To: Chairman Skinner and the VRE Operations Board
From: Rich Dalton
Date: May 15, 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
8I-05-2020

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 recommend the Commissions find that, in accordance with recently adopted amendments to budget bills HB 29 and 30, meeting by electronic means is authorized because the nature of the declared emergency makes it both impracticable and unsafe for the Operations Board to assemble in a single location on May 15, 2020, and that meeting by electronic means is authorized because the items on the May 15, 2020 Operations Board Meeting Agenda are statutorily required or necessary to continue operations of the Operations Board and the discharge of the Operations Board’s lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities; and further find that meeting by electronic means is authorized because the items on the May 15, 2020 Operations Board Meeting Agenda are encompassed within the continuity of operations ordinances adopted by member localities of the Virginia Railway Express Operations Board to assure the continued operation of the government during the disaster posed by the public health emergency resulting from COVID-19; and,

BE IT FURTHER 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.
Resolution 8I-05-2020 continued

Approved this 15th day of May 2020.

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Gary Skinner
Chairman

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Jeanine Lawson
Secretary