Agenda Item 9-B  
Information Item

To:    Chairman Smedberg and the VRE Operations Board  
From:  Doug Allen  
Date:  May 19, 2017  
Re:    Long Bridge Project Update

This information item summarizes current efforts to provide additional railroad capacity at Long Bridge.

Background:
The two-track CSXT 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 as a prerequisite to maintaining VRE operating reliability and to future growth in VRE service.

VRE has been collaborating with the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), CSXT and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT). DDOT has conducted two initial phases of a Long Bridge Expansion Study using a combination of federal grants and its own resources. 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) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) studies and preliminary engineering for the Long Bridge expansion.

The TIGER VI grant award to DDOT for the Phase III study is $2,800,000 which must be matched with $1,300,000 in non-federal local funds, totaling $4,100,000. DDOT has
committed $700,000 towards the local match while VRE and DRPT have each committed $300,000. A summary of the funding plan is as follows below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of Funds</th>
<th>Federal Grant Amount</th>
<th>Non-federal Local Match Amount</th>
<th>Local Match Source</th>
<th>Total Grant Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TIGER VI Planning Grant</td>
<td>$2,800,000</td>
<td>$1,300,000</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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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$2,800,000</td>
<td>$1,300,000</td>
<td>$1,300,000</td>
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The NEPA process was initiated with the publication of a Notice of Intent in the Federal Register on August 26, 2016. The public was invited to provide comments on the study scope at a meeting held on September 14, 2016. The scoping comment period was open until October 14, 2016. The comments received ranged from potential alignments to be considered, number of tracks, potential impacts to sensitive natural resources and view sheds near the District’s Monumental Core and bicycle and pedestrian access opportunities.

VRE has been working closely with the study partners, DDOT the lead local agency, and FRA the lead federal agency along with CXST and DRPT, to identify the most effective railroad capacity enhancements that consider railroad operations, engineering constraints and potential environmental issues. A key activity has been to develop a Purpose and Need Statement that focuses the study efforts on providing railroad capacity.

**Next Steps:**

As part of the NEPA process, a public information meeting will be held on May 16, 2017 to discuss preliminary options and evaluation criteria that will identify and develop project alternatives that will be evaluated in the DEIS scheduled to be completed with a Record of Decision by Spring 2019.