Agenda Item 8-K
Action Item

To: Chairman Skinner and the VRE Operations Board
From: Doug Allen
Date: May 20, 2016
Re: Recommend Authorization to Execute a Memorandum of Agreement with the District of Columbia Department of Transportation and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation for Phase III of the Long Bridge Expansion Study

Recommendation:

The VRE Operations Board is asked to recommend the Commissions authorize the Chief Executive Officer to execute a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the District of Columbia Department of Transportation (DDOT) and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DPRT) to conduct Phase III of the Long Bridge Expansion Study (the Study). The MOA fixes VRE’s financial contribution for the non-federal match to the TIGER VI grant awarded for this phase of the Study at $300,000 and defines a substantial contributing role for VRE in the management of the Study.

Background:

The two-track CSX Transportation Long Bridge across the Potomac River has long been a critical bottleneck in the Eastern Seaboard railroad network. The VRE System Plan 2040 identified expansion of the bridge to four tracks as a prerequisite to maintaining VRE operating reliability and to future growth in VRE service.
DDOT has conducted two initial phases of the Study using a combination of federal grants and its own resources. In 2014, DDOT applied for and was awarded federal planning funds under the Sixth Round of the US Department of Transportation Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER VI) grant program for the third phase of the Study. Phase III will advance project development activities, completing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) studies and preliminary engineering for the Long Bridge expansion.

On April 18, 2014, the VRE Operations Board endorsed the DDOT TIGER VI application and authorized the commitment of VRE funds towards the non-federal match for the grant. The TIGER VI grant award to DDOT for Phase III of the Study is $2,800,000, and requires $1,300,000 in non-federal match for a total project cost of $4,100,000. DDOT has committed $700,000 towards the match while VRE and the DRPT have each committed $300,000. A summary of the funding plan is as follows below.

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<tr>
<th>TIGER VI Grant Award</th>
<th>Non-Federal Match</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$2,800,000</td>
<td>DDOT $700,000</td>
<td>$4,100,000</td>
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<td>DRPT $300,000</td>
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<td>VRE $300,000</td>
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DDOT, DRPT and VRE have subsequently negotiated terms for VRE’s partnership with DDOT and DRPT with respect to the management of the TIGER VI grant and Phase III of the Study. These terms have been captured in a draft MOA. The terms include fixing VRE’s financial contribution to the TIGER VI at $300,000 and defining a substantial contributing role for VRE in the management of the Study.

The draft MOA has been reviewed by our Legal Counsel and is being reviewed by the Legal Counsel of DDOT and DRPT. VRE is asking the Operations Board recommend the Commissions authorize the execution of the MOA, in a final form acceptable to VRE Legal Counsel, in order to advance expansion of the Long Bridge as expeditiously as possible.

**Fiscal Impact:**

Funding was included in the adopted FY 2015 Capital Improvement Program budget for the VRE contribution towards the TIGER grant’s non-federal match requirement.
Virginia Railway Express
Operations Board

Resolution
8K-05-2016

Recommend Authorization to Execute of a Memorandum of Agreement
with the District of Columbia Department of Transportation and the
Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation for Phase III of
the Long Bridge Expansion Study

WHEREAS, the VRE System Plan 2040 identified the expansion of railroad capacity, particularly expansion of the Long Bridge across the Potomac River, as a critical need to support long-term VRE growth and service expansion; and,

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia Department Of Transportation is proceeding towards completion of the first two phases of a Long Bridge Expansion Study and is prepared to conduct a third phase consisting of preliminary engineering and analyses required under the National Environmental Policy Act; and,

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia Department Of Transportation was awarded a $2,800,000 planning grant under the TIGER VI program to advance the Phase III of a Long Bridge Expansion Study; and,

WHEREAS, the TIGER VI grant requires a non-federal match of $1,300,000, which the District of Columbia Department Of Transportation, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation and VRE have committed to fund; and,

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia Department Of Transportation, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation and VRE have drafted a Memorandum of Agreement defining VRE’s partnership with the District of Columbia Department Of Transportation and Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation with respect to the contribution of the non-federal match of the TIGER VI grant and management of Phase III of the Long Bridge Expansion Study;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the VRE Operations Board does hereby recommend the Commissions authorize the Chief Executive Officer to execute a Memorandum of Agreement, in a form acceptable to VRE legal Counsel, with the District of Columbia Department of Transportation and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation that sets the non-federal match to the TIGER VI grant and defines VRE’s role in the management of Phase III of the Long Bridge Expansion Study.