To: Chair Cristol and the VRE Operations Board
From: Doug Allen
Date: February 15, 2019
Re: Authorization to Execute a Sole Source Contract for the Purchase of Railcar Door Control Switches

Recommendation:

The VRE Operations Board is asked to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to execute a Sole Source Contract with Vapor Stone Rail Systems for the purchase of Railcar Door Control Switches in the amount of $430,688, plus a 10% percent contingency of $43,069, for a total amount not to exceed $473,757.

Summary:

The existing Door Control Switches on VRE’s Gallery IV Railcars are approaching the end of their useful life. This authorization will allow VRE to purchase 142 new Railcar Door Control Switches to ensure compliance with the safety standards and requirements of the Federal Railroad Administration.

Background:

VRE railcars are equipped with Door Control Switches. The Door Control Switches are designed to allow conductors to open and close side loading doors for passenger boarding and detraining.

Since the Door Control Switches are reaching the end of their useful life, VRE’s lifecycle maintenance team recommends replacing them.
Vapor Stone Rail Systems is the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) of the switches currently installed on VRE’s fleet of railcars and is the only manufacturer that produces Door Control Switches compatible with the Gallery IV Railcars.

This non-competitive purchase is in accordance with the following Section of the VRE Public Procurement Policy and Procedures Manual:

6.8.2.1 The item is available only from one responsible source because: (a) It involves a unique or innovative concept or capability not available from another source. Unique or innovative concept means a new, novel, or changed concept, approach, or method that is the product of original thinking, the details of which are kept confidential or are patented or copyrighted and is available to the recipient only from one source and has not in the past been available to the recipient from another source.

A sole source determination has been made in accordance with State and Federal requirements, and VRE Procurement Policies.

Once received, VRE’S maintenance provider, Keolis Rail Services, will install the Door Control Switches.

**Fiscal Impact:**

This project is included in the CIP under the Equipment Asset Management Program for FY 2019 and is funded through an annual allocation of FTA 5337 (State of Good Repair) grants, along with the associated state and local matching funds.
Virginia Railway Express  
Operations Board  

Resolution  
9B-02-2019  

Authorization to Execute a Sole Source Contract for the  
Purchase of Railcar Door Control Switches  

WHEREAS, VRE has a need for the purchase of Railcar Door Control Switches; and,  

WHEREAS, Age and physical elements of the environment have caused the existing Door  
Control Switches to lose their effectiveness; and,  

WHEREAS, VRE’s lifecycle maintenance team recommends replacing 142 existing Door  
Control Switches; and,  

WHEREAS, in accordance with State and Federal requirements, and VRE Procurement  
Policies, a sole source determination has been made Vapor Stone Rail Systems is the only  
supplier able to produce Door Control Switches compatible with the Gallery IV Railcars;  

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the VRE Operations Board does hereby  
authorize the Chief Executive Officer to execute a Sole Source Contract with Vapor Stone  
Rail Systems for Railcar Door Control Switches, in the amount of $430,688, plus a 10%  
contingency of $43,069, for a total amount not to exceed $473,757.  

Approved this 15th day of February 2019  

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Katie Cristol  
Chair  

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John Cook  
Secretary