairman

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Paul Smedberg
Secretary