To: Chairman Skinner and the VRE Operations Board
From: Rich Dalton
Date: February 21, 2020
Re: Authorization to Issue a Request for Proposals for General Engineering Consulting Services for Project Design and Construction Management

Recommendation:
The VRE Operations Board is asked to authorize the Acting Chief Executive Officer to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for General Engineering Consulting Services.

Summary:
Approval of this resolution will authorize the procurement process for professional services related to design and construction management activities.

Background:
VRE has used General Engineering Consulting (GEC) Services contracts to provide on-call engineering, planning, environmental and construction support services. VRE has found the use of GEC contracts to be more efficient than completing numerous, separate procurements. GEC contracts enable VRE to access specialized skills and expertise from consultants as an extension of staff on an as-needed basis. GEC contracts are not intended as a procurement mechanism for all projects, and separate procurements will continue to be issued using the RFP process when appropriate.

VRE has employed a succession of GEC contracts over the years, each awarded to multiple consultants in order to promote competition and allow tasks to be assigned based on specific areas of expertise and qualifications. The current GEC contracts (GEC VII) will expire in August 2020 and a new competitive solicitation process must be initiated.
The GEC V III solicitation will encompass two primary specialization areas – design services and construction management services – in support of VRE’s ongoing system improvement projects consistent with long-range planning and coordination with the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT).

The GEC VIII contracts will be awarded to teams comprised of a prime and subconsultants that provide the comprehensive suite of services VRE requires for each specialization area. The selection of a consultant team to provide design services and a consultant team to provide construction management services (two contracts in total) will be based on a competitive selection process that evaluates the qualifications and expertise required by VRE.

In accordance with Section 2.2-4303 of the Virginia Public Procurement Act, these services must be procured through an RFP because they include Professional Services. Upon completion of evaluation of proposals, negotiations are conducted with the highest ranked firm in each specialization area deemed to be fully qualified and best suited among those submitting Proposals, based on the factors specified in the evaluation criteria. Price is not a criterion for evaluation of Professional Services proposals. After receipt of the best and final offer from the top-ranked firm in each specialization area, a cost analysis is performed to compare the proposed cost with the independent cost estimate to determine the proposed cost is fair and reasonable.

Following evaluation of proposals, VRE staff will return to the Operations Board with a recommendation for award. As with the existing GEC contracts, each contract will be a task order agreement with a not to exceed value of $6 million per year for a term of up to five years. VRE Operations Board approval is required prior to award of each task order in excess of the Chief Executive Officer’s spending authority.

**Fiscal Impact:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with the issuance of this solicitation. Funding for individual task orders would be drawn from federal, state and/or local funds defined for specific projects in the VRE operating and capital budgets.
Virginia Railway Express
Operations Board

Resolution
8C-02-2020

Authorization to Issue a Request for Proposals for General Engineering Consulting Services for Project Design and Construction Management

WHEREAS, it is the experience of VRE that General Engineering Consulting Services contracts are an efficient and cost-effective means of performing engineering, planning, environmental and construction management related activities required for a limited duration or needed in a timely manner on an as-needed basis; and,

WHEREAS, competitive procurement for new GEC contracts to support construction related projects must be initiated in order to avoid interruption or delay to several important and/or timely projects related to planned system improvements; and,

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 2.2-4303 of the Virginia Public Procurement Act, these services must be procured through a Request for Proposals;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the VRE Operations Board does hereby acknowledge that competitive negotiation is required in accordance with the Virginia Public Procurement Act; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the VRE Operations Board does hereby authorize the Acting Chief Executive Officer to issue a Request for Proposals for General Engineering Consulting Services to support design and construction management activities.

Approved this 21st day of February 2020

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Gary Skinner
Chairman

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Jeanine Lawson
Secretary