Agenda Item 7-C  
Action Item

To: Chair Bennett-Parker and the VRE Operations Board

From: Rich Dalton

Date: March 19, 2021

Re: Authorization to Issue a General Planning Consulting Services Task Order for an Alternatives Analysis for the L’Enfant Station and Fourth Track Project

Recommendation:

The VRE Operations Board is asked to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to issue a General Planning Consulting (GPC) Services Task Order to Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) for an Alternatives Analysis for the L’Enfant Station and Fourth Track project in the amount of $396,714, plus a 20 percent contingency of $79,343, for a total not to exceed $476,057.

Summary:

The purpose of the Task Order is to conduct an Alternatives Analysis for the project and develop a Concept Design for the preferred alternative to expand the L’Enfant Station and construct a fourth mainline track adjacent to the station.

Background:

The existing VRE L’Enfant Station is VRE’s busiest station and the destination for about 45 percent of VRE riders. It is a single side platform that serves five cars at the platform while the majority of VRE trains are six to eight cars in length. This results in longer than ideal dwell times for trains serving the station, which can cause delays for other traffic within the rail corridor. The existing three track railroad corridor where the station is located is planned as a four track corridor to meet long-term needs for VRE, intercity passenger rail, and freight service.
The VRE L’Enfant Station and Fourth Track Project includes lengthening the existing platform and expanding it to serve as an island platform, with track access on both sides, to provide greater flexibility to serve future needs. The project will also provide a new mainline fourth track between L’Enfant and Virginia interlockings. The project will need to be coordinated with the Long Bridge project located to the south of L’Enfant interlocking and the Commonwealth’s Transforming Rail in Virginia program.

The Scope of Services for this Task Order includes conducting a two-step Alternatives Analysis for the project and developing a Concept Design along with a cost estimate, schedule, and funding plan for the preferred alternative. The scope also includes stakeholder coordination and public outreach through socially distanced or remote meetings, the VRE website and other online tools, and public or rider outreach events if appropriate.

In October 2016, the VRE Operations Board authorized execution of a GPC Services contract with VHB to provide on-call planning services, including project development, preliminary engineering, and environmental services. At VRE’s request, VHB submitted a GPC Task Order Proposal for design services for an Alternatives Analysis for the L’Enfant Station and Fourth Track Project on February 24, 2021. Following negotiations with VHB, a cost analysis was subsequently performed by VRE staff to compare the task order proposal with the independent cost estimate, and it was determined that VHB’s proposal is fair and reasonable.

In consideration of the complexity of the project and level of required coordination with multiple stakeholders, VRE staff further recommends the Operations Board authorize a 20 percent contingency for this Task Order, rather than VRE’s standard 10 percent.

**Fiscal Impact:**

Funding for design services is provided through a Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) Rail Enhancement Fund (REF) grant for the L’Enfant Station and Fourth Track Project.
Authorization to Issue a General Planning Consulting Services Task Order for an Alternatives Analysis for the L’Enfant Station and Fourth Track Project

WHEREAS, the VRE L’Enfant Station and Fourth Track Project includes lengthening the existing station platform to better serve current VRE trains; and,

WHEREAS, the project will also expand the existing L’Enfant Station to serve future needs and provide a new mainline fourth track between L’Enfant and the Virginia interlockings; and,

WHEREAS, preparation of an Alternatives Analysis is required as an initial step in the design process to identify the preferred alternative for the project; and,

WHEREAS, the VRE Operations Board authorized execution of a General Planning Consulting Services contract with Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. in October 2016 to provide general planning and project development services on an on-call, as needed basis through the award of task orders; and

WHEREAS, VHB has presented an acceptable Task Order proposal, which is deemed to be fair and reasonable, to perform the required services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the VRE Operations Board does hereby authorize the Chief Executive Officer to issue General Planning Consulting Services Task Order to Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. for an Alternatives Analysis for the L’Enfant Station and Fourth Track project in the amount of $396,714, plus a 20 percent contingency of $79,343, for a total not to exceed $476,057.

Approved this 19th day of March 2021

_______________________________
Elizabeth Bennett-Parker
Chair

_______________________________
James Walkinshaw
Secretary