Agenda Item 8-C
Action Item

To: Chairman Smedberg and the VRE Operations Board

From: Doug Allen

Date: May 19, 2017

Re: Authorization to Execute a Contract for the Purchase of Railcar Battery Assemblies

Recommendation:

The VRE Operations Board is asked to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to execute a contract with Hoppecke Batteries Inc. of Hainesport, NJ for Railcar Battery Assemblies in the amount of $346,028, plus a 10% contingency of $34,602, for a total amount not to exceed $380,630.

Background:

VRE passenger railcars are equipped with low-voltage, nickel-cadmium batteries, that when connected in a series, establishes a low-voltage battery system on each passenger railcar. The low-voltage battery systems provide DC power to vital components such as radio’s, headlights, ditchlights, interior cab lights, etc. The low-voltage battery systems are nearing the end of their useful life on 21 cab control and 50 trailer cars and need to be replaced.

On July 15, 2016, the VRE Operations Board approved a request to issue an Invitation for Bids (IFB) for the Purchase of Railcar Battery Assemblies. A mailing list of four prospective Bidders was established for the solicitation to ensure access to adequate sources of services. On March 30, 2017, an IFB was issued and bids were due on May 1, 2017. Two responses were received.

The staff has certified the price is fair and reasonable.
The bid tabulation is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bidders</th>
<th>Bid Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Hoppecke Batteries, Inc.</td>
<td>$346,027.70</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Saft America, Inc.</td>
<td>$441,735.00</td>
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After review of the bids, it was determined Hoppecke Batteries, Inc. was the lowest responsive-responsible bidder.

**Fiscal Impact:**

The CIP includes the Equipment Asset Management Program, which is funded through an annual allocation of FTA 5337 (State of Good Repair) grants.
WHEREAS, passenger railcars are equipped with low-voltage, nickel-cadmium batteries to provide DC power to various onboard components; and,

WHEREAS, the batteries onboard 21 cab control and 50 trailer cars are nearing the end of their useful life; and,

WHEREAS, in July of 2016, the VRE Operations Board authorized the issuance of an IFB for the Purchase of Railcar Battery Assemblies; and,

WHEREAS, a competitive solicitation process was conducted; and,

WHEREAS, it was determined Hoppecke Batteries, Inc. was the lowest responsive-responsible bidder;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the VRE Operations Board does hereby authorize the Chief Executive Officer to execute a contract with Hoppecke Batteries, Inc. of Hainesport, NJ for the purchase of Railcar Battery Assemblies in the amount of $346,028, plus a 10% contingency of $34,602, for a total amount not to exceed $380,630.

Approved this 19th day of May 2017

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Paul Smedberg  
Chairman

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Katie Cristol  
Secretary