To: Chairman Smedberg and the VRE Operations Board
From: Doug Allen
Date: November 17, 2017
Re: Recommend Authorization to Submit VRE Projects to NVTC for FY 2018 I-66 Commuter Choice Funding Consideration

Recommendation:

The VRE Operations Board is asked to recommend the Commissions approve the submission of the Crystal City Station Improvements, L’Enfant Station and Track Improvements, and Manassas Line Real-Time Multimodal Traveler Information System projects to the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) for funding consideration in its Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Commuter Choice program; and authorize the Chief Executive Officer to submit the approved projects for funding, make any necessary corrections to project amounts or descriptions in the applications, and execute all project funding agreements that may result from consideration of the projects.

Summary:

In January 2017, NVTC and the Commonwealth of Virginia signed a 40-year Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) authorizing NVTC to use toll revenues from I-66 Inside the Beltway (ITB) to fund multimodal transportation projects. These projects, designed to benefit I-66 toll payers, will ease travel through this congested corridor. To allocate the toll revenues, NVTC established the I-66 Commuter Choice Program and project selection process. An initial group of 10 projects were approved by both NVTC and the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) as part of the FY 2017 I-66 Commuter Choice Program.

NVTC issued a Call for Projects for the FY 2018 I-66 Commuter Choice on September 7, 2017. Applications are due December 22, 2017. It is estimated $10 million in toll revenues will be available for allocation. VRE Manassas Line projects that enhance VRE service and capacity and provide the potential to divert drivers from the I-66 corridor are eligible for funding through the I-66 Commuter Choice program.
Background:

VRE is proposing to submit three projects to the I-66 Commuter Choice Program: Crystal City Station Improvements, L’Enfant Station and Track Improvements, and Manassas Line Real-Time Multimodal Traveler Information System. All the projects are within the I-66/VRE Manassas Line corridor and will benefit I-66 toll payers. They are also identified in the VRE Capital Improvement Program and System Plan 2040.

The funding request for the Crystal City Station Improvements in the amount of $4 million will enable the project to advance to the Final Engineering Design phase. Funding has already been identified to complete the initial Preliminary Engineering Design and Environmental Review phases. The project provides for a relocated and expanded station with longer platform for full-length trains and service on two tracks. It is related to and must be coordinated with the Atlantic Gateway Project (4th Track from Alexandria to Potomac River).

The funding request for the L’Enfant Station and Track Improvements in the amount of $6 million will enable the project to advance to the Final Engineering Design phase. Funding has already been identified to complete the initial Preliminary Engineering Design and Environmental Review phases. The project provides for a relocated and expanded station with longer platform for full-length trains and service on two tracks and the addition of a fourth track to service the station from L’Enfant interlocking to Virginia interlocking.

VRE is proposing to submit the Crystal City Station and L’Enfant Station and Track projects to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) for funding consideration in its FY 2018-2023 Six Year Program (SYP). The I-66 Commuter Choice application is proposed as an alternative funding source and contingency until NVTA has made a decision on its SYP.

The Manassas Line Real-Time Multimodal Traveler Information System project is included as part of the VRE Manassas Line Capacity Expansion Project, which the NVTA recommended to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) for funding with the Transform 66 Outside the Beltway (OTB) concessionaire payment in July 2017. The concessionaire payment would provide full funding to implement each of the projects through construction. The CTB is not anticipated to approve the projects that will be funded with the concessionaire payment until the Commonwealth has reached financial close with Express Mobility Partners (EMP), the private-sector partner in the public-private partnership transportation project. VRE is requesting funding for the Real-Time Multimodal Traveler Information System component from the I-66 Commuter Choice program as an alternative funding source and contingency until financial close is reached and the CTB takes action. Approximately $3.1 million in VRE funding has been allocated for the automatic passenger and parking counter portion of the project; an additional $3.48 million will be requested from NVTC to fund the implementation of the complete real-time information system.
The Operations Board is asked to recommend the Commissions authorize the VRE Chief Executive Officer to submit the identified projects to NVTC for FY 2018 I-66 Commuter Choice funding consideration, to make any necessary corrections to project amounts or descriptions, and to execute all project agreements on behalf of the Commissions. PRTC will provide oversight for the Commissions on the reimbursement of project expenditures.

**Fiscal Impact:**

The submission of a project funding request has no fiscal impact. If selected for funding, the I-66 Commuter Choice funds would allow the projects to advance to the next phase(s) of project development and implementation.
Virginia Railway Express
Operations Board

Resolution
9F-11-2017

Recommend Authorization to Submit VRE Projects to NVTC for FY 2018 I-66 Commuter Choice Funding Consideration

WHEREAS, the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) has issued a Call for Projects for consideration for funding with expected Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 I-66 Inside the Beltway toll revenues available through the I-66 Commuter Choice program; and,

WHEREAS, VRE has identified three projects within the I-66/VRE Manassas Line corridor that will benefit I-66 toll payers, included in the VRE Capital Improvement Program and System Plan 2040, where funding to continue to advance the project through implementation has not yet been identified;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the VRE Operations Board does hereby recommend the Commissions approve the submission of the Crystal City Station Improvements, L’Enfant Station and Track Improvements, and Manassas Line Real-Time Multimodal Traveler Information System projects to NVTC for funding consideration in its FY 2018 Commuter Choice program; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Operations Board does hereby recommend the Commissions authorize the VRE Chief Executive Officer to submit the approved projects for funding, to make any necessary corrections to project amounts or descriptions, and to execute all project agreements on behalf of the Commissions.

Approved this 17th day of November 2017

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Paul Smedberg
Chairman

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Katie Cristol
Secretary