To: Chairman Nohe and the VRE Operations Board

From: Doug Allen

Date: April 20, 2018

Re: Authorization to Issue an Invitation for Bids for the Purchase of Railcar End Body Door Diaphragm Kits

Recommendation:

The VRE Operations Board is asked to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to issue an Invitation for Bids (IFB) for the Purchase of Gallery IV Railcar End Body Door Diaphragm Kits for 90 calendar days.

Summary:

The Gallery IV End Body Door Diaphragm Kits are approaching the end of their useful life. VRE’s lifecycle maintenance team recommends replacing the seventy-one aged end body diaphragms with new kits. Authorization will allow VRE to issue an IFB for new Gallery IV Railcar End Body Door Diaphragm Kits and maintain safety requirements.

Background:

VRE’s lifecycle maintenance strategy includes monitoring, evaluating and analyzing systems and components to ensure repairs and/or replacements are performed at or near the end of the useful life of the system or component; as such, it has been determined the Gallery IV railcar end body diaphragm devices are at, or near, the end of their useful life. The end body devices protect the interior pathways against outside elements such as weather, debris, and noise. Age and physical elements of the environment have caused the
end body diaphragms to lose their effectiveness and as a result, outside elements can enter the railcars.

Invitation for Bids is the preferred and normal method of procurement when seeking bids to provide goods and services at a firm-fixed price. This method is utilized when there is a complete, adequate, precise specification or purchase description. Award is made based on price alone without discussions or negotiations with the Bidders.

The scope of work for the IFB includes the one-time delivery of 71 Gallery IV Railcar End Body Door Diaphragm Kits to be delivered to the Crossroads Maintenance and Storage Facility in Fredericksburg, VA. VRE’s vehicle maintenance contractor, Keolis, will install the new kits.

Upon receipt of the bids, staff will return to the Operations Board to request authorization to award the contract.

**Fiscal Impact:**

Funding is provided through the Equipment Asset Management Program (EAM) funded from an annual allocation of FTA 5337 (State of Good Repair) grants.
Virginia Railway Express
Operations Board

Resolution
8A-04-2018

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WHEREAS, VRE has adopted a Lifecycle Maintenance strategy for locomotives and passenger railcars; and,

WHEREAS, the maintenance strategy includes constantly monitoring, evaluating and analyzing systems and components to determine their useful life; and,

WHEREAS, due to age and environmental elements, the end body rubber diaphragms on VRE’s Gallery IV passenger railcars have lost their effectiveness allowing weather, debris, and noise elements to enter between cars; and,

WHEREAS, new diaphragm kits will replace the aged diaphragms currently on VRE passenger railcars;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the VRE Operations Board does hereby authorize the Chief Executive Officer to issue an Invitation for Bids for the Purchase of Gallery IV End Body Door Diaphragm Kits.

Approved this 21st day of April 2018

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Martin Nohe
Chairman

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Maureen Caddigan
Secretary