Agenda Item 8-C
Consent Item

To: Chairman Nohe and the VRE Operations Board
From: Doug Allen
Date: June 15, 2018
Re: Authorization to Issue a Request for Proposals for Variable Messaging System Replacement

Recommendation:

The VRE Operations Board is asked to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Variable Messaging System (VMS) Replacement.

Summary:

VRE’s current VMS is beyond its useful life and is not capable of providing enhanced multimodal traveler information. This RFP will solicit vendor solutions to replace the current VMS originally installed over ten years ago.

Background:

VRE passengers rely on the VMS for timely and accurate train information displayed at all VRE train stations. Realtime information currently available includes the GPS location of the train and status as to whether the train is on-time or delayed. Additionally, the VMS provides visual and audible messages to passengers in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Because the current VMS operates on antiquated hardware and software, the system has limited capabilities and support is labor intensive and costly. Staff recommends replacing the current system with upgraded hardware and software that will support
features such as real-time train arrival information, multimodal transit data, and integration with the passenger count system.

As determined in accordance with VRE Public Procurement Policies and Procedures, an Invitation for Bids (IFB) is neither practicable nor fiscally advantageous to VRE and an RFP is the preferred method of procurement for this solicitation since there are different approaches to the desired service and an evaluation of technical merit is required.

Upon completion of evaluation of proposals, negotiations are conducted with the two highest ranked firms deemed to be fully qualified and best suited among those submitting Proposals, based on the factors specified in the evaluation criteria. Price will be considered in context of technical performance for this service to achieve a best value determination. After receipt of the best and final offer from the top-ranked firm, a cost analysis is performed to compare the proposed cost with the independent cost estimate to determine the proposed cost is fair and reasonable.

The scope of work for the RFP includes replacement of monitor screens at all stations, associated IT infrastructure, new software, software configuration and maintenance. The new system will include real-time train arrival information, multimodal transit data, and integration with the passenger count system.

Upon receipt and evaluation of the proposals, staff will return to the Operations Board for authorization to award the contract.

**Fiscal Impact:**

The scope of work for the VMS Replacement includes activities currently covered under two separate projects in the FY 2019 CIP – the TRIP/VMS Upgrade (project IT-3) and the Facilities Asset Management Program (project AM-6), which includes IT infrastructure and unified communications among its various program areas. Funding for those VMS Replacement activities which qualify as state of good repair (SGR) investments will be provided through Federal State of Good Repair (5337) formula grants along with associated state and local matching funds, while activities which do not qualify for SGR funding will be funded through VRE’s Capital Reserve.
Virginia Railway Express  
Operations Board  

Resolution  
8C-06-2018  

Authorization to Issue a Request for Proposals for  
Variable Messaging System Replacement  

WHEREAS, VRE must replace the current Variable Messaging System, which is over ten years old and has outlived its useful life; and,  

WHEREAS, VRE passengers need access to enhanced multimodal traveler information; and,  

WHEREAS, the Americans with Disabilities Act requires the VRE provide equal opportunity and access for persons with visual impairments and other disabilities; and,  

WHEREAS, the Variable Messaging System has outlived its useful life and is not capable of providing enhanced multimodal traveler information;  

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the VRE Operations Board does hereby acknowledge the determination made by the VRE Contract Administrator in accordance with the VRE Public Procurement Policies and Procedures that competitive bidding is not practicable, nor fiscally advantageous to VRE, and that competitive negotiation is the appropriate method to procure these services; and,  

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the VRE Operations Board is asked to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to issue a Request for Proposals for a Variable Messaging System replacement.  

Approved this 15th day of June 2018  

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Martin Nohe  
Chairman  

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Maureen Caddigan  
Secretary