Agenda Item 8-B
Action Item

To: Chairman Skinner and the VRE Operations Board
From: Rich Dalton
Date: March 20, 2020
Re: Authorization to Amend the GEC VII Task Order for Design Services for Alexandria Station Improvements

Recommendation:
The VRE Operations Board is asked to authorize the Acting Chief Executive Officer to amend the current Task Order for Design Services for Alexandria Station Improvements executed with HDR Engineering, Inc. under the General Engineering Consulting Services (GEC VII) contract in the amount of $299,142, plus a 10 percent contingency of $29,914, for a total of $329,056. This will increase the total authorization for this task order from $893,200, to a total amount not to exceed $1,222,256.

Summary:
Final Design efforts have identified several elements requiring additional effort and stakeholder coordination. Factors including electrical and fire alarm systems, condition of the existing tunnel and stairs, and further coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) have resulted in additional costs.

VRE requested HDR submit a proposal to accomplish the additional required work, and this action will authorize the Acting CEO to amend the task order to address the increased costs.

Background:
Alexandria Union Station, which serves both VRE and Amtrak trains, requires significant investment to improve passenger safety and accessibility as well as operational flexibility. VRE has three primary objectives at Alexandria: 1) eliminate the existing at-grade crossing while ensuring passenger safety and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for individuals accessing the center platform; 2) modify both the
center and station platform heights to achieve Federal Railroad Administration and
CSXT required clearances, meet ADA requirements, and eliminate the need for step
boxes; and 3) allow passenger trains to serve the station on any of three tracks.

After a detailed review of alternative concepts and consultation with stakeholders, VRE
rescoped its original efforts at the station. The project is now known as the Alexandria
Station Improvements Project. Instead of constructing a new tunnel, the existing tunnel
– which is structurally sound and meets ADA requirements – will be retrofitted with
elevators at each end. A modified concept for the center platform better addresses the
varying track bed heights. The three primary objectives noted above will be met in full,
and a future pedestrian connection to Metrorail will not be precluded.

The Scope of Services for this task order includes design of two new elevators to access
the existing pedestrian tunnel, from the station and center platforms; reconstruction of
the center platform to improve compliance with ADA requirements and to widen it to
the east to improve passenger access to trains on Track 1; and modifications to the
station platform to improve compliance with ADA requirements.

In January 2019, the VRE Operations Board authorized the Chief Executive Officer to
issue a task order under the GEC VII contract to HDR Engineering, Inc. for design
services for the Alexandria Station Improvements. The authorization was in the amount
of $812,000, plus a 10 percent contingency of $81,200, for a total amount not to exceed
$893,200.

VRE requested HDR submit a proposal to accomplish the additional required work
described herein. HDR’s proposed cost was compared to the level of effort anticipated and
determined by VRE staff to be fair and reasonable.

**Fiscal Impact:**

VRE’s planning and design efforts to date for the Alexandria Station have been supported
by FHWA Section 130 (Railway-Highway Crossings Program) funds received through a
Locally Administered Project (LAP) grant with VDOT totaling $8.7 million. VDOT is
transitioning the administration of the remaining Section 130 funds over to DRPT, and
DRPT intends to consolidate the remaining Section 130 funds with the $21.9 million of
SMART SCALE funding VRE has been allocated for Alexandria Station (as one component of
the broader Fredericksburg Line Capacity Expansion project). The GEC design task order
will be supported with these consolidated funds, and DRPT has committed to ensuring
there are no gaps in funding eligibility as the transition occurs.
Virginia Railway Express
Operations Board

Resolution
8B-03-2020

Authorization to Amend the GEC VII Task Order for Design Services for Alexandria Station Improvements

WHEREAS, the Alexandria Station Improvements will be designed and constructed to eliminate the at-grade crossing between the station platform and the center platform, improve passenger access to Track 1 and provide Americans with Disabilities Act compliant access on the platforms; and,

WHEREAS, consultant design services are necessary to advance the project towards construction; and,

WHEREAS, Final Design efforts have identified several elements requiring additional design work and additional stakeholder coordination and HDR Engineering, Inc. has presented an acceptable proposal to perform the additional required work;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the VRE Operations Board does hereby authorize the Acting Chief Executive Officer to amend the current Task Order for Design Services for Alexandria Station Improvements executed with HDR Engineering, Inc. under the General Engineering Consulting Services contract in the amount of $299,142, plus a 10 percent contingency of $29,914, for a total of $329,056. This will increase the total authorization for this task order from $893,200, to a total amount not to exceed $1,222,256.

Approved this 20th day of March 2020.

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Gary Skinner
Chairman

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Jeanine Lawson
Secretary