Agenda Item 8-B
Consent Item

To: Chairman Nohe and the VRE Operations Board
From: Doug Allen
Date: April 20, 2018
Re: Authorization to Issue an Invitation for Bids for Construction of Benchmark Road Slope Stabilization

Recommendation:

The VRE Operations Board is asked to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to issue an Invitation for Bids (IFB) for Construction of Benchmark Road Slope Stabilization.

Summary:

Sections of the railroad slope adjacent to the Hamilton-to-Crossroads Third Track and Benchmark Road need stabilization to close out project and contract commitments along with corresponding project funding agreements. Authorization will allow VRE to issue an IFB for Benchmark Road Slope Stabilization.

Background:

VRE recently completed Hamilton-to-Crossroads Third Track Project, which extended the width of an existing CSX Transportation (CSXT) embankment parallel to Benchmark Road in Spotsylvania County. Portions of the embankment washed out during a major rain event that also washed out the culvert for Massaponax Creek under Benchmark Road adjacent to the Mine Road grade crossing and intersection. VDOT temporarily closed Benchmark Road from US Route 17 to Mine Road as they complete design of a culvert replacement scheduled for installation in Summer 2018.
Repair of washed out areas of the embankment would be more cost-effectively accomplished while VDOT has the road closed so VRE does not incur traffic control costs as part of its project. The repairs are needed to secure final sign off from VDOT and CSXT on the Hamilton-to-Crossroads Third Track Project and to close out project commitments and funding agreements associated with it.

IFBs are 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 stabilization of the railroad slope adjacent to the Hamilton-to-Crossroads Third Track and Benchmark Road in Spotsylvania County. It has been determined placement of rip rap at localized areas in need of stabilization is the best way to correct this issue and prevent future problems. In addition, the rain event caused sediment to wash into the ditch along Benchmark Road in the areas where stabilization is needed. This sediment must be cleared and the ditch restored.

VRE has identified approximately 12 locations along this slope where repairs are needed, equating to approximately 5000 sf in total. Areas where existing vegetation is disturbed and not covered with riprap must be dressed, seeded, and mulched.

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

**Fiscal Impact:**

Funding is provided for in the current budget for the Hamilton-to-Crossroads Third Track Project.
Virginia Railway Express  
Operations Board  

Resolution  
8B-04-2018  

Authorization to Issue an Invitation for Bids for Construction of 
Benchmark Road Slope Stabilization  

WHEREAS, a major rain event that washed out the culvert carrying Massaponax Creek under Benchmark Road also washed out significant portions of the railroad embankment adjacent to the Hamilton-to-Crossroads Third Track and Benchmark Road; and,  

WHEREAS, the embankment slope must be repaired and stabilized to complete contract commitments and close out funding agreements for the project; and,  

WHEREAS, the work is best accomplished while Benchmark Road is closed for the VDOT culvert design and replacement; and,  

WHEREAS, VRE staff recommends an IFB for procurement of a contractor to accomplish this work in a timely and cost-effective manner;  

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the VRE Operations Board does hereby authorize the Chief Executive Officer to issue an Invitation for Bids for Construction of Benchmark Road Slope Stabilization.  

Approved this 20th day of April 2018  

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Martin Nohe  
Chairman  

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Maureen Caddigan  
Secretary