Agenda Item 8-A
Consent Item

To: Chairman Cook and the VRE Operations Board

From: Doug Allen

Date: November 20, 2015

Re: Authorization to Issue a Request for Proposals for PTC System Testing Coordination and Oversight

Recommendation:

The VRE Operations Board is asked to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Positive Train Control (PTC) System Testing and Oversight for a base year and two option years.

Background:

As determined in accordance with VRE Public Procurement Policies and Procedures, an Invitation for Bids (IFB) is neither practicable nor fiscally advantageous to VRE and an RFP is the preferred method of procurement for this solicitation since there are different approaches to the desired service. For this solicitation, specific knowledge and experience with advanced train control technology, railroad operations, railroad training and strict document control is required. The ability to coordinate testing activities with multiple railroads and contract operators to ensure safe and efficient train operations is a critical component of this solicitation therefore a robust evaluation of technical merit is required.

Upon completion of evaluation of proposals, negotiations are conducted with the two highest ranked firms deemed to be fully qualified and best suited among those submitting Proposals, on the basis of the factors specified in the evaluation criteria. Price will be considered in context of technical performance for this service to achieve a best value
determination. After receipt of the best and final offer from the top-ranked firm, a cost analysis is performed to compare the proposed cost with the independent cost estimate to determine that the proposed cost is fair and reasonable.

The Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 mandates VRE implement a Positive Train Control (PTC) system. The scope of work for the RFP includes review of PTC documents currently developed for safety, training and on-board systems. Once reviewed, proposed enhancements to all current plans will be incorporated as necessary. The Contractor will work with VRE staff, contract operator and host railroads to coordinate and document systems testing to include field qualification testing, revenue testing and FRA certification. Once VRE achieves FRA certification, the Contractor will review and monitor training for a minimum of one year to ensure sustained compliance with Federal Rules and VRE policies. This will be a task order based contract.

Upon receipt of the proposals, staff will return to the Board for authorization to award the contract.

**Fiscal Impact:**

There is no fiscal impact for issuing this Request for Proposals. Funding for the project is provided through federal formula funds (5307), state mass transit funds and VRE subsidy match.
WHEREAS, the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 mandates VRE implement a Positive Train Control (PTC) system; and,

WHEREAS, in order to implement a PTC system, VRE is required to coordinate and document testing activities with the host railroads to obtain PTC certification; and,

WHEREAS, once PTC certification is achieved, VRE needs to monitor and document compliance; and,

WHEREAS, this solicitation is necessary to obtain the required test coordination, documentation and oversight services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the VRE Operations Board does hereby acknowledge the determination made by the VRE Contract Administrator in accordance with the VRE Public Procurement Policies and Procedures that competitive bidding is not practicable, nor fiscally advantageous to VRE, and that competitive negotiation is the appropriate method to procure these services;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the VRE Operations Board does hereby authorize the Chief Executive Officer to issue a Request for Proposals for Positive Train Control (PTC) System Testing and Oversight for a base year and two option years.

Approved this 20th day of November 2015

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John C. Cook
Chairman

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Paul Smedberg
Secretary